

Homer Festival Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
January 13, 2026

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Dan Waddick.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Members present were Chair Dan Waddick, Mark Gawron, Paul McGary, Sue Steilen, Mike Carlson, Tony Drabik, Bill Frossard

Members absent: Ron Kus, Tony DeMaso, Jen Vittori.

- Member Drabik left the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Also Present: Staff Liaison Amy Blank

4. Amendments to Agenda

There was a motion made by Member Drabik to amend the agenda to move item 9.h. to 9.a. Motion was seconded by Member McGary. All in favor except for Member Carlson who was opposed; motion passed.

5. Approval of Agenda

Member Drabik made a motion to approve the amended agenda, Member Frossard seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

6. Public Comment

7. Announcements

a. Member Carlson said he may have to leave early.

8. Approval of the Minutes

Member Drabik motioned to approve the December 9, 2025 Minutes. Member Carlson seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

2. Old business

a. **Beer** – Member Drabik shared that he heard the committee is going with Miller products. He does not like Jim Clark from Kozel Brothers because he doesn't seem to be truthful and honest and he does not want to work with him. He also shared that we will need to get checks cut in advance for the bar backs. He will be handing off his duties to Tony DeMaso and training him on what to do so he can take the lead. Member Drabik said that there was no problem with Lakeshore and there was no reason to not go with them and that they have reached out to Village Manager Joe Baber multiple times and have not yet received a response.

Chair Waddick shared that he appreciates all that Member Drabik has done for HomerFest over the past several years and that his opinion is respected, and the change that has been made has nothing to do with Lakeshore's performance or working relationship, it simply has to do with a preference for the product. The Mayor, committee members, and community have requested Miller products at HomerFest.

Member Drabik said he has a number of personal things coming up this summer and it was going to be hard for him to devote time to the fest, so now feels like a good time to step back. He will still come to committee meetings and will be available to help Tony DeMaso.

Member Drabik then excused himself from the meeting.

Chair Waddick shared in final remarks about the beer that there has been a lot of internal discussion between himself, Mayor Neitzke-Troike, Village Manager Baber about the switch to Miller products. Chair Waddick also reached out to the local bars to ask what their best-selling beer and the unanimous choice is Miller. We want to change to try something different.

There was a question by the committee if Member Drabik left for good (resigned) and Chair Waddick said that to his knowledge Member Drabik is not officially resigning, just stepping back from his responsibility as Beer Table Manager. If he does wish to resign, he should submit that in writing to the village.

Chair Waddick said nothing is final with Kozel Brothers has been confirmed – so that still needs to be sorted out. Member Carlson said to remind them of the number of tubs we need because they have been short when he worked Canal Days.

Member Gawron commented that Member Drabik brought a lot of leadership to the Beer Table Manager position and that he will be missed and that it is an important position to fill, so he encourages Chair Waddick to not overlook it.

- b. **Fireworks** – not much of an update. The Village Attorney has worked with Ace Pyro and they have come to a verbal agreement. We just haven't received the final contract to sign yet. We have the approved check waiting to send.
- c. **Bands** – Last meeting we discussed the bands and what our openings are. We do have people reaching out to us who would like to be involved. Chair Waddick would like Member Carlson to come to the next meeting with suggestions to fill in the open slots and would like to incorporate some more types of music (other than rock music). Maybe something more pop, boy band, etc. We have four open slots – one on each day.

- 1. **Thursday – 9:30 – 11:30 Maggie Speaks**

- 2. **Friday 7-9 Hoodwinked**

- 3. **Friday 9:30 – 11:30 Arra**

- 4. **Saturday 4:30 – 6:30 Funked Up**

- 5. **Saturday 7 – 9 Lounge Puppets**

- 6. **Saturday 9:30 – 11:30 High Infidelity**

- 7. **Sunday 4:30 – 6:30 Snapshot**

- 8. **Sunday 7- 9 Tim Gleason Band**

- d. **Layout** – At the last meeting we talked about having a smaller stage by the family tent to do some smaller family entertainment/local talent show. Chair Waddick would like Member Gawron to take a look at the current family area layout and suggest a layout that incorporates a stage. Member Gawron would like a copy of an aerial photo from that area.

Member Carlson suggested buying our own small stage/risers that we can use at HomerFest and other village events. Chair Waddick said that is something on his “needs and wants” list that he will be discussing this month during the budget meetings.

Member Gawron commented that if we move forward with this idea we will need to think about power (sound, lights, etc.) Chair Waddick said yes, that this is a tentative/preliminary idea, but we will look into it all if we continue moving forward with this idea.

Member McGary asked if we still had the “red” trailer (he remembered a trailer that HomerFest used to put things in and we stored it behind the beer tent. He

suggested if there is an extra trailer lying around that we could store the stage in that. Chair Waddick said that the Events Department has a trailer that is full of supplies for events and there is a smaller empty trailer that we have used for the Food Drive in years past. Chair Waddick said we can look into that.

- e. **Carnival** – Chair Waddick is setting up a meeting with the carnival, the Mayor, and Village Manager to discuss how the money is handled and contracts moving forward. Member Frossard reminded Chair Waddick to ask about adding benches to the carnival area. Chair Waddick shared that he has been pleased with the carnival and feels like they have been great partners with the village.

Member Gawron asked about ticket sales and wondered if we could have more than just Ace Hardware and Village Hall as sale points for the tickets. Chair Waddick said we can look into it but thinks Ace Hardware would not be pleased with having another business as a sales point. Member Gawron suggested Meijer or Jewel. Member Carlson thought that is too many businesses selling tickets. Member Gawron thinks we may sell more tickets if there were more places to sell them. Member Frossard asked about digital sales. Member Steilen reminded the committee of the process of selling the tickets (purchasers receive a physical paper receipt, which they have to bring to the carnival to redeem their wristband).

- f. **Ice** – Chair Waddick said he was happy with the ice vendor from last year and he is moving forward with doing the same as last year. The only adjustment will be to have the ice vendor wait until they hear from us about our ice needs. Last year they delivered on Friday and packed the chests with ice, but we hadn't requested that. Chair Waddick said he spoke with the vendor at that time it happened, and they understood and everything went smoothly the remainder of the fest.

Member Gawron asked if he should keep the ice machines in the same location as last year and Chair Waddick said yes.

- g. **Electric** – Chair Waddick and Member Frossard have spoken and they will be changing their approach to electrical needs for the vendors this year. Chair Waddick would like to give each vendor a standard amount of electricity and if they require more than that, they will have to pay for it. Member Frossard is looking into the cost of electric.

Chair Waddick said in addition, he would like to look again at the cost of the vendor fee and see if we want to adjust it for Homer Glen businesses/non-Homer Glen businesses, etc.

Member McGary suggested reaching out to the food vendors to see what their typical draw of electricity is. Member Frossard said he knows what the standard power pull is and will work with Chair Waddick to determine how we will work it this year. Member Frossard said that the food vendors do need to supply their own power cord to us. Chair Waddick asked if having an electrician on hand again is recommended? Member Frossard said that he will set everything up but will have the electrician check everything and make any adjustments if needed.

- h. **Food Vendors** – Chair Waddick has not opened up the application yet, he will be working on that and sharing at the next meeting. Chair Waddick was curious to know if the food vendors who are repeat vendors - have they been placed in the same spot each year? This is something that may be looked at because some spots may be better than others and we want to be fair to everyone.

Member Gawron asked if we are keeping the food vendor amounts the same? Chair Waddick said he believes there were 14 vendors last year and that at our recap meeting we had said we wanted to lessen it to 12. Member Frossard said we should lessen it to 10 and Member Carlson agreed.

- i. **Water** – One of the changes we talked about this year is doing a misting tent/cooling station. We also met with the staff liaison for the Environment Committee who expressed interest in doing a recycling initiative at HomerFest. One idea they had is to have a water station at HomerFest (free water) that will limit the amount of plastic water bottles. This may be a nice tie into commemorative cups or water bottles (25th anniversary) as a giveaway. We did discuss recycling bottles and cans, and it looks like it will be too much for us to organize at the fest, so we are looking to add some recycling to some of our smaller events. We also discussed lifting the restriction we had placed on vendors that they had to sell water and pop for \$2 – if we have an alternate for water; either a free water tank truck or water being sold inexpensively by a non-profit group, like the boy scouts. Member Steilen said that there has been a request for a drink station in the beer tent or up near the stage that has water and pop, so people don't have to go to the food court to get a drink. Chair Waddick

said we have talked about this and will continue to look into it – because there are some logistics that need to be answered (who is buying the product, how is money being collected, etc.).

Member Carlson said he would speak with Jewel to see if they will donate some pallets of water.

- j. **25th Anniversary** – Chair Waddick shared that he is adding the drone show expense to the proposed budget and he will see if it gets approved. Another idea that we are moving on is a time capsule. It would be fun to include some of the local schools/students. We aren't sure yet how that will look but like the idea of doing a presentation on stage.

Member Gawron suggested again doing a car show.

Chair Waddick said the idea of adding a screen/projector will be quite costly. He is still open to suggestions. Member Carlson said we should invite all of the former mayors to HomerFest as part of the celebration.

3. New Business

- a. Member Steilen reminded us to get the information out for the volunteer organizations because they need time to decide if they can participate or not.

9. Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room.

10. Adjournment

Member McGary motioned to adjourn at 6:46 p.m., Member Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:



Amy Blank

Events/Communications Coordinator, Village of Homer Glen