

Parks & Recreation Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
May 16, 2022

**Village of Homer Glen
14240 W 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491
Village Community Room**

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Co-Chair Rose Reynders.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present at 6:06 p.m. were Co-Chair Nicole La Ha, Co-Chair Reynders, Members Dale Janssen, Bob Kman, Marty Pavlik.

Also Present: Community Events Coordinator Sue Steilen, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Robinson.

Member Ed Cryer arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Members Absent: Dan Kenney, Russ Knaack and Regina Robinson.

4. Approval of Minutes.

a) April 18, 2022

Member Kman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 committee meeting; seconded by Member Janssen.

Roll Call:

La Ha – yes

Reynders -yes

Janssen – yes

Kman – yes

Pavlik -yes

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

No amendments to the agenda.

6. Public Comment.

Resident Josh Lund gave a history of his experience with trying to get improvements at Lamers Park. Mr. Lund and his family moved here in 2012. Lamers Park at that time had no signage, lights, picnic tables or trash cans. It was littered with trash, cigarette butts, and broken glass. He discovered the park was a Township park. He went to a Homer Township Parks Committee meeting and requested a trash can and picnic table. A month

or two later, a trash can was installed at the park. Mr. Lund then continued to go to the Township Parks Committee meetings and discovered that the park had been undeveloped for over 30 years. It's nine acres in size and has some of the oldest oaks in the Township. There is a second pond in the back that is unused. He organized several cleanup days there and won a Community and Nature in Harmony award for his efforts. He joined the Township Parks Committee and advocated for the park for six years. The park now has a sign, a trash can, and a stone walkway to the edge of the pond. The park is still forgotten and undeveloped. There are no paths, playgrounds, or facilities anywhere on the property. There are over 100 children in the area that can't get to a playground without getting into a car. Now that the park has been turned over to the Village, he would like the Village's Parks and Recreation Committee to take a look at the park. Superintendent Robinson offered to meet with Mr. Lund to discuss ideas for the park.

The Committee discussed some ideas for the park. There are easements on the property with ComEd and the Enbridge pipeline. Suggestions included working with the utility companies and exploring nature play areas and a fishing pier. Trustee La Ha asked Mr. Lund to keep coming to the Committee meetings.

7. Reports from Co-Chairs.

No Report from Co-Chair La Ha.

Co-Chair Reynders has recently been working with Gia Cassin to work on connecting the trails. This Thursday Co-Chairs Reynders and La Ha and Gia Cassin will be meeting with ComEd. The Village Board approved the purchase of playground equipment for the Active Core.

8. Old Business

a. Update on cul-de-sac road.

Co-Chair Reynders will be meeting with Village Manager Maurella to get an update on the cul-de-sac road and options for improving parking at Heritage Park.

9. New Business

a. Review and possible recommendation of TRIA Architecture payment.

Co-Chair Reynders reported she has not received an item listing of what TRIA has done for the cul-de-sac road. Since TRIA is overseeing the project, they want their payment because their subcontractor Austin Tyler has been paid. A shovel has not been put to the ground on the project. Co-Chair Reynders does not want to recommend payment to TRIA until she receives a detailed itemized list of what they oversaw. By consensus the Committee agreed that payment should not be made until the Village receives the itemized list.

- b. Discussion regarding the Village's west fence (between sports fields and Heritage Park).

Superintendent Robinson will contact the Homer Stallions to hear their views on removing the fence between the football fields and the Heritage Park parking lot.

10. Reports and Communications from Staff.

- a. Parks and Facilities Superintendent Update.

Superintendent Robinson reported there has been a lot of vandalism over the past weekend. Erin Hills and Goodings Grove were both spray painted. The Parks crew have removed the paint at Erin Hills. The underside of the pavilion at Goodings Grove will require a pressure washer to remove the paint. Goodings Grove is a never-ending battle because it is an off-the-path kind of place. Robinson would like to talk to the Village Manager about an SOP for handling vandalism. Co-Chair La Ha responded that a conversation she had with Lt. Taylor indicated an SOP may not be needed because it is a police matter. The Committee is looking for solutions to discourage and prevent vandalism. The crime of vandalism is not victimless. Taxpayer money is spent on labor and supplies to repair the parks. Superintendent Robinson would like to see cameras in all of the parks.

Superintendent Robinson also reported that the pickup truck on order may be canceled because the manufacturer is canceling orders. He will find out the status of the order next week. Another lawnmower is still needed. Robinson is researching additional information to present to the Board for a request to purchase another mower.

- b. Communications and Recreation Services Coordinator Update.

Since the Communications and Recreation Services Coordinator Amy Blank has resigned, Community Events Coordinator Sue Steilen was attending the meeting in Amy Blank's place. Steilen reported she is waiting for Manager Maurella to return from vacation to see how the department will be restructured. Steilen asked Committee members to consider volunteering for the upcoming HomerFest, which will take place June 23-26. Co-Chair La Ha mentioned the Ability Awareness Committee is also seeking volunteers to assist them in the Beer Tent on Friday, June 24.

Steilen also reported the Kite Festival was well attended. However, there was no wind. The big kites could not stay up. The children were able to run and fly the smaller kites. Co-Chair La Ha reported the Southtown had a nice article about the festival. The families were able to picnic in the park, purchase food from the food trucks, play games provided by Cross of Glory, and paint rocks at the Imagine Arts Academy.

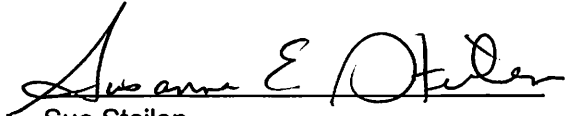
11. Committee Member Updates

Member Kman requested the meeting in June be held in a park. Co-Chair Reynders suggested having the meeting at Heritage Park in the gazebo. Co-Chair suggested members could bring their dogs.

12. Adjournment.

Member Kman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Member Cryer. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Steilen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sue Steilen
Community Events Coordinator