

Minutes
Village of Homer Glen
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 5, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Village Board Room
14917 S. Founders Crossing, Homer Glen IL

1. Call to Order

Chairman Sharon Sweas called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Present: Randy Juras, Bob Moses, Cynthia Rataj, Margaret Sabo (arrive 7:34 p.m.), Sharon Sweas, Joe Turrise, Larry Witsoe, Gary White, John Lobick (Advisor) and Sue Steilen (Staff Liaison).

Absent: Nancy Carlson, and Kathy Kudla.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda

Motion made by Cynthia Rataj. Second was made by Joe Turrise.

To add item 8.e. Community and Nature in Harmony Awards.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes From Previous Meetings

Motion made by Bob Moses. Second was made by Randy Juras.

To approve the minutes of April 5, 2016.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bob Moses. Second was made by Randy Juras.

To approve the minutes of May 3, 2016, as amended. Adjournment time was corrected to 10:55 p.m.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Public Comment (Limit to 3 minutes)

None.

7. Announcements/Committee Member Communication

- Gary White reported on an article in the Daily Southtown about Lake Katherine's stargazing events. Their most recent event had 70 people attend. Lake Katherine has a stargazing event every month.
- Gary White noticed that the Homer Township Library is going to have a presentation from the Frog Lady. He suggested that we contact her for Earth Day-Arbor Day.
- Joe Turrise reported that the June 19 Chicago Tribune featured an article on solar energy. The advantage to a homeowner installing solar energy on their home versus investing in a farm is that solar energy adds equity to the home and the homeowner receives a 30% tax credit.
- Joe Turrise was in communication with IDOT. They have not installed wildlife crossing signs since the 70's and won't budge.
- Joe Turrise emailed Committee members an article from the Sierra Club about saving bees. This may be a topic for the Environment Committee to pursue. Also Larry Witsoe reported on a National Wildlife magazine article that states that all native bees do not sting or produce honey.
- Bob Moses reported that Apple is now selling solar power.

- Bob Moses reported that Orland Park in conjunction with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is offering free rain barrels to residents.
- Sue Steilen reported that the Village Hall will be closed July 14 and 15 due to the office moving to the new location on 151st Street.

8. Old Business

a. NE Corner of Bell & 151st

Nothing new to report.

b. Lighting

Money has been budgeted, under capital improvements, for street retrofit lighting. Jim Walkowski will be soliciting bids for the project.

The flag poles at Stonebridge Woods Park have been up for two years without flags. A solution is being sought for lighting the flags at night without running electric to the site. Solar was mentioned in the discussion. Margaret Sabo said that the light should be shining down on the flag and not directed up at the flag.

c. Earth Day-Arbor Day Review and Update.

The next Earth Day-Arbor Day event is planned for May 20, 2017. Homer Harvest Days is using a different pony vendor this year. They charge \$800 for five hours. The horses are not on a wheel and include two ponies, three horses, and a colt. Sharon Sweas will bring more information to the next meeting.

Thankyous still need to be sent. Sue Steilen will work with Cynthia Rataj and Sharon Sweas to send them.

d. Homer Glen Parkway Tree Replacement Program update

The spring planting program is complete. Letters for the fall planting should be ready to send the end of August or first week in September.

e. Community and Nature in Harmony Awards

The deadline for nominations is July 15. Kathy Kudla is available for preliminary viewing of some properties on July 14. Sue Steilen will send an email to coordinate the tour of the nominee's properties. Letters to winners should go out before Labor Day. The award presentation will take place at the Village Board meeting on September 28 or October 12.

9. New Business

a. Honey Bees

Joe Turrise gave a report on Honey Bees. Honey bees contribute \$15 billion annually to the U.S. economy. More than 140 fruits and vegetables depend on the honey bee for pollination. Insecticides destroy the bees' homing device. The committee discussed options for educating farmers and residents on the preservation of honey bees. Suggestions included contacting Will County Beekeepers, putting something on the website, and using Heritage Park.

b. Wikipedia

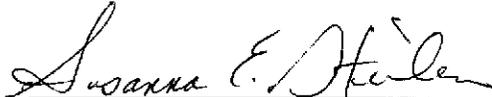
John Lobick wrote a piece about Homer Glen's Dark Sky status to be added to the Wikipedia website. In the mean time someone has added a similar section. The information will be reviewed for submission of any changes. Joe Turrise would like to see Homer Glen's elevation added to the page. Sue Steilen will check on any Village procedures that would apply to updating this page.

Margaret Sabo encouraged members to submit photos of past Environment and Village activities to the Village website. She would like to see the History section include something about the founding fathers.

10. Adjournment

Larry Witsoe made a motion to adjourn. Second was made by Joe Turrise. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanna E. Steilen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sue Steilen