

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
February 2, 2021

**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 6:41 p.m. by Co-Chair Sweas

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**3. Roll Call.**

Members present were Co-Chair Trustee Sharon Sweas, Co-Chair Ruben Pazmino, Nancy Carlson Andy Panelli, Cynthia Rataj (Conference Call Audio), Joe Turrise (Conference Call Audio), and Staff Member Melissa King.

John Lobick – Advisor, was also in attendance.

Absent: Bob Moses and Gary White

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

There were no amendments to the Agenda.

5. Minutes.

a) January 5, 2021

Discussion amongst members Panelli and Advisor Lobick talked about a portion of the minutes that discussed the community solar presentation and how the solar credits were going to be calculated. It was recommended by Member Panelli that we add some language to that section of the minutes at the end “slide needs to be corrected, based on the Citizens Utility Board Slide example, slide called “Typical Community Solar Billing Procedure”.

Co-Chari Sweas asked if Committee should wait to approve the minutes until those changes can be made. A motion was made by Member Carlson to table the minutes until the next Environment Meeting. There was no second. Member Panelli recommended the minutes be approved and that staff work with Advisor Lobick to add the clarifying language.

Member Carlson rescinded the tabling motion.

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2021 meeting based on the corrections presented by Member Panelli and Advisor Lobick; Member Turrise seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting minutes were approved.

6. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

7. Old Business.

There was no old business.

8. New Business.

a) Relocation of Prairie Garden sign

Co-Chair Sweas ask if there was a consensus to relocate the Prairie Garden Sign to the Heritage Park 319 Grant Area. Member Turrise asked if there were any ideas for an overlay on the sign? Member Sweas indicated Member Turrise would need to provide exact examples. If Members have an idea for an overlay they can present them for the next meeting. All members were ok with the relocation of the sign. It was recommended to keep the item on the agenda for March for general discussion.

b) 2021 Environment Committee Events and Activities

1. **Stargazing** - Co-Chair Sweas indicated that the events are set and not tentative.
2. **Big Tree Contest** – May 10th is the recommended deadline. Member Turrise recommended a deadline of May 1st.
3. **Community and Nature in Harmony Awards** – July 1st is the recommended deadline. Co-Chair Sweas discussed maybe moving this event up. Member Turrise indicated that the gardens looked a little dried out this time last year. Co-Chair Sweas recommended to move the deadline to June 20th.
4. **Tree Plantings** – We usually plant two trees per year. Members need to come up with recommendations for the two planting locations. Glenview walk would be a good location or a tree near the Village Maintenance garage. It was recommended to keep the item on the agenda for March.
5. **Earth Day Cleanup** – Co-Chair Sweas talked with Staff Member Steilen about the Kite Fest. The Environment Committee will host tables/booth and have a “virtual” cleanup with supplies available. Member Turrise asked if Rachel Sweet would be interested.
6. **Plastic Free July Month** – Co-Chair Sweas asked Member Panelli about working on an article to submit to the new local paper. Member Panelli asked if we have a contact at that paper. Co-Chair Sweas indicated that Member Steilen has a contact that could be shared.
7. **Household Hazardous Waste Event or Paper Shredding Events** – Planned for September 25.

c) Restoration Grant

This had been presented to the committee for the 319 Grant Area; but to apply for the grant the area has to have been managed for at least 5 years. The 319 Grant area has only been managed for 3 years. The Village needs to wait two more years before we can apply.

d) Community Solar

Member Panelli asked about the feeling from the Board on the Community Solar. Co-Chair Sweas did not have any updates from the other Trustees and that she was going to meet with the Village Manager to see if there is any support. There was general discussion between Co-Chair Sweas and Member Panelli on the particulars of the program.

9. Announcements/Committee Member Communication

Advisor Lobick shared an interesting Book called the “Endangered and Disappearing Birds of the Midwest”. Reminder that the protection of habitat is not just local for these migrating birds. Does the Village give credits (when looking to bid) or points for companies that have a more environmental philosophy?

Member Turrise mentioned he has had a lot of robins in his yard already and felt this was very early.

10. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Turrise; seconded by Member Panelli. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Melissa W. King
Senior Planner/Project Manager