

Dr. John Barentine  
Program Manager  
International Dark Sky Association

**IDSP Annual Report 2017**  
**Village of Homer Glen, Illinois - 4<sup>th</sup> International Dark Sky Community**

Homer Glen is the fourth International Dark Sky Community in the world to be recognized by the International Dark Sky Association and the third in the United States. This report to IDA includes support for the goals set forth by International Dark Sky Association, the Village of Homer Glen Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, support for goals of the Homer Glen Street Light Retrofit Program, two outreach Stargazing programs involving public participation, building projects, Dark Sky signage, and creation of a Lighting Brochure during 2016.

**Replacement of Lumec Renaissance Fixtures - Street Light Retrofit**

The Village agreed to five years of retrofitting street lights when the application was sent to IDA. Changes resulted in installing 70W HPS flat lens cobra street lights from drop lenses and also changing to 70W HPS full cut off post top fixtures which had unshielded bulbs. Three hundred and eighteen fixtures were installed. The Village has continued beyond the five-year program, and plans to replace more unshielded post tops and 14 inch drop lens fixtures causing glare in order to meet the standards of Homer Glen's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

For the 2017/2018 budget year, Homer Glen has allotted \$100,000 to retrofit the 14 inch drop lens Lumec Renaissance light fixtures. These fixtures will be replaced with 70W HPS Salem fixtures with flat lenses within subdivisions. The Village has researched the most economical way to retrofit the fixtures.

**Outreach Programs –Stargazing – Star Parties**

The fall Stargazing event for April 28, 2017 at Homer Township's historic Trantina Farm was well attended even though the weather was chilly. The second outreach program was scheduled for another star gazing on October 13 from 8 pm to 10 pm. However, the event was cancelled due to extremely cloudy skies making viewing impossible. Background: The Homer Glen Environment Committee that organizes the star party is very fortunate to have the three astronomer groups volunteer their services by participating with various size telescopes. The astronomers are from the Kankakee Area Stargazers, Naperville Astronomical Association, and South West Astronomy Observers Group. They provide educational information for visitors of all ages. Others assisting with the event are Homer Township government, the Homer Glen Emergency Management Commission, and Will County School District 92.

During the October stargazing this year, we were anticipating and honored to have representation from the Adler Planetarium class studying light pollution awareness with high school students in Chicago, Illinois. They planned to collect data using the "Loss of the Night" phone application. The director of this program is Rosalía Lugo, M.Ed. for the Teen Programs Manager, Teen Programs and Citizen Science. Rosalía Lugo plans to have her class present at next year's stargazing.

### **New Building Projects and Lighting**

A standalone building in one of the commercial shopping centers was built for Starbucks and Chipotle to share. The developers followed the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance in 2017 which is complementary to the overall building. The future projects involving the Bank of America will be in compliance with the lighting ordinance as will the Gulf Gas Station and mini mart which will be a renovation.

### **Dark Sky Street Signage**

After creating and evaluating Dark Sky Signs, the Environment Committee has selected a design that appropriately details the message of being a Dark Sky Community. After approval from the Village Board, the signs will be installed at main entrances to Homer Glen.

### **Creation of a Lighting Brochure**

After the Lighting Brochure was created in 2016 by the Environment Committee, it received positive results from the residential and commercial communities. The topics and goals are clearly explained regarding the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, guidelines for outdoor lighting, aspects of negative glare, pictures of good lighting fixtures that reduce pollution, and fixtures that produce glare and poor lighting. Lighting definitions, references, sources, credits and ways to properly light flags are also included.

### **Outreach Education**

The Environment Committee was represented at the Earth Day ~ Arbor Day event in May 2017. An Environment Committee greeted visitors and provided educational material about good lighting and IDA. Publicity in the form of pictures and written content provided attractive visual aids which drew the public's attention.

### **Dark Sky Contacts and Inquiries**

The Village welcomes inquiries from people near and far and has shared information with other Dark Sky communities such as questions about the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, signage, stargazing, light pollution and how to reduce it. The Village is aware that many other municipalities have developed their own lighting codes based on the Homer Glen lighting ordinance.

As the work was developing when creating the lighting ordinance, the Environment Committee became aware that the ordinance could be encouraged to be used as a way to serve others by example for adopting, amending, and utilizing the ordinance according to requirements and purposes of individuals, organizations, and municipalities. We are aware that this has happened.

### **Greenest Region Compact 2 Presentation**

Edith Makra, Director of Environment Initiatives for the Mayors' Caucus, presented a program to the Environment Committee, Homer Glen Trustees, the Community and Economic Development Committee and Village Manager about the Greenest Regions Compact 2 (GRC2). Edith Makra's presentation included topics about reducing energy consumption, supporting sustainability, health and safety and enhancing economic vitality. It also incorporated the subject of lighting. Shortly after the presentation, the Village Board adopted the Greenest Region Compact 2 concepts.

### **The Importance of Being Night**

*Since the following message is so very important, it once again has been included in the report for 2017.* The night and the night sky must be recognized as an important natural resource. There are generations who have never witnessed the wonders of the night sky without the cover of sky glow or pollution. Community efforts and determination are worth the price to protect and preserve this valuable resource and culture for future generations. Chicago is a city of perpetual twilight and Homer Glen, approximately 40 miles away, is in the halo of this large municipality. Other nearby communities are increasing their lighting. Fortunately, Homer Glen still has a dark enough and convenient enough location to attract people.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sabo,  
Environment Committee  
IDA Contact for the  
Village of Homer Glen  
815-735-5590

Debra Briggs Luginbuhl  
Environment Committee Advisor  
928-526-8538

Sharon Sweas  
Trustee, Homer Glen  
Environment Committee Chairman  
708-301-0632