

Homer Community Festival Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
January 19, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chairperson Fialko.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Members present at 5:01 p.m. were Chairperson Trustee Dan Fialko, Mike Carlson, Tony Drabik, Mark Gawron (via phone), Paul McGary, Sue Steilen, and John Walters. Debbie Stevens joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Members absent: Karen Adameczyk and Sara Rudnik.

Also Present: Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Robinson, Communications and Recreation Services Coordinator Amy Blank, Carmen Maurella, and Trustee Ruben Pazmino. Lt. Holuj was present from 6:20 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda

Chairman Fialko requested announcement be moved to 4.b. There were no objections.

4.b. Announcements

Chairman Fialko expressed he was saddened by the loss of Committee members Dave Bricker, Todd Fonfara, and Chris Locacius, who have resigned from the Committee. He thanked them all for their years of service and commitment to the community and making all of the Homer Community Festivals in the past very successful. Chairman Fialko read his letter that he wrote in response to the resignations. In the letter, he requested they call him at their earliest convenience, so they can talk about the expectations and requirements of the fire departments for HomerFest 2022. Chairman Fialko received a reply thanking him for his kind words and was told Deputy Chief Bricker will be calling us in regards to the expectations. During the Fest in 2021, the Committee also lost three members, Carlo Caprio, Mike De Vivo, and Keith Gray, who had many years of service. At that time people stepped up to the plate to fill those positions. Chairman Fialko and his wife were some of the people who stepped in to fill the gaps. He also received many phone calls from people willing to help out. Some of those people were present in the room. Again, he thanked the resigning members for their dedication throughout the many years they served on the Committee.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. December 28, 2021

Member Drabik made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2021, meeting. Second was made by Member McGary. None were opposed. Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Announcements

Moved to 4.b.

8. Old Business

a. 2022 HomerFest Planning

1. Site Planning and Layout

Member Gawron prepared a diagram for a layout based on information gathered from Amy Blank, Todd Fonfara, and Chris Locacius. Member Gawron stated that this is a first draft to be taken in steps. He reviewed the festival features that were marked in the diagram. New to the plan, the carnival management trailer was moved to the U-shaped kiddie ride area by the 2019 Fest site. The location will need to be changed due to trees. Member Stevens stated that the carnival owner and staff will need to park next to the trailer. On the diagram, the area labeled new open space can be used for food vendors or other festival needs.

Chairman Fialko asked for each person's input on the plan.

John Robinson, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities, stated he would like to visit the site with Member Gawron to view the topography of the site. He didn't think there was room for the two 40'x80' tents in the location designated (by the active core). There is also a ditch in the area where the carnival management trailer is shown. The management trailers will also need access to power and water. Chairman Fialko suggested an alternative location in the grass area where the parking lot meets the inner ring. Member Stevens stated the carnival management trailer will need six parking spots.

Member Stevens likes the kiddie ride area. Chairman Fialko would like the Family Tent on the gravel in the kiddie ride area in the center of the U. The tent can be used for tables and chairs and parents to rest and watch their kids.

Member McGary asked about the area that was to be gained from the carnival to the south. Chairman Fialko will talk to the carnival about the space, the location of the management trailer, and the location of a tent on the gravel. Member McGary informed Member Gawron that the area designated for food vendors in the parking lot is where the carnival places their food vendors. Member Gawron changed the circle to blue to show it belongs to the carnival. He emphasized that the carnival helps the Village make money. Expanding the carnival footprint is a best for both parties.

Amy Blank questioned the use of gravel. What is the cost? What does it mean for the park in the future? Is the gravel going to remain after the Fest? Will it be taken up afterwards? What does it mean for the grass? Member Gawron responded, there were three new gravel suggestions made at his meeting with Todd Fonfara and Chris Locacius: one was the band staging area, one was the front entrance to the tent, and one was in the food vendor area. Chairman Fialko said that John Robinson can be the one to determine where the gravel would be needed. The patch of gravel in the rear of the tent for the bands may be necessary depending on the weather.

Member Steilen questioned the need for the two 40'x80' tents. Chairman Fialko said they would be removed from the plan. His idea is to move one small tent to the west side of the large tent. The other tent would become the kiddie ride tent. There would only be one beer truck next to the large tent. Member Steilen expressed concern about the tent stakes if a tent is placed in the center of the kiddie ride area. She suggested not having the tent in the center of the area. Chairman Fialko said that he prefers the tent there and PVC pipe can be placed on the stakes. Member Carlson suggested using swimming pool noodles on the stakes. John Robinson suggested possibly putting tables next to the tent (over the stakes). This has been done for the sides of the large beer tent. Member Steilen also stated that having a second 40'x80' tent may add approximately \$2200 to the tent expense. Chairman Fialko said he prefers to have just one tent. Member Steilen does not like the layout of the porta-potties by the entrance of the tent. John Robinson said the location of the porta-potties will also need to be accessible for the maintenance truck. The location may be moved to the east side of the tent. Member Steilen would like to see the route for going between Village Hall and the Beer Tent. Chairman Fialko would like to see where the golf carts will be parked.

Member Drabik will get a measurement of the truck to see how it can get closer to the tent. He would like to see the food vendors to be moved to the front of the beer tent across from the carnival food vendors. The porta-potties may then be moved to the former area of the food vendors. Chairman Fialko suggested the food vendors be moved more north on the parking lot by the crescent area (south of the tent). Member McGary asked about the food vendors being required to serve from both sides. This may not be a requirement.

Chairman Fialko asked Member Gawron to move the new cigar bar to a more central location on the west side of the tent, so the people in there can see the band playing. The EMA truck can go behind the stage area. He would also like to see metal barricade bicycle style fencing replace the orange plastic fencing in the entrance way by the information tent. The metal fencing would be angled to be more welcoming. He would also like to see the metal fencing in front of the stage. Chairman Fialko would like to see only the air-conditioned booths be used for the ticket sales. Ideally, the booths will face the stage or maybe on an angle. The old booth that is not completely enclosed can be reworked to store the supplies.

Chairman Fialko has spoken to Brent Woods, the Public Works Director, and Brent Porfilio the Township Road District Commissioner. He has gotten a promise that the Mike De Vivo walkway will be paved with blacktop before the Fest. The Road District will also delay installing fencing in the front of their property until after the Fest.

Chairman Fialko would also like to see handicap accessible tables. A wheelchair will need to fit under the table. John Robinson has a few ideas for how to raise up the tables if needed.

Placement of fire trucks still needs to be determined. The Emergency Preparedness plan will be worked on in the future. John Robinson is working on ordering the generator. The placement of the generator is still to be determined.

Chairman Fialko introduced Trustee Ruben Pazmino as the co-chair of the Committee. Carmen Maurella will also be joining the Committee along with Ethan Fialko. Trustee Pazmino strongly recommended that food vendors only need to serve out of one side. This will help restaurants that may be running short staffed. He liked the idea of the new open space to be designated for loading and unloading food vendor cars. The generator would go between the food vendors and the stage on the west side of the tent. Trustee Pazmino said that cigar smokers do not want to be intermingled with cigarette smokers. His

idea is for the cigar bar to be exclusive. A wristband would be required. The cigar bar would be paid for by sponsors or attendees would pay a premium to sit in there. A sponsor may pay for the space and be allowed to sell an entry ticket or cigar products to the people admitted to that area. This area would have the best seats to view the bands. A tent would be provided for this area. The sponsor fee would more than cover the cost of the tent. The size of the cigar tent is to be determined.

Member Carlson would like to see an extra porta-potty and a handwashing station behind the stage. A handicap unit would be preferred.

Lt. Jim Holuj agreed to placing the Will County Sheriff's trailer near the kiddie-ride area.

Sponsor tents may possibly be placed to the east side of the beer tent, where the family tent was previously.

2. Fireworks Recommendation

Chairman Fialko has assigned Carmen Maurella and Ethan Fialko to coordinate the fireworks. Chairman Fialko has a contract from ACE Pyro to do the fireworks and has recently spoke with Peter, their representative. The vendor is willing to work with the Village to find a way to reduce the cost of the fireworks. The representative from ACE Pyro said that HomerFest has the second-best fireworks show in Northern Illinois. The cost per minute for the fireworks is \$2,180. If the display is reduced a few minutes, most people will not notice. Chairman Fialko would like additional funds to pay for premium sound equipment. The amount budgeted for the combined band and fireworks sound is \$9,000. Chairman Fialko has been in touch with a sound company that services 75-100 communities. He received a quote for \$13,000, which includes the stage, stairs, apron, lighting, all speakers needed, and three committed employees to be there the entire time of the Fest. Chairman Fialko was able to negotiate the contract to a reduced amount of \$12,000. He asked the Committee for a reduction in the fireworks time to make up the \$3,000 difference from the budgeted amount to the amount needed for the contract with SWP Sound Works. The original time for the fireworks was 22 minutes.

Member Drabik made a motion to reduce the fireworks display by two minutes; second was made by John Walters. None were opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Fialko will contact ACE Pyro to reduce the fireworks contract by \$4,360 for the two-minute reduction. The revised contract will show a reduction from \$48,000 to \$43,640.

Tony Drabik made a motion to present the revised contract for ACE Pyro to provide the fireworks display for a total of \$43,640 to the Village Board for approval; second was made by Mike Carlson. All were in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried.

3. Food Vendor Application Packet

Member Steilen requested input and consensus for several items in the Food Vendor Application packet, which were as follows:

- The number of food vendors may increase to ten if space allows.
- Food vendors will be permitted to serve from only one side. Serving from two sides will not be required. The layout will be organized to allow for either.
- Menu submissions will be required. Vendors will be chosen based on obtaining a variety of items and to not have competing menus.

4. Committee Member Updates

Member Drabik reported there is a new representative for Lakeshore Beverages. The list of beverage choices wasn't complete. After he has the complete list of the beverage choices, he will also explore other vendors. Member Stevens recalled Kozel Brothers was a vendor in the early years, and they supplied Miller Products. Chairman Fialko suggested looking into getting screw top bottles to avoid the difficulty of popping the tabs.

9. New Business

Chairman Fialko asked for a consensus to bring Trustee Ruben Pazmino on as a co-chair for the Committee along with Carmen Maurella and Ethan Fialko as Committee members. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Member Stevens spoke with Rob Salerno with the carnival. They need eight parking spaces by their management trailer, and they need 25-30 parking spaces for their employees.

10. Next Meeting

Chairman Fialko would like to change the meeting day to the first Wednesday of the month to 5:30 p.m. He requested a consensus. All were in favor. None were opposed.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 2, at 5:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Member Drabik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Member McGary. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Steilen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sue Steilen

Special Events Coordinator

Village of Homer Glen