

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
April 12, 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 6:30 p.m. by Co-Chair Pazmino

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

Members present were Co-Chair Ruben Pazmino, Nancy Carlson, Andy Panelli, Joe Turrise and Staff Member Melissa King.

The current number of members on the Committee is seven (7), the four (4) members in attendance constitutes a quorum.

John Lobick – Advisor, was also in attendance.

Absent: Co-Chair Sweas, Bob Moses and Gary White

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

There were no amendments to the Agenda.

5. Minutes.

a) February 2, 2021

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2021 meeting; Member Turrise seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting minutes were approved.

6. Public Comment.

John Walters – Here to observe and to talk about the process for joining the Committee. Co-Chair Pazmino indicated that he would be supportive of new members on the Committee. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Walters asked about plant-based plastics; Member Panelli explained that plant-based plastics can sometimes require a certain temperature (130 degrees or more) in order to biodegrade, temperatures that are not reached within a normal landfill. So basically, it might pose an additional problem, can't be recycled and also can't biodegrade in a landfill.

Dave Buckley came in late to the meeting. He spoke at the end of the meeting regarding the large fire that spread on the north side of his property right along the boundary with Will/Cook County, up near Long Run Creek. Mr. Buckley wanted to make sure the Committee understood the environmental impact of the issues in this area. He indicated that he has been working with a number of entities, including the State, Will/Cook Counties and the Army Corp. He will be attending a special meeting with Village staff and other stakeholders this upcoming week and will also be attending the upcoming Board meeting.

7. Old Business.

a) 2021 Environment Committee Events and Activities

1. **Stargazing** - Changed the first date, has been rescheduled to June 19th as there was a conflict with the sports field lighting. Member Turrise would like to have the Crosstown Exotics and refreshments at the June event.
2. **Big Tree Contest** – Staff received two nominations for the Big Tree Contest.
3. **Community and Nature in Harmony Awards** –
4. **Tree Plantings** – Committee members discussed where and what kind of tree to plant. Member Turrise recommended planting a tree in front of the Village Maintenance Building and recommended an evergreen, specifically a Norway Spruce. Member Turrise motioned to plant two Norwegian Spruce evergreens, one for spring and fall, in front of the Village Maintenance Building; Member Panelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Earth Day Cleanup** (Kite Fest) – Member Panelli volunteered to attend the first shift and Member Pazmino volunteered to man the EC table for the second shift. Member Turrise asked if Rachel Sweet would be in attendance.
6. **Plastic Free July Month** – Member Panelli asked about the deadline with that new newspaper publication for the Plastic Free Article and whether or not we can do an insert. Focus on “here are the reasons to recycle” and also focus on “aspirational recycling”; but there have been a number of documentaries that show that now that China is out of the recycling business that there is relatively little plastics actually being recycled and there has been a mindset switch to focusing on using products that are more “recyclable”.

b) Relocation of Prairie Garden sign

Members are ok with John Robinson mowing down the garden and moving the sign to the 319 Grant area, as was motioned in 2020. Members have no further comments on this item.

8. New Business.

a) Grant Funding Options – Staff shared a few funding options available.

b) Regular Meeting Dates – Potential to change the regularly scheduled meetings to Mondays. Member Panelli preferred first Mondays. Co-Chair Pazmino recommended to change the meetings to first Mondays. Member Turrise said he would go with the majority and he is flexible. Member Carlson indicated Mondays were better for her schedule. Advisor Lobick indicated he was flexible. Staff indicated that this item would need to go to the Board on May 28 in order to change the regular meetings. Member Panelli made a motion to move the Environment Committee meetings dates to the first Monday of the month; Member Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c) Community Solar – Staff gave an update that the Community Solar proclamation was approved by the Board of Trustees. Staff is working on the next steps to get things rolled out. Staff will be looking into whether we can sign up to get the discount for our street lights. Member Panelli thinks that is great for the Village to set the example. Member Panelli offered to assist staff in the roll-out.

9. Announcements/Committee Member Communication

Member Panelli asked about who would be allowed to set up as a vendor or have a table to hand out information/are there rules. Staff recommended to ask Sue Steilen.

Member Panelli announced a library presentation and there is one coming up on April 28th at the Frankfort Library, it's called "the Conservative Case for Climate Change".

Advisor Lobick mentioned that Creekwood/Spring Creek area has some ancient lighting at intersections. Who is in control of these lights? Are they incorporated into the lighting replacement program?

10. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Turrise; seconded by Member Panelli. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Melissa W. King
Senior Planner/Project Manager