

Minutes  
Village of Homer Glen  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Monday, July 25, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.  
Village Board Room, 14917 S. Founders Crossing

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**A. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Christina Neitzke-Troike.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

Present from the Parks and Recreation Committee: Co-Chairpersons Christina Neitzke-Troike and Sharon Sweas and Committee members Dale Janssen, Cassandra Courtright, Ed Cryer, Bob Kman, Russ Knaack, Marty Oster, Regina Robinson, Kyle Sanders, and John Walters. Present on behalf of Village of Homer Glen staff: Village Manager Mike Mertens, Facilities Manager John Robinson, and Administrative Analyst Sean Keane.

**D. Approval of Amendments to Agenda**

**E. Approval of Minutes**

Member Kman made a motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Committee's minutes of June 27, 2016; seconded by Member Knaack. All Aye. *Motion passed unanimously.*

**F. Public Comment**

Jenny Reichardt, Treasurer of the Goodings Grove School Parent Teacher Organization spoke to the Committee regarding the playground located on grounds of Goodings Grove School. Ms. Reichardt submitted a letter to the Committee which she read verbatim as transcribed below:

“Dear Members of the Village Parks and Recreation Committee,

My name is Jenny Reichardt. I am here on behalf of the Goodings Grove PTO. The PTO is undertaking a new project to update the playground equipment at Goodings Grove School and we wanted to reach out to the committee to see if the Village would be willing to

support our cause. The reason why we are here today is we wanted to make the committee aware of our project and we would like time on your August agenda to have a fuller discussion with the committee.

The backstory behind this project is that it had come to our attention that several students were getting injured on the Goodings Grove playground. We decided to evaluate the condition of the facility and our initial inspection indicated that the equipment is outdated and bordering on unsafe. We came to the conclusion that we need to replace the equipment and the PTO has taken ownership of this effort. We have already had a conversation with the school board and we plan to circle back to them once we reach out to other community groups. We are in the beginning stages of this mission and we are open to all ideas and suggestions.

The Goodings Grove park space not only supports the school kids but it is the only local park space for numerous village residents. Coming forwards to the village for support is consistent with Homer Glen's Vision Statement, which is the comprehensive plan that passed in 2005. Section 4 is the Community Facilities Plan of the Vision Statement. It states that "The Village will continually promote cooperation, interaction, and collaboration among the various agencies and organizations that serve Homer Glen, including the school districts, the fire protection districts, Homer Township, and other agencies." This project touches the school district, the youth sports groups and citizens from all parts of Homer Glen. We hope that the committee and the village will embrace our project.

In our view, Goodings Grove is a village asset. Not only does it support almost 500 kids every school day, but this facility is the only recreation area that the citizens that live in Chickasaw, Old Oak Estates, Old Oak South and Goodings Grove subdivisions can walk to. This is a high traffic park area that is always available to Homer Glen residents, with the maintenance and insurance costs paid for by the school district. Goodings Grove School is an outstanding neighbor that allows our local recreational clubs access to its 3 baseball/softball fields for youth sports activities. The youth sports groups drive more traffic to the playground equipment and increase the wear and tear on the facility. Goodings Grove maintains the fields and all of the citizens in Homer Glen benefit from their support. I am sure that if this facility was not available to the general public, the village would be under

extreme pressure to build more sports fields and open Goodings Grove Park.

The PTO needs the expertise of this committee and the village to apply for grants and evaluate new park equipment. We feel it is absolutely necessary to make improvements or replace the equipment for the safety of the residents in Homer Glen. We believe we can rebuild a village asset that will reflect the quality and character of our community. Ultimately, we would like for this committee to support our efforts with a full recommendation to the Village Board to contribute administrative resources and funding.”

Colleen Novak of the Goodings Grove School PTO was also present and stated her support for the initiative and requested that the Committee consider the requests being made.

Member Knaack suggested that the Committee work with the school district and possibly explore other park land opportunities in that area of the Village. The Committee previously created a park needs assessment and this area of the Village is lacking park land.

Resident Jim Orban expressed his support for the initiatives proposed by the School PTO. Mr. Orban noted that this critical piece of green space is located in an area that lacks park space, specifically the Old Oak subdivision. Furthermore, Mr. Orban suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Village could assist the PTO in finding and obtaining grant opportunities.

Village Manager Mertens stated that the Village is willing to write letters of support for grants that the School District pursues. In efforts of intergovernmental cooperation, the Village would consider other forms of administrative support. Furthermore, Mr. Mertens stated that Village staff is willing to meet with the PTO once the scope of the project is narrowed to further discuss their efforts.

#### **G. Report from Chairpersons**

There was no Report from Chairpersons.

## H. New Business

### 1. Update from Park Donation Sub-Committee Chairperson Bob Kman

Chairperson Bob Kman of the Park Donation Sub-Committee updated the Committee on progress made at their July 11 sub-committee meeting. A donation flyer is being prepared that will outline the donation opportunities available. One of the priorities of the donation program is to find donors for the remaining two memorial benches along the Heroes Trail. Furthermore, donations will be accepted for the Village's three developed parks (Kingston Hills Park, Stonebridge Park, and Erin Hills Park.) Furthermore, the sub-committee is discussing the Heroes Trail markers project. The Homer Glen Foundation has committed to funding this project.

## I. Village Staff Report

### 1. Facilities Manager's Updates

#### a.) Sport Court Lighting

Facilities Manager Robinson informed the Committee that the sport court lights at Stonebridge Park are malfunctioning. Per the Village Code, the sport courts are open until 10:30 p.m. Therefore, the lights must be functioning for use of the sport courts after sunset. Mr. Robinson stated that repairs to the lighting will occur once replacement parts are ordered. Co-Chairperson Sweas stated that she would like the Committee to discuss the Village Code pertaining to park rules at the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

#### b.) Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Robinson informed the Committee that two swings are being replaced at Stonebridge Park. Furthermore, one swing will be removed at Erin Hills Park to allow for the installation of an infant swing.

Mr. Robinson updated the Committee on the ongoing maintenance of the Village's parks. The Village's facilities maintenance crew is currently working on re-mulching and cleaning up the landscaping at Kingston Hills Park. Once work at Kingston Hills is complete and as time permits, the crew will be working on maintenance at Stonebridge Park and Erin Hills Park.

New tennis court nets and volleyball court nets were installed at Stonebridge Park. The nets were vandalized at the Park in June.

“Perma-nets” were purchased for the basketball courts at Stonebridge. The old model of basketball nets appeared to wear from the weather.

## **J. Committee Member Updates**

Member Courtright distributed pictures of the park’s landscaped planting beds that her neighbor sent to her. Ms. Courtright requested that the Facilities Maintenance crew address the weeds and overgrowth of the plantings.

## **K. Old Business**

### **1. Heritage Park Project Update**

#### **a.) Overview of Project Timeline**

Village Manager Mertens stated that the updated project timeline was distributed to the Committee via email. The focus of the project at this time is submitting an application for the EPA 319 Grant. Stakeholder meetings will occur mid-August and an open house will take place in late August or early September.

#### **b.) Discussion of MySidewalk Public Engagement Site**

Administrative Analyst Keane distributed the initial list of questions that Planning Resources, Inc. developed for the mySidewalk public engagement site. If the committee members have feedback on the initial list of questions, they can email Village Manager Mertens and Administrative Analyst Keane.

### **2. Volunteer Fire Department Memorial Brick Wall Update**

Co-Chairperson Sweas stated that the Village received a response from the land-owner of the property that was home to the former volunteer fire house. The owner is willing to transfer ownership of the bricks to the Village for future use at Heritage Park in a volunteer memorial. Facilities Manager Robinson stated that he will look into the removal of the bricks from the site.

**L. Adjournment**

Member Kman made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting, seconded by Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troike, all Aye. *Motion passed.* Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Sean Keane

*Administrative Analyst*