

Ability Awareness

Minutes of the Meeting on
March 7, 2023

**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 5:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present: Co-Chair Laha by phone, Vice-Chair Rodgers, Member Adamczyk, Member O'Connor, Member McKenna, and Member Crone arrived at 5:33 PM.

Also Present: Carmen Maurella, Village Manager, Kris Pasquini Event Coordinator and Gia Cassin, Assistant to the Village Manager

Members absent: Member Bleck and Member Neitzke-Troiike

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda

No changes made.

5. Approval of Minutes.

a. February 7, 2023.

Member Adamczyk moved to approved the minutes from February 7, 2023 with some changes. The motion was seconded by Member McKenna. All were in favor, zero (0) opposed, the motion passed unanimously. Secretary Cassin will make the corrections and the minutes will not need to return to the committee for a follow up approval.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Reports and Communications from Trustees and Staff.

- a) (Co-Chair) Laha – She heard from Member Heather Bleck and between new baby and school schedule, she asked if she could take a leave of absence until June. Nicole said it is not up to her, and committee is turning over in May. So, Heather is stepping down and may re-apply.

For next meeting, Nicole would like there to be an action item, to vote if the committee would like to help with the township grant. She didn't want to take it upon herself to decide. She thought committee should all have input.

The Committee discussed the next meeting and selected to to make a Special Meeting on Monday, April 3 at 6:30 in board room due to election night on April 4, 2023.

Nicole reminded the group with the turn over of the new board, and her leaving, that that each member would need to express continued interest, and there are forms on the website.

Karen stated she didn't have any questions and added that she also spoke with Member Bleck who mentioned she would be planning to do the best buddies at Konows Farm again, if it's still there.

b) Staff - Carmen talked about the nice turn out at the wheelchair basketball event. He thanked everyone that attended. Karen said she reached out to thank Coopman who was the faculty member that coordinated the event, (Karen worked at Oak Prairie), to thank him for having the event on behalf of herself and also on behalf of the committee.

c) Committee:

Member Crones stated he went to the Homer Fest meeting on behalf of the AAC. (Ability Awareness Committee) He stated he introduced himself and said he wanted to try to collaborate with the committee about the games. He said that he tried to solidify the bar tending event in the beer tent. It's not decided yet if the Homer Cares group will be part of the volunteering. The Fest committee members indicated that they would like to receive the ACC application soon as possible, but the AAC committee has concerns over who can be on the application since the fest happens after the election and there could be committee member changes. Nicole said she would be able to put her name on the application for the request to volunteer, which was confirmed by Carmen Maurella. Carmen said that the Ability Awareness Committee has two (2) time slots and that are confirmed.

There was discussion about having the Homer Cares work with the Ability Awareness Committee at the fest. They talked about voting on it at the next meeting, however everyone that was present supported having them work with the AAC. Beth stated this would not need to wait until the next meeting. Everyone there was in support, and a unanimous consensus was reached, to work with Homer Cares and put both AAC and Homer Cares on the application for serving at the beer tent and then Nicole and Christina can sign the application.

Member Crones stated he stayed for the entire Fest meeting, and said that fest committee member Mike Carlson brought up the 50/50 raffles, and there are 3 changeovers for the night, and he is bringing it back to the AAC committee, and they would like to see more volunteers doing the 50/50 raffle.

Co-Chair Rodgers asked for the finalized or draft minutes for the Fest committee into the next Ability Awareness Committee packet so they have more information about the Fest and how it will apply to the AAC committee. The Fest committee folks welcome more the ability awareness members to their meetings. Co-Chair Rodgers stated it was a smart move to stay close and on top of the Fest meetings. Member Crones said that he would be willing to attend more of the meetings. He will also talk with Debbie Stevens as she is the point of contact.

The committee discussed the toys to be given out. Village Manager Maurella explained the handicap parking will be at the football field side. The proximity will be better for those with needs. The Ability Awareness will have a tent there at the entrance to the park, for the special need's day. The tent will be at that location only on the special need's day.

Member Crones stated that Tony from the Fest Committee did ask Mr. Crones about the application for the bartending event.

Member Adamczyk asked if they could come up with a pamphlet that they could update, so they have a handout and updated business cards (without names) and she said maybe to make a sign and also to have these items for the fest. Co-Chair Rodgers suggested for the committee members to send their own items to staff for the photos to be added to the posters. Co-Chair Laha will get the content for the brochures, and she has a rough draft format she will work from.

Gia will order the business cards for Ability Awareness

Gia suggested maybe extending terms to 3 years or 2 years so that the committee could keep momentum of their projects moving forward without any hiccups and Co-Chair Rodgers suggested updating the application to reflect this. Co-Chair Laha stated that this year marks the end of a two-year term. Staff will verify the term limits on this committee.

Member Jim Crones stated he will attend the next Homer Fest meeting and even if it's a draft of the minutes, to please attach for information to the ability awareness packet.

Village Manager Maurella stated the entire Fest Committee will need to be Bassett trained, but the volunteers will not need to be basset trained. Carmen said that for the Village's sake, the committee members will be trained.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Member O'Connor stated that Rubens Law will happen tonight. Village Manager Maurella stated they would record it and then upload it to the Village Website.

b) Fest Meeting updates from Karen – turns out Jim went to the Fest meeting and will continue to attend the meetings and bring updates back to the AAC committee.

c) Bench update and next steps for placement
Benches are here. Member Adamczyk is asking if maybe we could do a ribbon cutting when the benches are placed. Co-Chair Beth Rodgers suggested putting the benches in after Homer Fest, as the active core is filled with kids and Beth suggested creating a plaque also.

The Committee discussed what to do with the remaining caps, possibly send them to another school district.

d) Ice Cream Social – check in and update (ice cream, food, craft, brochures to be completed, any other needed assignments)

Currently, only 6 have signed up for the ice cream social so far, Christina will work on the Chesdan's gift certificate, and staff is working on the craft component since member McKenna's contact was not able to secure the supplies.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Member McKenna discussed a reminder of things to think about for big items to purchase. Do they want to do other things for the park, or other parks. Co-Chair Rodgers said look at Gooding's Grove Park (tot park) as maybe it could use some things, regular play equipment. There has been discussion about a sensory room in the library, but they will wait

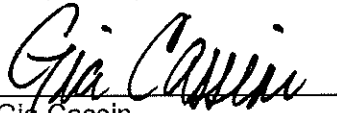
Co-Chair Rodgers added that the following items will need to be on the next agenda:

- Discussion of the number of members permitted on this committee and what the term limits are.
- Discussion about submitting your interest for future/continued committee members

10) Adjournment

Member Adamczyk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Village Manager Maurella. All were in favor, zero (0) opposed. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gia Cassin
Assistant to the Village Manager

