

# Parks & Recreation Committee

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Minutes of the Meeting on July 17, 2023

**Village of Homer Glen  
14240 W 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491  
Village Community Room**

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Rose Reynders.

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

Present at 6:30 p.m. were Chair Trustee Reynders, Russell Knaack, Bob Kman, Nichole Laha, and Amy Blank.

Also Present: Committee Secretary Alana Charboneau, Parks Coordinator Jennifer Vittori, Village Engineer Brett Westcott, and Village Manager Carmen Maurella.

Members Absent: Members Dan Kenney, Matt Hosteny, and Marcie Gorak

**4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.** - Chair Rose Reynders motioned for approval of June 19 minutes.

Motion made by: Bob Kman

Seconded by: Amy Blank

All in favor, zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Approval of Minutes-** none.**6. Public Comment.** – Homer Glen Resident, Jeff Peterson, mentioned he is HOA President of Evelyn's Gate North and has come several times over the course of a few years to request a concrete pad under the large pavilion. Peterson asked how he can move forward in getting the concrete pad approved. Trustee Reynders stated it would first have to go to the Parks committee. If Parks approves, then it will have to go to the village board for approval. Reynders told Peterson to write a letter to Parks Coordinator Jennifer Vittori so she can present it to the committee and then the board. Peterson also mentioned there is some inappropriate language etched into some of the playground equipment. Another concern Peterson mentioned is the birds under the small pavilion creating nests and then a mess underneath the pavilion. Member Knaack asked what state the large pavilion is in, as well as if there could be an electrical box placed. Peterson mentioned it has always been gravel and now there is grass growing as well. They do have their own power source, but to add one so it is there. Member Blank added she moved into the area in 2017 and at the opening party for Evelyn's Gate, they were told it would be done.

The second public comment was made by Homer Glen Resident Mike. He was just wondering about the Veteran's Memorial. He wants to be able to see if move forward and get approved.

1. **Reports from Chairs.** – Trustee Reynders explained the agenda. She mentioned how the Veteran’s Memorial was denied at the last meeting. Reynders met with the Mayor and asked her what she did and did not like about the memorial. She also mentioned everything that was a part of the Veteran’s Memorial was suggestions from the public. The Mayor mentioned to Reynders that she did not like how far away the location of the Veteran’s Memorial would be. The Mayor wants to move something closer to the Village and add a pavilion nearby. The suggestion was to put the pavilion to the northeast of the Village Hall. There would be a parking lot just south of the pavilion, next to the Village Hall. The veteran’s memorial would be located north of the pavilion. They’re planning to connect everything with sidewalks. The Mayor wants a big pavilion, 100 by 50, similar to the one at Konow’s Farm. Vittori asked if that is something we could charge for rentals, Reynders said briefly, it could. The main idea for the pavilion is to keep the heat inside. There still needs to be further discussion about what else is needed around the area. Reynders asked the committee to make a motion to approve the Veteran’s Memorial location.

#### **Legislative and Action Items:**

1. Motion to replace Evergreen Tree for entrance to Active Core and relocate the existing tree. It will be donated by Tazza.  
Motion made by: Amy Blank  
Seconded by: Nichole Laha  
In favor: Members Dale Janssen, Russell Knaack, Amy Blank, and Nichole Laha.  
Abstained: Member Bob Kman The motion passed.
  2. Motion to include butterfly mural in Heritage Park by the hammocks.  
Motion made by: Bob Kman  
Seconded by: Nichole Laha  
All in favor, zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.
  3. Motion to decide on location and rendering for the Veteran’s Memorial through (1) Touch of Green, (2) with a new location East of the community room with (3) room for a pavilion.  
Motion made by: Nichole Laha  
Seconded by: Amy Blank  
All in favor, zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Old Business**
    - a. Attorney Review- Village Manager Carmen Maurella stated Tria had a masterplan. Under the masterplan, legal counsel stated, we have non-exclusive rights to use the plans. The master concept was broken up into smaller contracts. Like circle drive, developed by Tria, if we were to break the contact, we would not be able to use it.
    - b. Masterplan for Parks – Member Knaack mentioned we have already varied from the plan, which has already been agreed upon. But Knaack would like to see the Masterplan from John Robinson, updated. The agreement was unanimous

throughout the committee. Maurella mentioned there are things in the works that will change the plan, for example the Town Center plans. Reynders mentioned to bring Heritage Park into discussion at the next board meeting, exploring the area for the Splash Pad.

- c. Parking plans- Westcott explains (with visuals) where the new parking lots will be placed, as well as how many spaces will be included. There will be medians and storm sewers. A few of the parking lots will need a few trees to be spayed and moved, instead of completely removed. Member Blank asked about the parking spots on the east side, if there will be enough space for cars to get in and out. Westcott reassured her there would be enough space.
- d. Memorial Tree Installation – Reynders mentioned Planning and Zoning Director Melissa King mentioned she was receiving requests to put memorial trees and plaques in the parks. Parks said it was up to the Environment Committee.

### **3. New Business**

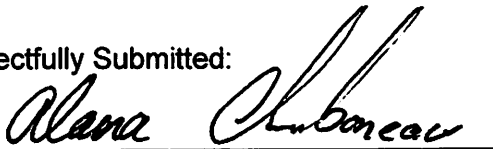
- a. Bench Location- Reynders mentioned to the committee the Mayor would like one of the benches to go near the inclusive swing. Member Laha stated the Homer Glen Junior Women's Club came here to asked if we wanted to participate in one bench program and we said no. The Women's Club began their own to raise enough caps for one bench, we ended up receiving two. Maurella mentioned there were concerns about vandalism, and in case of that there is another one are there are different locations for the bench as well.

### **4. Reports and Communications from Staff – none.**

### **5. Committee Member Updates- none.**

6. **Adjournment.** - Member Bob Kman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Member Amy Blank. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Alana Charboneau  
Committee Secretary