

# Ability Awareness Committee

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Minutes of the Meeting on  
August 3, 2021

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

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Nicole LaHa

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call was taken by Stacy Patrianakos at 6:35 p.m.:

Ability Awareness Committee	Title	Attendance
Nicole LaHa	Chairperson	Present
Christina Neitzke-Troiike	Committee Member	Present
Karen Adamczyk	Committee Member	Present
Heather Bleck	Committee Member	Not present
Angela McKenna	Committee Member	Present
Robert O'Connor	Committee Member	Present
James Cronos	Committee Member	Present
Matthew Walsh	Village Manager	Present
Stacy Patrianakos	Staff Liaison	Present

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda

A. There were not amendments

5. Approval of Minutes

- July 3, 2021 minutes
- Chair LaHa made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2021 committee meeting; seconded by Karen Adamczyk.
- The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment.

A. Resident Broque Bakal stated that he was attending meeting strictly for support.

7. Reports and Communication

A. Report from Chair LaHa

- **Photo Challenge**
  - The photo challenge closed on July 31, 2021.
  - We had a total of 5 photos. (attached)
  - The winner is Bob Szajkovics
  - Chair LaHa will notify Mr. Szajkovics that he is the winner, HR Manager Patrianakos will request that winner is announced on social media platforms.
  - Chair LaHa will pull together a community basket and invite Mr. Szajkovics to the September 7, 2021 AA

Committee meeting where he will be presented with basket.

- **Pop Tab Challenge: Disney Trip**

- To date, 8 families have been nominated.
- We will continue to advertise and encourage residents to nominate families.
- Nomination deadline is August 16, 2021.

B. Report from Village Manager Walsh

- **Budget Follow Up**

- Finance Director Sawyers created a new line item in the budget, Donation-Ability Awareness Committee. The \$2,247.00 donated thus far to AA Committee are in this fund.
- Village Manager Walsh stated that more specific budget line items can be created in the future if need be.

C. Report from HR Manager Patrianakos

- **Ability Awareness Business Cards**

- HR Manager Patrianakos presented a mock up of business cards for committee. Committee agreed to one card with all members on it. The cards should include logo, website and link to survey that is being created.

- **Ability Awareness Logo**

- HR Manager Patrianakos will work with Amy Blank to come up with logo ideas and forward to Chair LaHa for review.

D. Report from Village Clerk Nietzke-Troiike

- **Community Development**

- Village Clerk Nietzke-Troiike asked how we engage with the community, specifically The Patch. Village Manager Walsh explained that we have a contact, residents are able to post on their own and in many cases the Patch reaches directly out to the Village in order to cover topics they have reviewed on our board meeting packets.

- **Creation of 501C Homer Cares**

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E. Report from Member Adamczyk

- **Accessibility**

- Member Adamczyk recommended that the committee recognize local businesses that are ADA compliant and work with businesses that are not to educate and bring awareness to them in how they can take steps in becoming ADA compliant.

F. Report from Member O'Connor:

- **ID's**

- Member O'Connor stated that he wanted to get started on the ID program. Chair LaHa recommended that we reach out to other schools to find out if they have similar programs and how they are managed. Member

McKenna stated that she will provide examples of how other schools are managing similar programs.

- **Senior Citizens Needs Assessment**

- Member O'Connor stated that he would like for committee to do an assessment as to what is needed by seniors. Village Clerk Nietzsche-Troiike recommended that committee conduct senior visits. Chair LaHa added that by visiting seniors, the committee will have an opportunity to educate seniors about the AA committee.

G. Report from Member Crones

- **Golf-Outing Local 731 Teamsters**

- Member Crones suggested that the AA Committee partner with Local 731 for their annual golf outing. This will give the committee an opportunity to speak about the mission of the committee.
- Chair LaHa stated that she would encourage committee members to keep their eyes and ears open about other organizations that the committee can partner with.

- **33C Mask Mandate**

- Member Crones asked if the AA Committee should take a stance on the mask mandate? Chair LaHa stated that she does not recommend that the committee take a stance. Village Manager Walsh stated that any decision should go through the board since we are speaking on behalf of the Village.

H. Report from Member McKenna:

- **Clean up day:**

- Member McKenna recommended that the committee coordinate an effort similar to Lemont's clean up day. Chair LaHa recommended revisit the fall senior clean up and partner with students that may need volunteer hours. Village Clerk Nietzsche-Troiike suggested pumpkin/fall decorating for seniors as another alternative.

8. Old Business.

- A. Resident Surveys was reviewed and team provided feedback. Team decided to focus on making sure that the survey is all inclusive not specific to any one disability, age group, etc. Village Manager Walsh suggested to distribute the survey to seniors by including in the newsletter that will be mailed out in the fall.
- B. Website updates. Chair LaHa communicated the mission and purpose posted on the Village website. Chair LaHa also stated that the resource page will be updated with links to multiple sites.
- C. Volunteer List. Chair LaHa communicated that the volunteer link will be created. Member Crones requested we track website analytics within 3-6 months of live date.
- D. Village Clerk asked if the parade was still being rescheduled? No update at that time.

- E. Homer Township Closet: Chair LaHa reached out and was told that a closet does not exist at the township.
- F. Facebook page: Chair LaHa would prefer not to create an Ability Awareness Committee specific facebook page, the committee agreed to continue utilizing the Village Facebook page to communicate.

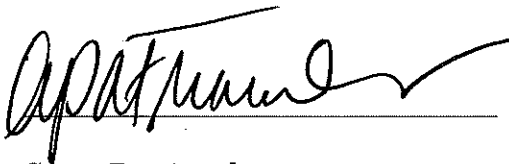
9. New Business.

- A. Discussion Groups. Chair LaHa stated that she would like to implement roundtable discussion for anyone that would like to show up. Understanding your child's IEP is the first one that Chair LaHa would like to schedule. The timing for first round table would be November/December timeframe. Additional roundtable topics included safety and business inclusiveness. Chair LaHa will reach out to interested presenters.

10. Adjournment.

- A. Chair LaHa motioned to adjourn, Member Adamczyk 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted:



Stacy Patrianakos  
Human Resources Manager