

ABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting on
August 1, 2023

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Neitzke-Troiike called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Roll Call

Present: Chair Neitzke-Troiike, Vice Chair Adamczyk, Members McKenna, Cronos and O'Connor

Absent: Members Sadler and LaHa (on her way)

Also present: Staff Liaison Pasquini

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda

No amendments

5. Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2023

Motion to approve by Vice-Chair Adamczyk with one change, Member Sandler should be Sadler. Second by Member McKenna. All in favor, none opposed

6. Public Comment (3-minute limit, please sign in before the meeting starts)

None

7. Reports and Communications

a. Report from Chair

Deferred

b. Report from Staff

Deferred

c. Report from Members

Member O'Connor said he attended the D33c school board meeting, and they will create a special needs committee. The superintendent will select committee members to include school board members and teachers. He said he didn't hear anything about parents being on the committee. He said Mayor Neitzke-Troiike addressed the school board and told them the AAC was available to help.

Member McKenna shared the three-question survey she created to hand out at the Back to School Social. Chair Neitzke-Troiike suggested adding a place for people to put their email addresses on the survey. Vice-Chair Adamczyk suggested asking the age of the family's special needs child or children.

Member LaHa arrived at 6:38pm

There was discussion about whether the term Down Syndrome was still being used.

Member LaHa suggested adding a category for physical disabilities to the survey.

Member LaHa said the phone number on the Committee list was incorrect and gave the correct number. Liaison Pasquini said she also noted the misspelling of O'Connor and Sandler. Chair Neitzke-Troiike said her phone number was also incorrect and shared her correct number. Vice-Chair Adamczyk corrected her email address.

8. Old Business

a. Pamphlet

Vice Chair Adamczyk said she did not get the chance to work on the pamphlet because her horse had been sick, and they had to put him down last Friday.

The discussion shifted to the committee logo and village branding. Member LaHa said The Future is Accessible logo is not copyrighted.

Homer Glen logo tree with "Ability Awareness Committee" and use the "Future is Accessible" separately.

Vice Chair Adamczyk said she would do another draft of the pamphlet and send it to everyone.

b. Fest dinner Aug 2

Vice-Chair Adamczyk and Member McKenna said they have other commitments and will not be there. Rob from the amusement company will not be there either.

Bubble wall, check presentation next Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30pm at the Board meeting

Liaison Pasquini said per the library, the total cost is \$3650. The library will add plaque with whatever we want on it. They will contribute cost that exceeds our donation.

Chair Neitzke-Troiike said AAC will write a check to the library for \$2219. Homer Cares will write a check for \$1431. So we have \$788 left from the money we raised in the Homer Cares account.

She said we could buy Rob a nice gift or allocate this money for something else.

\$948 was spent on school supplies, which "came out of some other budget that Carmen found it out of."

Chair Neitzke-Troiike asked everyone to attend the Board meeting for the check presentation. She asked if someone else would do the presentation. Member McKenna said she would.

Liaison Pasquini said she would send Gina Marcotte a photo and information about the bubble wall to add to the slide show for the board meeting.

d. Events

Back to School Social (invitation, timing, sno cones, homework kits, Chesdan's raffle, Culver gift cards), Golf Outing, wheelchair basketball, pop tab challenge

Liaison Pasquini emailed and posted the Back to School Social invitation yesterday and we have 14 people signed up. A woman from the PTO shared the information in their Shillings and Goodings Grove PTO. She said she picked up the 75 Culver's ice cream chips and the homework kits have been put together. She asked if someone would take the \$500 Chesdan's gift card and trade it in for five \$100 gift cards. Member Cronos said he would do that.

Liaison Pasquini said the bench and boulder with plaque should be in place by Aug. 11 for the Back to School Social.

Liaison Pasquini asked about the color and wording of the bench plaque. Members approved the wording and requested a bright green plaque.

Liaison Pasquini asked what equipment is needed for the social.

Chair Neitzke-Troiike said one eight-foot table, a couple of chairs for check-in, and one eight-foot table for the sno cones. When they check in, they will get a token, a box, and raffle ticket and be asked to fill out the survey.

Liaison Pasquini asked what was needed for the sno cones. Chair Neitzke-Troiike said she has cups, and straws. Liaison Pasquini said she would order the syrup.

Liaison Pasquini said the Golf Outing has been postponed until next year, so we have more time to plan and promote.

Chair Neitzke-Troiike said she is figuring out the best way to hand over Homer Cares to the village, but the village can't have a 501c3. She said she wants to talk to the attorney to figure out how to handle the donations/sponsors for the golf outing.

The discussion moved to wheelchair basketball. Chair Neitzke-Troiike said she'd like to do it in the winter. Partner with LWSRA (Keith Wallace) and host at District 33c in February. She asked who wants to chair this event. Member LaHa said she works with Keith so she will take the lead. She will talk to Keith and then Missy from 33c and set a date.

Chair Neitzke-Troiike said it would be cute to have little basketballs with "Ability Awareness Committee" and a balloon drop.

Liaison Pasquini will look into the cost of little basketballs.

Chair Neitzke-Troiike suggested we get cheerleaders. Member McKenna suggested the cheerleaders who won state that were just honored at the board meeting.

Pop Tab Challenge

Chair Neitzke-Troiike said Mokena, Orland, and Tinley are all interested. She suggested we partner with Mokena, make friends with Pekau on the side, and compete against Tinley.

When do we want to do it? It was agreed to do it from January to the end of June, so we get Fest tabs.

e. Park benches and swing plaque, dedication

f. Gift for Rob in honor of his wife

Chair Neitzke-Troiike asked how much the committee wanted to donate to the ALS Foundation. \$250 was the amount agreed on. She said she would take it from the leftover money in Homer Cares, but make it from the AAC. She suggested we present it to Rob at a board meeting. Vice Chair Adamczyk said she would find out when is best for Rob to attend the meeting. She said she would do the presentation to Rob.

Member McKenna said she would find out what ALS organization would be best.

Member LaHa said three women from Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Alaska, who are part of the Mrs. America organization, are starting Ability Awareness Committees based on ours.

g. Official logo

h. Brainstorming session for future

Vice-Chair Adamczyk hung a poster on the wall with lots of prompts and gave everyone a pack of Post-its, and asked each person to jot down ideas on the Post-its and stick them on the poster.

What do we want to do? Where do we see ourselves?

The group talked about a variety of things, including sign language classes, inclusive playgrounds and activities at the schools, and partnering more with the library.

Chair Neitzke-Troiike said she was thinking about an AAC budget of \$15,000.

Chair Neitzke-Troiike suggested posting our agenda on Facebook to get community members to see what we're doing and perhaps attend the meetings.

Member LaHa suggested having a parent event to help them connect. Member McKenna shared a positive experience about connecting with another mom and son

Member McKenna excused herself at 7:55pm

Mayor Neitzke-Troiike asked if anyone would be available to help judge a Talent Show at Navarro Farm. Mayors from New Lenox, Frankfort, and Tinley are doing it, but she will be out of town.

i. Budget

9. New Business

10. Adjournment

Vice-Chair made a motion to adjourn at 8pm, and Member Crones seconded. All in favor, none opposed

Respectfully submitted,



Kris Pasquini
Staff Liaison