

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
February 6, 2018

**Village of Homer Glen
14240 W 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491
Community Room**

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Trustee Sharon Sweas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present at 6:36 p.m. were Nancy Carlson, Randy Juras, Kathy Kudla, Margaret Sabo, Trustee Sharon Sweas, Joe Turrise, and Gary White.

Members Absent: Bob Moses, Cynthia Rataj, and Larry Witsoe.

Also Present: Sue Steilen, Staff Liaison and Roger Ross, Village arborist.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

a) January 9, 2018

Member Juras made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2018, meeting. Second was made by Member Sabo. All were in favor. Motion passed.

6. Public Comment.

Jessica Fujan, Midwest Director, and Jennya Polozova, Regional Organizer of Food and Water Watch gave a presentation on the privatization of water systems. The organization has a great deal of information regarding legislation and water systems in many communities throughout the state.

Andy Panelli expressed concern about algae blooms in the lake at DeBoer Woods. He would like to see education for residents about how fertilizers can cause these blooms in lakes and ponds throughout the Village. Member Sabo mentioned they have had problems in Mallard Lakes and found that different fertilizers can be used to avoid the problem. She also expressed that salt on the roads can add to the problem.

7. Announcements/Committee Member Communication

Gary White reported that Will County received a Gold designation from SolSmart program, which is part of a national effort with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The award recognizes Will County for implementing an energy and conservation plan that encourages the growth of the

solar market. Will County is the first SolSmart designated community in the State of Illinois. The SolSmart program is funded by the Department of Energy.

8. Old Business.

a) New Member Recommendation

Andy Panelli has asked to join the Environment Committee. He is a 23-year resident of Homer Glen, was involved with the incorporation effort, is the current President of the DeBoer Woods Homeowners Association, and has worked on a variety of environmental issues with other organizations.

Member Sabo made a motion to recommend to the Village Board to appoint Andy Panelli, resident of Homer Glen, as a new member of the Environment Committee; seconded by Member Turrise. All were in favor. The motion passed.

b) Big Tree Contest

Publicity for the Big Tree Contest is to be submitted by the end of February. An article and listing for the calendar page is submitted to the Homer Horizon. Other publicity is to be posted the Village Facebook page and the website. Trustee Sweas will announce the contest at the next Village Board meeting. Member Sabo volunteered to do the measuring verification.

c) Recycling Event

Sue Steilen and John Robinson met with Marta Keane and Dave Hartke from the Will County Land Use Department to discuss using the road and parking lot in Heritage Park for a household hazardous waste and recycling event. The County was concerned with how the semi-trucks will be able to navigate in and out during the event. They will evaluate the site again in the spring. The event may be limited to just one type of recycling, household hazardous waste or electronics. There is not enough room to accommodate Working Bikes this year. Possible dates for the event are September 22 or September 29.

d) Stargazing Event

The dates set for stargazing are May 11 and September 14. Trustee Sweas, Member Turrise, advisor Cathy Rehr, and Sue Steilen toured a few alternative sites for stargazing. However, the moon was full, and lighting could not be fairly evaluated. Members are encouraged to look at possible sites around February 15, when the new moon occurs.

e) Long Run Creek Cleanup

Sue Steilen reached out to the IEPA, and the only help they can offer is through a possible \$500 grant. The Public Services and Safety Committee will be discussing a creek clean-up at their meeting on February 7. The Homer Township Road District may use a drone to survey the creek to determine what areas require attention.

f) Tree Trimming Policy

The Public Services and Safety Committee will review and discuss the proposed Tree Trimming Policy at their meeting on February 7.

The Environment Committee would like to revisit how the trees are trimmed away from the road side, so that they are not trimmed all the way back to the trunk. The arborist and ANSI standards will be consulted again.

g) Tree Preservation

A subcommittee will meet to review the tree ordinance on February 26 and then bring their suggestions for changes to the whole Environment Committee. Items to discuss include the building activity area, fines, heritage trees, inclusion of all buildable lots, tree inventory requirements, and tree removal permits.

1) Cell Phone Tower

Member Sabo made a motion to recommend that the proposed placement of a cell tower at 17239 Parker Road be denied in favor of relocating to an area that is less damaging to the local environment and also recommend that the future location be reviewed by the Environment Committee; seconded by Member Kudla. All were in favor. Motion passed.

9. New Business.

a) Committee Goals for 2018

Introducing Honey Bees/Hives/ collapse due to insecticides
Planting Milk Weed for Monarch Butterflies/due to weed killing
Working with Homer Township Open Space Committee
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations/Home Wiring
Detrimental Effects of Fertilizers on Ponds

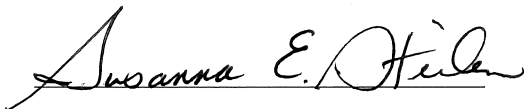
The committee is to think about other goals to work on as well.

John Lobick had sent Sue Steilen an article about putting price tags on trees showing the value of trees. This may be a good Arbor Day project using Village trees.

10. Adjournment.

Motion made by Member White, seconded by Member Turrise to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sue Steilen
Community Relations Coordinator