



Village Of Homewood  
Rail Committee Notes  
for September 7, 2016 Meeting

Village Board Room  
2020 Chestnut  
Homewood, IL 60430

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## CALL TO ORDER:

Due to no quorum, we were unable to have an official meeting. These are notes from a discussion that took place.

## ROLL CALL:

Lyle Ashford, Joe Kroll, and Tom Grant

**Not in Attendance:** Staff is determining Board Liaison

**Board and Staff Liaison in attendance:** Village Staff: Zach Thomas and Allisa Opyd

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes were approved due to lack of quorum.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made at the meeting.

## AGENDA ITEMS:

A discussion took place on the following items:

- A. Introduce Zach Thomas, Director of Marketing and Events: Zach and his family have lived in Homewood for 2 years. Zach has extensive marketing, digital communications, and brand strategy experience. Most recently, he worked at the University of Chicago Medicine and the University of Illinois as a marketing and communications manager while also serving as a brand consultant to tech startups. He is excited by this opportunity to help market the Village of Homewood.
- B. Hobo Fest: Opyd reviewed with the group the programming for Hobo Fest: October 8, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The group will arrive at 5:30 to set-up for the event at the Rail Park.  
6:30 Participants arrive:
  - assemble s'mores and place in Hobo Pack,
  - receive their hobo name,
  - receive hobo decoding book
  - then proceed to the tour the caboose (3-4 at a time)

7:00 Return to seating area (hay bales), listen to Joe Kroll's rail stories,

7:30 Sing songs with Matt Bailey,

8:00 Create s'mores by the bonfire

8:15 Hobo Contest

8:30 Close out the event

New this year, Joe will discuss Hobo in Homewood and how they hopped on trains heading south and offer a sample of Hobo stew. Hobo decoding book will have codes for the kids translate and to create. The Hobo costume contest will be for children only; however, if families arrive then provide a family prize. Prizes will be gift cards from Frozen Yogurt, \$15.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00. Add to the caboose and engine tour an information sheet with the history with description of how it was used; sleeping area, bathroom and kitchen. Caboose is longer used on the rail ways. Have photos of cabooses available of when they were used. Discuss with the Mayor donations of donuts and hot chocolate.

**C. Information for Rail Fest:** Start promoting Rail Fest in January 2017 to both potential vendors and to those that attend rail shows. Opyd will have fliers available at the January meeting. Joe would like to wear a polo style shirt, brown with orange lettering, possibly with IL Central and CN patches.

**D. GENERAL DISCUSSION:** No additional discussions took place.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 5, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room

**ADJOURNMENT:** No motion was made.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allisa Opyd  
Events Manager, Staff Liaison