

# **HOMER TOWNSHIP**

## **OPEN SPACE PLANNING & OPERATIONS**

### **COMMITTEE**

# **Meeting Minutes**

5:00 pm November 20th, 2019  
Homer Township – Administration Building  
14350 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491

*Meeting minutes draft presented to Committee 12-18-2019*  
*Meeting minutes approved by Committee 12-18-2019*

#### **This meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** *The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm*
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** *The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was performed.*
- 3. Roll Call: Present-** Tom Fijan, Margaret Sabo, Pamela Meyers. **Absent-** Josh Barrett
- 4. Public Comment:**

*Mr. Roy Adcock voiced his desire to volunteer on the Open Space Planning & Operations Committee. He also wanted to advise the Committee that he had previously requested a foia from the Township which he felt pertinent to this Committee and residents of Homer Township. He stated past Board meetings in 2001 indicated a desire at that time to construct a Community Center at Founders Crossing which is very similar to the concept of the multipurpose building currently being investigated by this Committee. Despite the Boards intent and investigation back then, the Community Center never came to realization. Instead, the area of the proposed Community Center was developed differently than the initial intent of the Board at that time.*

*Mr. Adcock contends that what starts out as an idea doesn't necessarily dictate the end result as in the case of the Community Center in 2001. He believes that perhaps there is confusion in the name of the Center itself. Suggesting instead of calling it an Event Center or Multipurpose building we now call it a Community Center as it was in 2001. Believing that a Community Center title lends to a name indicative of being for the Public whereas an Event Center mimics larger occasions with a much bigger scope of purpose.*

*Feeling it important to note, Mr. Adcock added that the same people who object today the idea of a Multipurpose center were not only in favor of the Community Center in 2001 but went so far to say that it would be adjunct to the community and local business according to the minutes he requested. He specifically cited in 2001 only one Trustee was not in favor of a Community Center (Trustee Fisch) and the other Trustees including Trustee Balich who adamantly opposes such a center today were all in favor of it previously. According to the 2001 minutes Mr. Adcock reported, Mr. Balich indicated that it wouldn't affect the community negatively at all. Voicing his confusion as to why Mr. Balich today is not in favor of the same concept that he fully supported in 2001 Mr. Adcock contends that perhaps it is in the title of the Center itself. Thus the reason he recommends calling it a Community Center instead of an Event Center. He hopes it would present a clearer picture to the residents and avoid any misconceptions of the purpose of this building. Wanting to remind residents that the investigation of a Center does not necessarily mean it will come to pass, Mr. Adcock maintains an exploration of practicality is warranted just as it was in 2001.*

*Mr. Adcock felt it important to convey the outcome of the vote taken at the 2001 Homer Township Board Meeting in regard to the Community Center. The motion was made by Trustee Steve Balich and second by Trustee Nancy Strack to proceed with the project to fruition with the only NO vote being made by Trustee Fisch.*

*Chairman Fijan stated the idea of a Community Center is still being pursued.*

*Supervisor Meyers cited currently this Committee is investigating in response of the residents who are requesting a setting of this type. Given the small size of the Old Town Hall and its limited parking the demand for an area where larger community functions can occur is desirable. Groups like the Art Guild, Scouting and seniors are specifying the need for facilities like this. She believes that the versatile use of a building such as this is where the name Multipurpose Center was derived from.*

*Recalling the proposed 2001 Community Center Supervisor Meyers (in which she was a Trustee then) added the Healing Garden now sits where the Community Center was to be built. At that time, a referendum was planned for the Community Center and to be presented to the public. However, it was pulled off the Ballot because they were limited by the number of referendums that could be placed on the Ballot and there were others that took precedent. Supervisor Meyers remembered that although the land where the Community Center was to be constructed was owned by the Township, shortly before the referendum, the Village had approved the construction of the Megaplex which was right around the corner. The then proposed Community Center which was comparable in size to the Megaplex was never completed and later the construction of the Healing Garden was erected in its place. She contends that the inability to place the*

*Community Center as a referendum and the construction of the Megaplex complicated the creation of a Community Center at that time.*

*Mr. Adcock inquired as to what the Activity Center was as it was also referenced in the 2001 minutes. Supervisor Meyers explained that the Community Center and the Activity Center are two separate entities. She added that the Activity Center is in existence today at Founders Crossing and is a place for seniors who reside at the Township's Founders Crossing apartments to gather. However, its division of rooms render it incapable of entertaining larger groups as well as its lack of ample parking. The Activity Center is used by the seniors at Founders Crossing for small functions.*

**5. Approval of Minutes:** *Motion to approve the September 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 by Supervisor Meyers, second by Committee Member Sabo- No discussion- All yes- Motion carries.*

**6. Status Reports:**

**A. Trantina site:** *Winterizing has begun for all outdoor sites. The Committee is waiting for Will County land use to sign off on signage permits. Will County Land use is requesting additional details about signs and permissions from the Road District.*

**1) Dog Park:** *Supervisor Meyers presented the Committee with pictures of a shade structure for consideration at the Dog Park. The structures dimensions are 10 by 10 and made of cedar with an aluminum roof. It has a 36 pound per square foot snow load and a 70 mph wind load. Supervisor Meyers reminded the Committee that the Board had approved up to \$5000.00 which is a limited amount to procure this type of addition especially given the goal of Committee is to provide two structures, one for each side of the Dog Park. The structure would not have a concrete floor as the cost of concrete would negate the ability to purchase the structure itself (she noted the Township just completed concrete flooring for two similar sized sheds at a cost of approx. \$4,000). Concrete footings however would be placed for stability. Other options for flooring were discussed such as patio blocks, wooden deck etc. With this structure, funds will be saved by ordering a pre-fab structure and having staff perform all assembly work. In addition, shipping has to be taken into consideration in regard to cost. Since this particular structure being reviewed would be purchased off season and has special pricing, it is both affordable and achievable. Given the size of the structure, a permit would not be necessary.*

*The Committee is waiting for Will County land use to sign off on permits for the sign at the Dog Park. Will County Land use is requesting additional details about signs and permissions from the Road District.*

- 2) **Austin- Welter Historic Barn:** Approval will be sought from the Will County Land Use Department/Historic Preservation Commission for lighting changes on the exterior portion of the Barn. These fixtures for the Barn must be capable of tolerating seasonal changes while adhering to the façade of this landmarked status building. Research for an acceptable/applicable lighting fixture is being conducted. Lighting options (amber or blue light) were discussed as well as down lighting.
- 3) **Metal Storage shed:** No Report
- 4) **Granary:** No Report
- 5) **Rental house:** Trim work has been completed as well as regular seasonal maintenance.
- 6) **Multi-purpose Building:** Grants are still being investigated.
- 7) **Misc. outbuildings (picnic pavilions, screen house, chicken coop, smokehouse, latrine):** No Report
- 8) **Grounds in General: (parking lots, trails, garden, restoration areas, infrastructure and trees):** No Report
- B. Purdy Farm:** Leases up to date
- C. Paul Farm:** Sign was repaired. Leases up to date.
- D. Welter Farm:** Leases up to date.
7. **Fundraising:** Chairman Fijan recommends the Committee begin formulating ideas for fundraising events. Consideration was given to the following fundraiser types as well as key points to deliberate when determining the most applicable fundraiser. No definitive decision was made.

**Key factors to consider with Event fundraising:**

- \* Smaller events are preferable as opposed to larger venues.
- \* Vendors play a key role in raising funds.
- \* Parking availability
- \* Inclement weather
- \* Availability of volunteers
- \* Paid services and fees incurred
- \* Sponsors/ Donations
- \* Consideration to most feasible event type/ profit
- \* Publicity
- \* Admission Fees
- \* Age defined groups/ all ages (most desirable)
- \* Free Events

**Potential Fundraising Events**

- \* Flea Market
- \* Craft Shows
- \* Dog Park Event
- \* Antiques
- \* Garage Sales
- \* Entertainment ie magic shows, meals, music
- \* Educational
- \* Historical

- \* *Local Craft Beers/ Beverages*
- \* *Agricultural*
- \* *Theatre*
- \* *Instructional*
- \* *Art shows*
- \* *Fairs*
- \* *Chili Cook off*

*It was determined that Fundraising planning should begin now. That the goal of this Committee is to maintain and cultivate the Open Space Program keeping it self-sustainable through non-tax revenue. The Committee discussed many potential types of fundraising Events and the advantages and disadvantages to each. Discussion as to which type of fundraiser will be pursued and determined at the next Committee meeting.*

**8. Grants:** *Investigation/ exploration continues*

**9. New Business:**

**10. Old business:**

**11. Adjournment:** *Motion to adjourn at 6:36 pm by Supervisor Meyers, second by Margaret Sabo, no discussion- all yes- Motion carries.*

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