

# Homer Community Festival Committee

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Minutes of the Special Meeting on  
May 25, 2021

**Village of Homer Glen  
14240 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street  
Community Room**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Chris Locacius.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

Members present at 5:30 p.m. were Chairperson Trustee Beth Rodgers, Vice-Chair Chris Locacius, Karen Adamczyk, Dave Bricker, Tony Drabik, Paul McGary, Sue Steilen, and Debbie Stevens. Todd Fonfara arrived at 5:43 p.m., Sara Rudnik arrived at 6:21 p.m., and Matt Walsh arrived at 5:53p.m.

Also Present: Amy Blank, Dan Fialko (arrived at 6:00 p.m.), Gabby Garcia, Anthony Giacobbe, Michelle Kerfin, John Robinson, and Lt. Jim Holuj.

**4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda**

Sue Steilen motioned to move security to one of old business to be discussed first. Seconded by Member Drabik. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

a. May 11, 2021

The minutes were not presented for approval.

**6. Public Comment**

None

**7. Announcements**

Member Steilen announced that the Village received the liquor license for HomerFest from the State.

**8. Old Business**

a. Security

Parking concerns at Eagle Ridge Drive were discussed for Homer Fest weekend. After talking with EMA and the Auxiliary there will be barricades put in place with signs that say local parking only. In addition, on the night of the fireworks there will be an EMA and Auxiliary unit stationed in that location.

Update for Saddle Brook security: there will not be anything put over in that area (i.e. barricades) due to the fact that it would draw attention to the hidden area that is unnecessary.

All residents should be informed that if there are issues to call a non-emergency number, and it will be taken care of by the authorities.

b. **Parking and Pedestrian Pathways Update**

The Village board will be voting to approve the IGA with the township on May 26. Once that vote has been processed and finalized, there will be a meeting with the township supervisor to see what needs to be done in all departments involved prior to Dale Hostert starting to lay the pathway down.

c. **Discussion regarding 2021 HomerFest Planning and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

1. **Site Layout**

The Committee met at the site at 5:30pm to discuss the layout for Homer Fest. John Robinson walked everyone through the layout and answered questions or concerns. The meeting resumed inside the Community Room at 5:50 p.m.

2. **Heritage Corridor Business Alliance Tent**

The HCBA tent will be placed next to the Remax tent. The follow-up discussion about t-shirts from the last meeting confirmed there will be a separate order for the HCBA t-shirts in kids' sizes. The tent is available for load-in on Wednesday around noon. Due to the organization not being able to supply enough employees for Sunday, they will be loading out early Sunday morning.

3. **Elite Dance Performance**

No Update

4. **Volunteers**

Amy Blank discussed how well the volunteer assignments were going outside of the 7-10 p.m. Saturday time slots, specifically in maintenance and in ID checking. It was noted that using staff should be considered, but there has been a five to six volunteers gained with each call out, so Amy will continue posting in hopes of not needing staff for those volunteer slots.

5. **Site Planning**

The site was walked at 5:30 p.m. and the plans were broken down and discussed by the group. The only planning needed to be added is the ticket booth location which will be updated once placed.

6. **Staff Handbook**

The Staff Handbook was passed around the room for review and each member to correct information for themselves marked in the book. Each member and

other participants of the meeting signed their initials to clarify the information in the book was in fact correctly written. The handbook included the load-in schedule and vendors directory, which was just missing the ACE Pyro information for that section.

a. Load-in Schedule

All correct and updated. The handbook will be sent out next week with the finalized day-to-day schedule.

7. Lakeshore Beverage

Member Drabik will update the company that there is a liquor license for the event.

8. Liquor License Update

Member Steilen informed the group during announcements that the liquor license was approved, and the village will be able to serve alcohol at HomerFest.

9. Updates from Staff and Committee Members

a. Committee Assignments

**Vice-Chair Locacius** reported fireworks vendor are receiving the loading schedule and then being informed on their team to find out who the shooter is and who will be staffing. For HomerFest 2022 there is an idea to have someone from the community shoot of the firework (either sponsor or someone being honored from community).

**Chairperson Trustee Rodgers and Vice-Chair Locacius** are the contacts for the bands. There was an issue with bands trying to add on or trying to switch times but that is not feasible to this situation. Bands are offered free beverages from the Village and potentially sponsored food, but there is not food to offer from the Village though bands were asking for it. A local resident is interested in playing the national anthem on his guitar to start off the bands for HomerFest. Though it may not be an option for this year, it is a potential add on to 2022. It was suggested Vice-Chair Locacius and Trustee Fialko research if the guitarist could play the national anthem before the fireworks (as long as Karl/KC Audio is okay with him using his equipment).

**Member Bricker** has submitted paperwork for the insurer to cover the fireworks. Ordering t-shirts is planned for next week. The only thing delaying the process is getting sponsors logos. Sponsors are still signing up for HomerFest, but the agreed deadline so t-shirts can be processed in time is Tuesday, June 1.

**Lt. Jim Holuj:** Nothing to report

**Member Rudnik:** Nothing to report

**Member Fonfara:** would like to schedule the meeting with food vendors and the Health Department.

**Member McGary:** Discussed promotional marketing with Chesdan's Pizzeria. They sell 200 pizzas a week and will be useful for advertising. Planned to put flyers on the pizza boxes to advertise HomerFest. Plan to also talk to Kenootz Pizza to also see if they would put flyers on the pizza boxes. An add on the marketing with the premade postcards was also discussed (either putting the postcards on pizza boxes or in store fronts).

**Member Stevens:** Met with Rob about the carnival section of HomerFest. Rob would like to see more advertisement, but there should not be a concern. The word of mouth spread of HomerFest and social media will provide a lot of promotion.

**Member Trustee Fialko:** asked about the logistics involving the path and the people movers. This discussion led to concern about spacing and timing involving the people movers and the productivity of them. It was stated that people movers are not meant to be moving beyond the start of the fest and should not be going down the pathways which people are walking across.

**Member Adamczyk:** discussed that 78 special needs kids will be attending which totals to 284 family members for this grouping. There is more openness to having the bigger rides open that was stated in the committees last meeting. What is left to do before the fest is get the free game prizes for the special needs one per free game (two prizes).

**Member Steilen:** The order for a third people mover is being put into place after this meeting. There were also three credit card terminals purchased, which is the same number rented previously. There were date changes for the meetings to follow there is one for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and one set for the 10<sup>th</sup>. Left needed to schedule is the food vendor meeting and the volunteer organization meeting. Vendor meeting most likely need to fall in the morning for the convenience for the vendors. Emails post meeting were being sent about the volunteer meeting time and date that is most convenient for those who have to attend.

**Amy Blank:** All the sponsors have been added to the website

**Member Matt Walsh:** Nothing to report

**Member Tony Drabik:** It was clarified that the softball tournament that is occurring the days of the fest has been the same days as the past 5 years and Tony found out there should not be any overlap or issues. There is no games during the fireworks days and it shouldn't impact the parking situation.

## 9. New Business

None

## 10. Next Meeting – June 3, 2021

The next meeting will be held June 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

**11. Adjournment**

Trustee Rodgers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Member Drabik. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Gabriella Garcia  
Special Events Intern  
Village of Homer Glen