

Village of Homer Glen

**14933 South Founders Crossing
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491**

September 8, 2009

Board of Trustees

Board Meeting

**Village Council Chamber
14917 South Founders Crossing
Homer Glen, IL**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on September 8, 2009 by Mayor James Daley at 7:32 p.m. in the Village Council Chamber – 14917 South Founders Crossing, Homer Glen.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**C. ROLL CALL**

Present at 7:32 p.m. were Mayor James Daley, Trustees Michael Costa, Russell Knaack, Mary Niemiec, Margaret Sabo, Laurel Ward and George Yukich. All remained present throughout the meeting. Also present on behalf of the Village were Village Clerk Gale Skrobuton, Village Manager Paula Wallrich, Development Services Director Mike Salamowicz, and Village Attorney Burt Odelson.

A quorum was established.

D. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

. *August 25, 2009 – Board Meeting*

. *August 31, 2009 – Special Board Meeting*

Trustee Niemiec made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 25, 2009 Board Meeting and the Minutes of the August 31, 2009 Special Board Meeting; second by Trustee Sabo.

Voice Vote:

All Ayes: (6) Trustees Costa, Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Motion carried.

F. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICERS**1. Mayor Daley reported on the Letter of Intent to purchase land for a park:**

- . On August 31, 2009 the Village Board met and approved a Letter of Intent; however, he felt, along with Trustee Sabo, that while the Dunn Farm is a beautiful piece of property, it was not the right time to make this decision. He stated there are too many unanswered questions and requested the Board do some due diligence on the property and review the options.
- . He has been actively pursuing land acquisition for a community park and has been working with several property owners.
- . The Dunn property comprises 100 acres of which 40 acres are restricted by its dedication as a conservation area, and he questioned the Board as to why the Village would want to purchase these 40 acres that cannot be developed for active recreational purposes. The remaining 60 acres can be developed for active recreational use; however, the property has a rolling terrain with areas of considerable slope.
- . The Village is in desperate need of baseball diamonds, practice football fields, tennis courts and playgrounds and until we can meet minimum recreation standards for our residents we need to have a better balance between passive and active recreational space.
- . He asked the Board to reconsider its decision to move forward on the Letter of Intent until additional information is provided that will assure the use of active recreation at a reasonable cost. While he had intended to veto the Board's motion, if the Board still feels that the purchase of the Dunn Farm is the right decision for the Village, he will not stand in their way.

2. Trustees:

- a. Trustee Costa reported that Homer Harvest Days will be held at the Trantina Farm on 151st Street on Saturday, September 12th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, September 13th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- b. Trustee Yukich – No Report
- c. Trustee Ward, assisted by Trustee Knaack gave a presentation on why she supports the land acquisition of the Dunn Property.
 - . The Village has always planned for a large park land purchase.
 - . The Village has a deficit of athletic facilities that does not meet the current or future needs of our residents.
 - . Our Parks and Recreation Master Plan has short-term recommendations for community parks that include: work with land owners to acquire land and develop a central community park; acquire land for and develop a Village Green.
 - . Favorable real estate market for land purchases and historically low rates for municipal bonds.
 - . The Dunn property was identified in our Master Parks Plan for a central community park and meets the criteria established that includes its size, location, layout and natural resources. Other desirable elements include:
 - Centrally located in the community.
 - Excellent access from an arterial road.
 - Suitable for passive and active recreation uses.
 - Natural buffers from neighboring residential areas.
 - Has the ability to meet our current and future needs because of its size.
 - Has the ability to use stormwater as an asset.
 - Opportunity for shared parking with future commercial.
 - Proximity to commercial property.
 - Meets park development guidelines.
 - . The Village Board has been discussing the need for parks since its inception in 2001 and has been actively pursuing opportunities for purchasing land for a large community park for over two years. Since 2003 the Village Board has been discussing the use of the Dunn property for a park and Village Green, and since November 2007 has been investigating and pursuing a potential acquisition of this property.
 - . Other sites have been looked at for a community park, but they were determined to be inadequate for various reasons: owner was unwilling to sell; asking price was too high; poor access to property; unacceptable impact to surrounding residents; or the land wasn't large enough to meet our current and future needs for a park.
 - . This purchase would be a good value for taxpayers based on certified appraisals, comparable sales, and the asking price for other parcels. The traffic from the park will help the success of the retail and will help jump start the commercial development on 159th Street.
 - . The purchase of the Dunn property is a fiscally responsible decision and a sound investment that will improve the quality of life of Homer Glen residents and help bring economic prosperity to the Village. It is a wise investment that will bring positive returns to Homer Glen, now and well into the future.
 - . When the Board finalizes the due diligence on the property the following will occur:
 - Assessments, surveys and other analysis will need to be completed.
 - Create a preliminary site plan.
 - Close on property.

- Obtain funding for the acquisition through the sale of bonds that would be funded through our sales tax.
 - Master site plan that would be developed through the assessment of current and future needs, input of our sporting organizations, and community input.
 - Develop site in phases as funding becomes available.
 - Seek funding and grant opportunities.
- . The acquisition of this park will be the Village's first pro-active step in creating the community that we've envisioned. It has the capability and the opportunity to provide for our recreational needs and help us with our economic development needs.
- d. Trustee Knaack encouraged residents to attend the Homer Harvest Days Festival and stated that we are still looking for volunteers.
- e. Trustee Niemiec reported:
- . The Sewer and Water Task Force will meet on Monday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss strategies for the Public Forum on October 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Homer Jr. High. Trustee Niemiec thanked Renee Kosel for submitting the petition to get the Public Forum in Homer Glen. Further information will be available on the Village website.
 - . The Community and Economic Development Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30 p.m. to further discuss the website.
 - . Asked if the Public Services and Safety Committee or Community and Economic Development Committee could be directed by the Mayor to review the Special Event Ordinance, and make suggestions regarding notification to residents and businesses that may be impacted by future events.
- f. Trustee Sabo reported:
- . The Environment Committee would like to remind people about Homer Glen Lands Day which will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 22nd at the beginning of the Board Meeting that will start at 7:00 p.m. to allow time for announcing the recipients of the Community and Nature in Harmony Awards. Information of past recipients is available on the Village website. That afternoon a tree will be planted in Homer Glen at a location that is yet to be determined. The public is welcome to attend both events. In the past years trees have been planted at the Homer Fire Station on 143rd Street, Hadley School, Founders Crossing Senior Living Center, Yangas Park and the Healing Garden. Homer Glen Lands Day is celebrated in conjunction with National Public Lands Day which is Saturday, September 26th.
 - . The Environment Committee will meet on Monday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m.
3. Clerk – No Report
4. Village Manager Wallrich reported:
- . The S.T.E.P.S. training program for all liquor license holders in the Village will be held on September 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at a cost of \$10.00 per person, in an effort to make alcohol services as safe as possible and meet the requirements of our liquor control ordinance.
 - . A Household Waste Day will be held on Saturday, October 3rd at Hadley School on Bell Road.
 - . Residents having a son, daughter of spouse in the military service can submit their information and a 5" x 7" photo to the Village for our "**Honor Wall**".
5. Attorney – No Report
6. Task Force Chairperson(s) – No Report

7. Sheriff – No Report

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Tony Abete, 13352 Oakwood asked if could defer his comments until the Board considers the approval of traffic control devices.
2. Bob Schmidt, 13515 W. 159th Street, commented on the Board's decision to purchase land for a community park and voiced his displeasure that tax dollars would be used for this purchase.
3. Vince Colabelli, 13001 Meadowview, representing the Homer Athletic Club, thanked the Board on taking a step forward in providing much needed ball fields in the community.
4. Bill Karn, 14443 W. Hickory, voiced his concern about the proposed purchase of the Dunn property and the need to protect the wetlands on the property. He suggested that other properties in Homer Glen are better suited for sports facilities.
5. Larry Conrath, 13345 Oakwood Drive, questioned if an electrical line would be included with the construction of the berm in the event that it was determined that a light was needed in the future. Mr. Conrath questioned if the Board had talked to the Township about their plans for putting ball fields on Parcels 2 and 4 of Welter property. Mr. Conrath suggested that a stop sign should not be put on Golden Oak Drive as it would be confusing to residents.

H. LEGISLATION**1. Consideration of Community and Economic Development Committee's Website Design.**

Trustee Ward made a motion to approve the website design; second by Trustee Yukich.

Trustee Niemiec stated that the Community and Economic Development Committee accepted a proposal from VerseOne, a local business to design the website. This site focuses specifically on economic development, will have a similar platform as the Village website, and will allow the Village to connect to other links. Trustee Niemiec gave a presentation on the design and features of the website and explained that it would also be accessible through various mobile devices. The website, to be called *BUSINESS CONNECT*, would contain information about the Village, permit process, business opportunities, business directory, classified, business registration and resources, plus information on the building process, developers' handbook, zoning map, a link to pertinent ordinances, calendar of events, new businesses profile, and our *Shop Homer Glen* campaign.. The opportunity for resident feedback will be provided.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Costa, Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

2. Oakwood Drive Traffic Control**a. Ordinance No. 09-059 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Placement of a Traffic Control Sign (Stop Sign).**

Trustee Ward made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 09-059; second by Trustee Costa.

Village Manager Wallrich stated that with the opening of Oakwood Drive, the roadway classification will change to a residential collector street and, as supported by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, it was recommended that a four-way stop sign be installed at the intersection of Oakwood Drive and Golden Oak Drive. It was also recommended that “No Parking” signs be posted for the roadway within the limits of the traffic circle. The Public Services and Safety Committee recommended the posting of a non-regulatory signs reducing speed to 15 mph within the traffic circle. This sign, and a sign noting “Traffic Circle Ahead” will be posted at the entrance of the traffic circle.

Trustee Niemiec requested that temporary signs be put up to notify residents of the added stop signs, speed limit changes and no parking signs.

Trustee Yukich suggested that a pipe be put in prior to paving the traffic circle, to allow for the addition of future electricity.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Costa, Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

b. Ordinance No. 09-060 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Placement of a Traffic Control Device (Prohibited Parking Sign).

Trustee Yukich made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 09-060; second by Trustee Costa.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Costa, Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

Tony Abete, 13352 Oakwood Drive asked for clarification as to whether the Board had approved the 15 mph speed limit signs and the sign notifying drivers that there was a traffic circle ahead.

Village Manager Wallrich confirmed the Board’s approval.

3. Ordinance No. 09-061 – An Ordinance Establishing Park Rules for the Village of Homer Glen.

Trustee Knaack made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 09-061; second by Trustee Costa.

Village Manager Wallrich stated the ordinance amends Ordinance 07-039, to include the prohibition of golfing or use of golf equipment in a Village Park unless authorized by the Village. In addition, she noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee recommended some operational rules specific to Stonebridge Park related to the use of the tennis and basketball courts, which include:

Tennis/Basketball Rules:

- 1-hour time limit when others are waiting
- Athletic shoes only

- Bikes, trikes, rollerblades, roller skates, and skateboards prohibited
- Courts may not be reserved.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (6) Trustees Costa, Knaack, Niemiec, Sabo, Ward and Yukich

Nays: (0) None

Abstain: (0) None

Absent: (0)

The Mayor did not vote.

Motion carried.

I. OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Ward asked that, with the Board's permission, the Village Attorney prepare an amendment to the Liquor Control Ordinance to amend the Plan Commissions duties to include the review of liquor license applicants and make recommendations to the Mayor. Ward requested that this be presented and listed for a vote at the next Board meeting.

Trustee Niemiec stated that the Chamber Expo and Health Fair will be held on Saturday, September 19th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Hadley School.

J. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Costa reported that Star Gazing will be held on October 9th and 10th at the Trantina Farm, weather permitting.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Land Acquisition

There was no Executive Session.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Costa made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Trustee Yukich.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gale Skroboton, Village Clerk

Approved at the Board of Trustees Meeting dated September 22, 2009