

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
March 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 6:35 p.m. by Trustee Sharon Sweas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present at 6:35 p.m. were Nancy Carlson, Bob Moses, Andy Panelli, Cynthia Rataj, Trustee Sharon Sweas, Joe Turrise, and Gary White. Margaret Sabo arrived at 7:31 p.m.

Members Absent: Randy Juras, Kathy Kudla, and Larry Witsoe.

Also Present: Sue Steilen, Community Relations Coordinator/Staff Liaison.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

5. Approval of Minutes From Previous Meetings

a) February 6, 2018

Member Turrise made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2018, meeting. Second was made by Member Panelli.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Public Comment.

7. Announcements/Committee Member Communication

Welcome Andy Panelli for joining the Environment Committee.

Member Turrise expressed displeasure with plastics and trash throughout the community and suggest the Environment Committee launch a campaign to raise public awareness. Member Turrise will send Sue Steilen information that can be shared on the Facebook page.

Member Turrise shared information on how trees interact with each other.

Member White attended the Plan Commission on March 1 and reported that the Cell Tower agenda item was tabled.

Will County Department of Transportation invites the public to attend an open house meeting to learn about the proposed improvements to 143rd Street between Lemont Road and Bell Road on Wednesday, March 7, at Hadley Middle School.

At the Village Board strategic planning meeting the following items were identified for Strategic Priority: Economic Development, Financial Stability, Growth, Intergovernmental Partnerships, Recreational Amenities, and Infrastructure.

The Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club is planning a garden walk for June 16. The Club is also looking at a program to coordinate decorated flower pots throughout the community. The Village Manager had suggested that the pots be placed in Heritage Park. This idea will also be presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee. If the pots are placed in the parks, staff will be able to water the flowers.

8. Old Business.

a) Big Tree Contest Review

Publicity has not been sent out yet.

b) Stargazing Event – location to be determined

Stargazing events are planned for May 11 and September 14, 2018. The Oak Prairie Junior High School has agreed to turn out their lights. May will be too early for Heritage Park to be used.

c) Tree Preservation Discussion

The Tree Ordinance had been incorporated into the Village Code when the codification process took place. Rather than working from a copy of the Tree Ordinance document, Staff Liaison Steilen distributed a copy of the Tree Preservation section from the Code with the proposed changes shown in red and asked the committee to start referring to the Code copy.

When the Tree subcommittee in February, it was suggested to add a "Building Activity Area" to the ordinance and the ordinance definitions. The Building Activity Area would now replace the Disturbance Zone. The recommendation from the subcommittee was to focus just on Significant Trees and remove the Protected Tree, which would then lead to the removal of the need for a Big Champion list. The size of the significant tree was changed from six to eight inches. Natural Preserve was also removed. Anywhere reforestation was referenced was removed. Instead of allowing the option of reforestation and restitution, only restitution would be used. This would simplify the ordinance and eliminate the need for a performance guarantee and follow up visits from the Village arborist. Significant vegetation was also removed.

There was discussion on Section 107-13, B, C, and D. Members are to consider this section and discuss again at the next meeting.

A tree removal permit was to be added to the ordinance. Under Building Activity Area add "in the site plan." In an email sent by Member Kudla, she suggested

adding language, if a tree removed is greater than 24 inches DBH the restitution should be \$250 per inch or some increased amount.

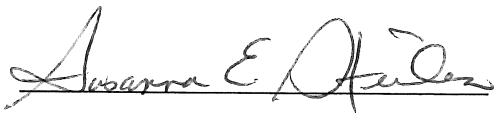
9. New Business.

- a) Discussion on Regulations Regarding Chickens and Bees
The Village regularly receives calls from residents asking if it is okay to keep chickens or bees. The Public Services and Safety Committee is currently researching and reviewing ordinances from other communities and the possibility of creating an ordinance for the Village. Member Turrise suggested, if created, that there be two separate ordinances: one for chickens and one for bees. Staff Liaison Steilen distributed background information compiled and provided by the Public Services and Safety Committee. Members were asked to review the information for discussion at the next meeting.
- b) Tree Planting Saplings on Village Property
Living Lands & Waters has a program for planting trees and will provide 50 red oak trees to the Village. Facilities Manager John Robinson has identified locations in parks that can use some trees. Staff Liaison Steilen has reached out to a local Boy Scout troop that would like to assist with planting the trees. The Scouts are available on April 21, May 12, and May 19. The preferred date is April 21.
- c) Committee Membership
Committee appointments will take place in May. Trustee Sweas asked each member if they would like to remain on the committee. All members present confirmed yes. Trustee Sweas will follow up with Member Larry Witsoe, who has not been present for several meetings. There will also be a new staff liaison for the Environment Committee. The new liaison will be the Assistant Planner Kyle McGinnis.

10. Adjournment.

Motion made by Gary White, seconded by Joe Turrise to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sue Steilen
Community Relations Coordinator