

Homer Community Festival Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
July 20, 2021

**Village of Homer Glen
14240 W. 151st Street
Village Community Room**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Member Chris Locacius.

2. Pledge of Allegiance**3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

Members present at 6:07 p.m. were Chairperson Trustee Dan Fialko, Chris Locacius, Karen Adamczyk, Dave Bricker, Tony Drabik, Todd Fonfara, Sue Steilen, and Debbie Stevens (left 8:00 p.m.).

Members absent: Paul McGary and Sara Rudnik.

Also Present: Amy Blank, Anthony Giacobbe, Lt. Jim Holuj, John Robinson, Matt Walsh, Mayor Yukich, Michelle Kerfin, Gabriella Garcia, and Dan Mulka.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda**5. Approval of Minutes**

a. May 18, 2021

Member Karen Adamczyk made a motion to approve the minutes. Second was made by Member Tony Drabik. The motion passed unanimously.

b. May 25, 2021

Member Tony Drabik made a motion to approve the minutes. Second was made by Member Dave Bricker. The motion passed unanimously.

c. June 15, 2021

Member Karen Adamczyk made a motion to approve the minutes. Second was made by Member Tony Drabik. The motion passed unanimously.

d. June 22, 2021

Member Todd Fonfara made a motion to approve the minutes. Second was made by Member Karen Adamczyk. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Announcements

None

8. Old Business

1. 2021 HomerFest Review

- a. Accounting Report – The committee is still waiting for potential refunds from the event. Once those have been received and recorded the final review will be ready. It was noted that this year’s revenue has exceeded any years past.
- b. Advertising – No Fest funds have been spent on print advertising. The HCBA donated advertising space in their publications and on their postcard mailers. Continue with mailers from HCBA and FB Posts. The members of the committee think word of mouth is the most positive advertising source.
- c. Bands – KC Audio’s concerns for people behind the stage was voiced by Member Locacius and suggested limiting backstage to bands and those in employee shirts. Suggestions for bands for the 2022 HomerFest will be discussed in the next meeting.
- d. Beer Vendor – The committee reviewed that there needs to be more options for those to drink due to allergies. White Claw was suggested as an additional choice. The committee also expressed the problem of organization volunteers serving the alcohol were also consuming which had been discussed during the training meeting.

A few committee members noted these features of the Plainfield Fest that they would like to see potentially at our fest...

- Advertising on the ticket puncher for drinks
 - A punch ticket offering five beers for the price of four
 - 21 and up guests of the carnival were able to buy as many drinks at one time instead of one at a time
 - Maps with advertising around the park
- e. Carnival – Member Stevens reported the carnival revenue of \$95,294.25 was an all-time record. Damage to a water meter and parking lot asphalt will be paid for by All Around Amusement. It was suggested to have J.U.L.I.E. mark the entire site before the fest setup.
 - f. Craft Services – The committee was highly positive on the outcome of the Craft Services. Improvements for next year that were noted were:
 - Making a rotation of volunteers/staff to give an opportunity to use craft services.

- Craft services needing more staff in the community room for clean up and set up
 - Having it be open on more days (Thursday it was not open in 2021)
 - Making sure there is a hinge to keep the door open so it is easily accessible
- g. Fireworks – The committee discussed preparing for potential weather complications for the future fests and actions like rain dates and personal equipment to better prepare for that possibility. The licensing that hindered the FM broadcast will be reviewed. Lima Lima has expressed interest in coming back next year. The firework theme and contract are due by December 2021 to lock in the spot.
- h. Food Vendors – After the second day the committee had to add a food court sign to address visibility issues, which helped with foot traffic. It was noted that the family side created more business for the food vendors than the beer tent side. The layout made it hard to see the vendors and may have impacted sales. The layout also made the ice placement difficult for the vendors, and different placement of the ice machines should be considered. There was a conflict between two vendors selling the same item. Neither attended the food vendor meeting when menus were discussed. The committee agreed the menus need to be reviewed, so the overlap does not occur again.
- i. Heritage Corridor Business Alliance – HCBA had a positive experience working with the committee with HomerFest, and their goal as a chamber is to increase their presence at the fest as well as get more sponsors to the event. With the layout of the Fest they liked their location especially for Special Needs Day. Two of their activities were rained out. They gave away t-shirts, glow sticks (very popular), and face painting which were provided.
- j. Information Booth – The information booth would like to also have the mats that were put down the last day in front of the beer tent. Larger signs and fencing to more efficiently corral people in and out of the beer tent while informing the attendants leaving that alcohol is prohibited beyond the beer tent.
- k. Parking/Pedestrian Pathway/Parking Passes – Parking was distributed the best way it could be logistically due to the weather. Resident parking needs to be discussed further at future meetings, and a parking ordinance may be recommended for the surrounding subdivisions.

- l. Safety Report (Fire District) – The safety report was presented and here are the data points from the report:
 - Thursday: four Band-Aids, one refusal, one transport
 - Friday: four Band-Aids, one refusal (for minor injury)
 - Saturday: five Band-Aids
 - Sunday: three Band-Aids, two ice packs, one bee sting, two syncopal episodes, two refusals
 - TOTAL: 16 Band-Aids, 2 ice packs, 1 bee sting, 4 refusals, 1 transport

- m. Sanitation/Dumpsters – Homewood Disposal provided 35 garbage cans with lids. Those 35 cans are being kept in the shed and can be used for future events as well as HomerFest 2022. An additional 40 cans with lids would be beneficial for HomerFest 2022. The handicap bathroom needed to be taped off due to a safety issue. Larger wash stations are necessary because the stations ran out of water.

- n. Security – The Fest was overall very safe. The missing kid protocol was used. Due to its central location, the hidden in plain sight trailer worked well as a base of operations by the Sheriff deputies. The squad cars need to be closer to where the security is stationed.

- o. Signs – The signs were well distributed and received but additional signs will be considered for future Fests. Signs requested for other fests were:
 - Digital maps with sponsorship
 - Portable signs on banners and A frames

- p. Special Needs Day – A total of 99 families signed up, and only 53 families showed up to the event. Weather may have affected the attendance. For next Fest it was suggested to have Fest volunteers distribute prizes, so there is control of the toy inventory.

- q. Sponsors – This year received more revenue from sponsors than any other HomerFest. Remax has expressed interest in coming back to the event and sponsoring the beer tent stage for all four days.

- r. Tents – The main tent (beer tent) collapsed in two spots due to improper set-up by the company. The tent company that was contracted for this year (2021) failed to do proper set-up and when requested to come and

check on tent for safety, they did not come out until second request was made. It was agreed by the committee that it is necessary for an inspection with the tent company take place after set-up to avoid issues. A suggestion was also made to have the tents set up the Friday before the Fest to allow more time for the remaining setup needs. Another suggestion was to hire overnight security for Wednesday night.

- s. T-shirts – T-shirt order was late due to late submissions of sponsor logos for the back of the t-shirt. Stricter deadlines for logo submissions will be enforced in the future.
- t. Volunteers – The group went above and beyond and only had positive responses. It is important to look into more golf carts for employees and volunteers for more efficiency and urgency.
- u. EMA – There was only one issue but the committee agreed it will be discussed in a future meeting

2. Suggestions from Review:

- Pre-fest meeting for the people counting money
- Create do's and don'ts for ticket booths
- Fix the route for money exchanges (ticket booth to village building)
- Have ticket seller booths face the stage
- Use direct mailers due to its positive response from 2021
- Video screens for the band stage
- Monitor behind stage crowding for safety
- Local talent as the opening band act
- Local dance students come and perform before the bands start
- Gluten free seltzers (not made by beer companies)
- Potential 21+ time only for beer tent
- Using a puncher card instead of one ticket
- 5 for \$20 deal on the drinks
- Expand fenced in area for beer consumption
- Be able to leave the beer tent with alcohol for the fireworks
- Premade ice tickets
- Review menus and pricing of the food vendors
- Homer Glen business or resident for food vendors
- Make the information booth one tent instead of two next to each other
- Purchase a red tent for fire district like the Lockport one that was used
- Get porta johns with lights built in
- Canopy for the Safety team as a base of operation
- Gator for the Safety team for convenience and efficiency
- Purchase sandwich frames for the signs

- Village volunteers distribute special needs day toys
- Slideshow of sponsors in beer tent
- Inspect tents
- Set up tents the Friday before the fest weekend so there is time for inspection and banner set up
- Rent more golf carts for volunteers

9. New Business

a. HomerFest 2022

- Trustee Fialko requested the committee think about and to submit their ideas for fest locations and alternative dates
- Member Drabik recommended adding Mike Carlson to the committee

10. Next Meeting – August 17, 2021

The next meeting will be held August 17, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Member Bricker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Chairperson Trustee Fialko. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gabriella Garcia/Sue Steilen
Intern/Community Events Coordinator
Village of Homer Glen