

Homer Community Festival Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
January 4, 2023

**Village of Homer Glen
14240 W. 151st Street
Village Community Room**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Fialko.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence to Self

3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Members present at 5:30 p.m. were Chairman Fialko, Mike Bonomo, Mike Carlson (via phone at 5:50pm), Tony Drabik, Mark Gawron, Carmen Maurella, Paul McGary, Jay Roti, Debbie Stevens, John Walters.

Members absent: Ethan Fialko (excused), Sara Rudnik (no call/no show)

Also Present: Lt. Taylor, Alana Charboneau, Jen Vittori, Jackie Huff, Vicki Bozen, Bill Frossard, Ron Kus (arrived shortly prior to the end due Public Safety Meeting conflict) and Gia Cassin

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda - NONE

5. Approval of Minutes

a. October 5, 2022

Member Mike Bonomo made a motion to approve the minutes from October 5, 2022. The motion was seconded by Member Drabik. All voted in favor unanimously, zero (0) opposed. The motion carried.

b. November 2, 2022

Member Maurella made a motion to approve the minutes from November 2, 2022, seconded by Member Gawron. All voted in favor unanimously, zero (0) opposed. The motion carried.

6. Public Comment

Vicki Bozen discussed the idea of pet fest, on Saturday, June 17th, 2023 before Homer Fest. They decided on Pet Fest so that it plays off the Homer Fest name. She passed out the application (which is similar to the Sr. Expo application) for review. She stated you can reach out to Vicki with any comment(s) or ask questions about this with her. Vicki wants to get with Jackie to discuss using a tent, food vendors and parking. She is looking for participation from everyone. Vicki stated she is hopeful that this will get approved. Vicki's plan is to utilize the tent that the Village sets up in the Kilmer Field for the Fest. The date for the Pet Fest is tentatively planned for June 17, 2023. (Homer Fest on the 22nd.) Chairman Fialko said that this is public comment and it will be put

on the agenda for the next meeting which will be on February 1, 2023. This concluded the public comment.

Chairman Fialko asked for people to think of things they would like to see on the next agenda.

7. Announcements

Jacquelyn Huff is the new Events Coordinator and Alana will be working with her side by side. Chairman Fialko stated he is looking forward to working with them. Jackie introduced herself, provided background about herself and the group welcomed her. Alana introduced the new website briefly, and would like to make it go live soon, and will share the information.

8. Old Business

Dan stated they are in the process of putting the IGA together with the Township so we can walk across the property. This has been discussed at other meetings, this is why it is old business. Dan updated everyone by sharing that the Pyro Contract and the Carnival contracts are complete. Both were approved by the Board. Dan has been working with the sound and stage lighting. This is in its final stages and will go the Board Meeting on the 11th for approval.

Carmen added that golf carts will be delivered for a full week, and there are 10 carts. There are two for the Sheriff's office. He stated we got a weekly rate rather than a day rate. We are waiting to put the deposit down. Vicki asked if they would be able to use the golf carts for the for the Pet Fest, and it was agreed she would be able to use two/three of the carts. Carmen went with Beaver Creek. They do not have handicap accessible carts, but there is something we can attach.

Jennifer Vittori is excited to see the changes. Jennifer introduced herself, in her 2nd year for the Fest and looking forward to it.

John Walters stated that he walked around the back of the active core, and said that it will work out better for the bands with entering and exiting of the bands. Chairman Fialko explained that John handles the band escorts, and explained that the bands would exit out that 2nd driveway for safety purposes.

Debbie stated she spoke to Rob and he has a 7 story Ferris Wheel. We are hoping to get that and put it up front.

Dan reminded everyone that Bill has previous work experience with other community fests.

Jay Roti mentioned that from the October Meeting – said he needs a list of generator companies we previously used and discussed the new layout and Chairman Fialko was prepared for this and provided the information packet to Jay in that same moment.

Tony Drabik – said he has Mike on the phone, but couldn't connect to the blue tooth speaker. Tony didn't have old business to talk about but stated that he, Carmen and Ethan are going to discuss alcohol. Will bring more forward next month. Dan suggested that alcohol suppliers to be added to the next agenda. (Mike joined the meeting via phone at 5:50 pm)

Mike Bonomo stated he would be working on sponsorship. Chairman Fialko said that Carmen, Jackie and Alana will take the lead on sponsorships. Mark and Mike will take a peripheral position.

Carmen did state that there were some emails that went out and this year there is some intent to put boots on the ground in terms of soliciting for sponsors.

Mike mentioned the Cooper's Hawk plan that he discussed at a previous meeting and Dan stated that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

9. New Business

a. Discussion – 2023 Layout Changes

Mark Gawron discussed the changes that were captured as the result of a discussion between himself and Dan Fialko. He stated there were three (3) big changes. One change is the stage area and to turn it into the concert venue like in Tinley Park with the crescent style layout for tents, which leaves a space in front of the stage for an open area in front of the stage.

Alana put a QR code on the wall for everyone to scan on their way out and provide all the information so that it will be collected by the Events Department and keep communications open.

Lt. Taylor left the meeting at 6 pm.

The difference for this year will be no big main tent, there will be three (3) smaller tents. (that will equate to the same square footage) The sound is more powerful, bigger speakers and bigger subwoofer. Dan said this stage will have more room for the band and the sound will be bigger by one (1) speaker per side which will increase the total from ten (10) speakers to twelve (12). There is advertising for the sponsors above the stage and on the sides of the stage, and then bottom banners below the stage. There is also regular sponsor space inside the tent. The crescent tents will be 40x80. We will ask people to bring their blankets and lawn chairs. The old big tent held rain and

dumped it and it turned into a mud bath. This new concept may alleviate that, should we get rain. Chairman Fialko state if this doesn't work, we can go back to the old formula. Also, now the people that don't want to get up to go see the fireworks from where they are seated in front of the band will be able to see them from their current location. Also, for clarification in the discussion, the information booth and the red boxes are the ticket booths.

The new layout will move the kiddie rides to the football field, and there is better lighting there. There was gravel road/path thee is made to hold semi-trucks. Chairman Fialko stated a sprinkler head may get broken, yes, maybe, but it can be replaced for ten (10) dollars, and added this is the cost of doing business. The blue block on the design layout by the kiddie area is a family tent that is forty (40) by eighty (80) and the green boxes are porta-johns on the layout design.

Carmen stated he plans to flag the sprinkler heads.

Mike Bonomo and Vicki Bozen left the meeting at 6:13 pm.

Chairman Fialko stated there will be a VIP bathroom behind the tent with A/C. There will be two (2) sets of stairs and the FM transmitter, which is new. For the stage, the demand is 100-amp 3 phase service. What was recommended was a 45kw generator. (for \$800 dollars) The stage will be changed nearly every two (2) hours. A ten (10) by ten (10) tent will needed for each side of the stage. (These dimensions were later changed to fifteen (15) by fifteen (15) The stage is covered on 3 sides and then the top.

The 2nd generator is 100 kw for the food vendors – good for up to 350 amps. Now with the Led lighting, we don't have the same demand on generators. This generator will run \$1100 which puts us above last years cost by 100 dollars.

With topping the generators off, it was less work and less expense than the way we did it in 2021. Jennifer stated to add that they will need to make sure that there is space to allow for the truck and hose to get through. Jennifer will work with Ethan Fialko and Jay Roti regarding the electric so she can give her input.

Chairman Fialko stated there is discussion of upping to 15 vendors (from 10). He added he would like the cables and hoses not to be so close to the sidewalks. He doesn't want to the cables going across the sidewalk. Dan said the cable covers are very expensive and not very long so many are needed.

Jay said that with adding the vendors on that extra leg at the turn, then a suggestion could be to move the generator to near where the Sheriff's park and hug the cables to the curb. There was discussion about doing boring for the cables and hose. Dan

selected a spot close to the same area as the split/turn for the vendors and then run the lines.

Tony Drabik said that he will need something to keep the drinks cold and the ice and Tony said that he would like to order it and will start calling. Jackie said that she would work with Tony on the ice. The ice trailer was plugged into the generator and is usually where selling alcohol. Dan stated vendors use the generator too. Jay then suggested a small generator. Jay suggests a 50-amp 3 phase generator which would make a total of three (3) generators. Dan that he would like to stick with the two. He doesn't want to go over board on the cost. He says let's try the two. If we need more, we can accommodate as needed.

Paul McGary suggested moving the alcohol tent to the opposite side closer to the vendors in an effort to minimize the lines running through the event for the generator.

Jay suggested maybe two smaller generators and eliminate the cost for the cable covers for running the lines all the way across. Maybe it's worth doing the two (2) smaller and get less cable covers.

Dan said we are not boring conduit.

Chairman Fialko asked for a voice vote regarding approval or disapproval of the changes. All were in favor, zero (0) opposed.

Jay Roti left the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Tony stated he has hundreds of feet of hose if needed for Jennifer for the gas.

Mike asked about people stealing beer – and so he asked if there is a way to add an orange fence around the beer and Chairman Fialko stated there will be a bike fence around it.

b) New/Proposed Electrical Configuration

Chairman Fialko stated this was discussed with the layout changes.

c) Discussion Only – Senior Day

Chairman Fialko said they would like to have senior day on Sunday from 2-4 PM. We have done this in the past, it hasn't been an issue. A suggestion might be to have a bingo event for the seniors. This would require board approval. It would not be the fest's responsibility to carry out the idea of the senior committee. The music would be orientated toward seniors. Dan thinks it's a win-win to work with our seniors. There will be discussion about parking and senior parking closer to the fest.

The section of parking closest to the fest would be isolated for the seniors for those 2 hours. Also, handicap requirements would met and those individuals would be escorted through the back, behind the stage, with John's Walters assistance.

Dan would like to ask the Board about the Senior Day event at the Fest.

Dan asked for a motion to offer a Senior Day event from 2 pm until 4 pm on Sunday, June 25th, 2023. Member Gawron made the motion, seconded by Member Drabik. A Roll Call vote was taken with Members Walters, Stevens, McGary, Maurella, Gawron, Drabik and Calrson voting in favor. Chairman Fialko abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Carlson arrived to the meeting in person at 6:31 PM. He asked if they were having a special needs day. Chairman Fialko stated it will happen. It was discussed that it was called Special Needs, and then it was called Kids Day at one point and then was changed back to Special Needs Day, and for a long time this has been a part of the fest.

Last year, Dan offered the event to the Ability Awareness Committee and it seems that the carnival didn't meet their expectations. So, they still plan to move forward with the special needs portion, but will not have it written into the contract. They will do the segment as they have always done. It is all worked out.

Mike Carlson then asked again about the Senior Day and he said that he would like the tips to go to the Seniors for that day. Chairman Fialko said he cannot commit to that yet. There may be other organizations that present themselves.

d) Sheriff's Auxiliary Donation of \$2000 (2022 Check)

Dan said the history showed from \$1500 to \$3500 had been donated in the past. Last year there was a lot more OT because of the problems that had come up at the event. He stated we do need the Sheriffs. There will be a donation made of \$2000 which goes to their supplies, vests, for the voluntary sheriff's department. Dan said if you want to make it more or less money, the group can make such a motion.

Tony Drabik made the motion to donate \$2000 for the Sheriff's auxiliary. The motion was seconded by Carmen Maurella. No discussion. A roll call vote was taken, with Members Carlson, Drabik, Gawron, Maurella, McGary, Stevens, Walters and Chairman Fialko all voting in favor eight (8) to zero (0). The motion carried.

LT Taylor returned to the meeting at 6:41 PM.

Chairman Fialko stated that for the next meeting, on the agenda we would include the Pet Expo, the fest website design, alcohol, organization and vendors.

Dan called for a round table for the Feb 1st meeting:

Carmen Maurella said some infrastructure to work on with Bill and Jen prior to the fest. Jennifer Vittori said she would like to recommend changing the dumpster location and she will work with Mark Gawron on that. Jennifer also asked about Jay Roti doing electric and will he be here working with staff during the day. Jenn will connect with Jay to make sure they will work through the layout for electric together. Gia suggested testing the credit card machines a day or two prior which Carmen stated he will handle. Ethan will handle the ATM machines. Dan asked Jackie to provide a list of the voting members, and volunteers and their responsibilities. Jackie provided what she had already worked on from the October meeting minutes. She is putting together a task sheet. Alana will track the status of the tasks through the link she created. Mark wanted to share that Dave Madema has been added to the group as an also present person and will be paring up with Mark about layout maybe closer to the fest. He will be added as a strong volunteer. John said that when Carmen and Mark are ready, he is ready to go knock on doors for sponsors. Paul McGary asked if they could have copies of the layouts for the next meeting (11x17) and Debbie said she would make sure to bring them. The VIP tent will be added to the layout also. (that tent was a sponsor) We don't know if that will still work out this year. Jackie will put the order in for the tents. Bill Frossard said that maybe we should add another dumpster. Chairman Fialko said whatever makes the volunteers lives easier he will make sure they have. Mike suggested fifteen (15) by fifteen (15) side tents for off- loading. Last year they donated \$500 to the boy scouts to set up and take down the smaller tents and straighten out the seats at the end of the day (which could also be done at 10 am in the morning). Mike also wanted to know if we are always doing bike rack fencing – would it be worth it to buy our own. Dan said that currently we don't have sufficient storage. Tony said that before they omit on the volunteer list, make sure we have the staff. Debbie said that no one wants to clean up and said to still leave it in there, but let them know we will do what we can to make the reset- up process easier, and if we have enough volunteers we can dismiss the organizations. Or maybe do the set up in the morning after all the drinking people are gone.

10. Next Meeting

The February 1, 2023 meeting at 5:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Chairman Fialko asked for a motion to adjourn. Village Manager Maurella so moved, seconded by Member McGary. A voice vote was called, all were in favor, zero (0) opposed. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gia Cassin

Assistant to the Village of Homer Glen
Village of Homer Glen