

Parks & Recreation Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
July 16, 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 6:30 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Christina Neitzke-Troiike.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present at 6:30 p.m. were Committee Co-Chairs Christina Neitzke-Troiike and Beth Rodgers and Members Ed Cryer, Dale Janssen, Bob Kman, Cassandra Courtright, Regina Robinson, and John Walters.

Member Russel Knaack arrived at 6:51 p.m.

Members Absent: Mark Gawron.

Also Present: Amy Blank, Thor Batchelor, Facilities Manager John Robinson and Community Relations Coordinator Sue Steilen.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

5. Minutes.

a) June 18, 2018

Co-Chair Neitzke-Troiike stated that the minutes from the June 18, 2018 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting were being presented for approval. Member Kman made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2018 meeting; seconded by Member Walters. Trustee Rodgers abstained from voting. The motion passed.

6. Public Comment.

None.

7. Report from Co-Chairs.

Trustee Rodgers introduced herself as the new Co-Chair. She is working with Trustee Burian to head up the Active Core construction of Heritage Park. The first pre-construction meeting will take place on Friday, July 20. Construction meetings will take place monthly until after the engineering phase is finished, then they will switch to biweekly and then weekly.

8. Old Business.

- a) Update from Committee Member Mark Gawron and Resident Amy Blank Regarding Planning for the Village's "Chalk-It-Up" Special Event.

The Committee received a document reporting lessons learned from the event. Ms. Amy Blank asked members for their thoughts and suggestions and if they would like to have the event again next year.

Trustee Rodgers liked the venue and wants to plan on having it at the same location because Heritage Park may not be ready for this type event next year. John Robinson commented that the proximity of the playground was also an advantage. Amy Blank reported that she counted 97 sidewalk squares, so there is some room for the event to grow. Some squares were odd shaped, but people chose those squares. Trustee Neitzke-Troiike expressed concerns about continuing to use the same park; some other residents would like to see events held in parks near their homes. Trustee Rodgers added that it is easier to plan an event in the same location as opposed to trying to make adjustments for a new location.

Trustee Neitzke-Troiike expressed concern about spreading volunteers too thin with also trying to have an event at Goodings Grove. Amy Blank also suggested charging a fee to help with funding. She also said she is available to continue to help with the Chalk-It-Up event. This event cost less than \$1000. The cost would not be an issue. However, volunteer commitment would be needed.

The Committee discussed getting sponsors as a possibility for additional funding of Park events. More guidance is needed.

Funding is also needed for other parks. Glenview Walk residents would also like a park. John Robinson is researching costs for park equipment.

Since the Chalk-It-Up event was originally supposed to be part of the opening of Goodings Grove Park and an event wasn't held there, the Committee discussed ideas for an event to celebrate the new park. Member Kman suggested a free throw contest.

Trustee Neitzke-Troiike suggested having three events per year planned by the Parks and Recreation Committee. If there is a park opening event, then there would be two other events. Agreement was made by Committee consensus.

Events suggested for planning within the next year:

Heritage Park: Holiday/Christmas Tree Lighting – December 1

Goodings Grove Park: Park Opening/

Stonebridge Park: Chalk-It-Up, Park and Recreation Month – July

Other events to consider in the future:

Heritage Park: 0.5K Slacker event?

Frisbee Golf event

A subcommittee will form to plan the Goodings Grove event. Subcommittee members will be Walters, Kman, and soon-to-be member, Thor Batchelor. Member Robinson described a Hoops for Heroes event which was a fundraiser. Ideas for names of this event were Homer Hoops, Hoops for Heroes, May Madness, and Sinko de Mayo (not Cinco).

Sue Steilen mentioned the possibility of obtaining sponsors for events. Amy Blank noted that most other chalk-it-up type events charge a fee. Trustee Neitzke-Troiike stated that a policy would need to be established as to what types of events would have a fee and what events would be free. At the present time all events are free. Trustee Rodgers suggested that they remain free for now.

It rained on the day of the Chalk-It-Up event, and communication procedures for decision making to hold or cancel the event were not established. Trustee Neitzke-Troiike suggested setting up a telephone tree and a point person for communications for future events. Each event could also have its own Facebook page. Lesson learned with Chalk-It-Up: volunteers need notification too.

b) Discussion Regarding Planning for the 2018 Holiday Tree Lighting Special Event.

Theme/title suggested is Homer for the Holidays. Member Courtright reported that she and Member Gawron have two calls scheduled, one with Tinley Park and the other with Lemont, to discuss holiday event ideas and costs. The Village event is scheduled for December 1. John Robinson suggested to consider getting a different tree for the event that is more suitable to decorating with lights. Other lights such as project lights or icicle lights were also suggested. Walter Konow is willing to provide a people carrier/hayride to be used around the ring road. He also offered his food trailer. A snowball throwing contest, at a target, had been suggested as a possible event if there is snow. Other ideas included a community tree exhibit. The trees could have spot lights on them. Member Knaack stated that there are a lot of ideas and the simplest ideas should be considered first. All ideas are welcome. It was estimated that several hundred people attended the event last year. The event will be spread out a little more this year. A budget needs to be put together. The budget will be around \$5,000. The Village is going to acquire a PA system.

9. New Business.

Member Kman reported that he has been doing research for a 5K and 0.5K event. With the unknown status for Heritage Park in 2019, it was suggested that the event be planned for 2020. Member Kman plans to volunteer for the Mike Hike to get ideas and an understanding of the needs for this type of event.

10. Reports and Communications from Staff.

a) Specific Parks and Recreation Project Updates.

1. Heritage Park Phase 1 Project Update

Work is wrapping up on Phase I of the Heritage Park project. The work is approximately 99% complete. A small amount of restoration along the

bike trail remains to be completed. This work was delayed, along with the construction of the bike trail, resulting in it being too wet to pave. The bike trail was finally paved on June 30. In addition, some final work is needed on the street lighting controller and the final electrical connection needs to be completed by ComEd. It took a while for ComEd crews to locate the problem and make the necessary repairs on the cable. A final walk-through inspection is scheduled for Monday, July 23. A punch list will be generated, based on any issues that may be found with the completed work. This list will then be provided to the contractor for final completion.

Trustee Rodgers, Trustee Burian, Tria, and Integral Construction will be meeting on Friday, July 20.

2. Heritage Park 319 Grant Area Project Update

The contract was awarded on July 11 to Alessio & Sons for \$1,196,592.50. Pre-construction meeting was held on July 9. Equipment has been staged and work is to begin the week of July 16. Due to the work that will take place in the pond at the southeast corner of the property (dredging and enlarging the pond), the contractor is currently pumping down the pond prior to this work commencing. It is expected that the contractor's sub will remove the trees located within the proposed excavation area sometime this week. Once the trees are removed, the contractor will begin the earthwork portion of the project. The contractor has stated that they will work from the south end of the project area to the north side. The work will be substantially completed by November 16, 2018.

3. Heritage Park Active Core Area Project Update

The project was awarded to Integral Construction, Inc. on July 11, 2018. The Base bid was \$2,320,000 plus Alternate A (Sports Lighting) \$266,075, Alternate B (Asphalt Ring Road) \$46,421, and Alternate C (Custom Play Apparatus in Sensory Garden) \$5,390. There are three phases:

- **Phase I – October 19, 2018**

Main pathways, ring pathway, gateways, mass grading, challenge course, nature-based play, fitness area, large court games, court plaza and pavilion.

- **Phase II – November 30, 2018**

Sensory garden and small court games.

- **Phase III – June 3, 2019**

Landscape plantings, grass seeding and final cleanup.

b) Facilities Manager's Updates.

1. Discuss Stonebridge Park and Goodings Grove Park Vandalism

John Robinson showed a picture of a slide that was broken at Stonebridge Park. The slide was removed, and a board was painted was painted with matching paint and put in place of the slide. The new slide will ship on July 30 and be installed within a week. This is not the first piece that needed to be replaced on this set. A tunnel was replaced last year. The slide will be replaced under warranty.

Goodings Grove park has had a lot of damage. Robinson showed pictures of the damage to a handicap parking sign, drinking fountain, and park bench. The water may need to be shut off until the drinking fountain is repaired. Trustee Rodgers asked Robinson to mention the problems at the Public Safety meeting. Park rules signage has been discussed in the past and will be discussed in the future. The parks are inspected and maintained several times a week to remove garbage and cut grass.

Mutt mitts stations with garbage cans have been added to the north trails and have reduced some of the garbage on the ground. More stations will be added.

11. Committee Member Updates

12. Adjournment.

Motion by Member Kman, second by Member Knaack to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Steilen".

Sue Steilen
Community Relations Coordinator