

GLENCOE BEACH AND LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday, July 25, 2023 – 6:30pm

Glencoe Beach

If it is raining at the time of the meeting, the location will be moved to the Takiff Center

Consistent with the requirements of the Illinois Compiled Statutes 5 ILCS 120/1 through 120/6 (Open Meetings Act), notices of this meeting were posted. Location of the meeting is Glencoe Beach, 55 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe, IL 60022

AGENDA

- I. Introductions
- II. Approval of Minutes –December 13, 2022 Meeting
- III. Matters from the Public
- IV. Daily Launching of Kayak and Paddleboards Discussion
- V. Midseason Operational and Usage Update
- VI. Project Update
- VII. Advisory Group Feedback
- VIII. Matters from the Public
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjourn

The Glencoe Park District is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, are asked to contact the Park District at 847-835-3030. Executive Director email address: Isheppard@glencoeParkDistrict.com

**The Board of Park Commissioners
welcomes public comments during all meetings.**

Key rules governing participation

All comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and no longer than 30 minutes for all comments.

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 GLENCOE BEACH AND
LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING - GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
COMMUNITY HALL, TAKIFF CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chair Schneider and roll was called.

Members in Attendance: Bart Schneider (Chair), Dudley Onderdonk, Andre Lerman, Julia Lissner, Dudley Onderdonk, Jennifer Rapoport (6:45pm), Eileen Sirkin, Larry Smith, Sarah Staffilino (6:35pm), Ashlee Thompson, Steve Varick

Absent: Mihir Shah, Lowell Cantor, Natalie Holtzman, Linda Semel

Staff in Attendance: Executive Director Lisa Shepard, Director of Recreation and Facilities Bobby Collins, Director of Parks and Planning Kyle Kuhs

Public in Attendance: Matthew Waxler, Brian Homans

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Member Lerman to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 Lakefront Advisory Group Meeting with an amended meeting end time of 7:33pm. Member Varick seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote. No further discussion ensued.

2022 Beach Report Review: Director Collins reviewed the performance and operation of the Glencoe Swimming and Boating Beach during the 2022 season, including staffing levels, beach training, annual PDRMA audit, fee structure, waitlists, closures, and beach programming.

Director Collins talked about the intergovernmental pool/beach agreement with the Northbrook Park District and informed the advisory of the addition of the Northbrook dog park to the agreement. The advisory group was in favor of the addition of this amenity.

Operational Planning Discussion: Director Collins introduced recently promoted Adam Wohl, Assistant Director of Recreation and Facilities. The advisory group was informed that no significant fee structure changes are planned for the 2023 season, but boaters with a second vessel will only receive a 35% discount on each additional storage space compared to 50% in 2022. Discussion followed regarding the storage waitlist.

Advisory Group Feedback: Member Lerman expressed his gratitude, along with other members, towards Park District staff for a job well done and the helpful data that was

included in the report and presentation. Member Lissner complimented staff on the Beach Campout and asked if additional bottled water could be added to the event.

Member Sirkin complimented the pier project and expressed concern about the language on the sign at the north property line fence. Staff will change the sign to clear up confusion.

Matters from the Public: Brian Homans complimented the excellent beach staff.

Other: Director Kuhs provided updates on the beach house project, crib wall project, and the partnership with the Village on the crib wall project. Member Smith voiced his concern about access to the beach during construction. Staff confirmed the limited impact of the project on beach access.

Adjourn: Member Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm. Member Lerman seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bobby Collins
Director of Recreation and Facilities

MEMORANDUM

TO: Glencoe Beach & Lakefront Advisory Group
FROM: Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation & Facilities
SUBJECT: Daily Launching of Kayak and Paddleboards
DATE: July 17, 2023

As a member of the Lakefront Advisory Group and a valued community member, your insights and perspectives are central in assessing the potential impact of allowing the daily launching of kayaks and paddleboards at our beach during operating hours (10:00am-7:00pm during the regular season). Daily launching is permitted outside of operating hours when the beach is less busy. We have received several requests from both residents and non-residents regarding this matter, and it is important to consider the arguments in favor and against a change to beach operations.

The topic of allowing the daily launching of water vessels will be on the agenda for our upcoming Lakefront Advisory Group meeting on July 25. During the meeting, we will discuss this topic and facilitate advisory members' feedback, which will be shared with the Board of Park Commissioners. The information provided by the Advisory Group will guide the decision-making process and assist District staff in developing appropriate guidelines and policies for beach operations.

As we prepare for our upcoming Lakefront Advisory Group meeting to discuss the potential of allowing the daily launch of water vessels at our beach, we have compiled a list of pros and cons to facilitate our discussion and evaluation. Please consider the following points:

Arguments in Favor

- **Increased Recreational Opportunities:** Allowing the daily launching of water vessels would expand recreational options for beach visitors, enhancing their experience and attracting more people to our beach. It would accommodate the desires of certain residents and non-residents who seek various water activities but do not have access to seasonal storage at the beach or do not want to pay for our rental options. Currently, we offer kayaks, sailboats, and paddleboards for rental by the hour or half day.
- **Economic Benefits:** Permitting the daily launching of water vessels has the potential to generate incremental revenue through a daily launch fee. This additional income could offset the cost of boat guards who help run beach operations.

Arguments Against

- **Safety Concerns:** One crucial safety concern arising from allowing daily launching of water vessels at our beach is the potential presence of inexperienced boaters unaware of our boundaries, rules, and etiquette. Introducing new boaters unfamiliar with our beach-specific regulations and navigational guidelines poses a risk. Lack of knowledge about proper protocols and understanding of our beach's boundaries/swimming area may lead to accidents, conflicts with other beachgoers, and navigational errors.
- **Congestion on Ramps:** Allowing daily vessel launching has the potential to result in increased congestion on the ramps that provide access to the beach. We have observed instances of boaters parking at the ramp entrance and spending significant time unloading

MEMORANDUM

their vessels from their vehicles. This has the potential to disrupt the flow of traffic and pose challenges for other beach users, including pedestrians and vehicles.

- **Potential for Unsafe Practices:** There is a risk of someone driving down the ramp while it is busy, especially during peak hours. Additionally, there is still a risk while manually carrying their equipment (often bulky) down the ramp. This could compromise the safety of individuals on foot and exacerbate congestion issues.
- **Space Limitations:** Allowing daily vessel launching may strain available shoreline space on the beach, potentially leading to overcrowding, restricted areas for other activities, and a compromised beach experience for all visitors. As the advisory group knows, shoreline space is at a premium on busy days. We would also have to limit the number of new vessels we allow on the seasonal storage waitlist to allow room for daily launch vessels.
- **Additional Staff Resources:** Daily launching would likely require additional staffing to oversee the process, monitor safety, enforce regulations, and assist boaters as needed. This could involve hiring and training additional staff members or reallocating existing resources, which may strain our current staffing capacity. It is essential to assess the feasibility of allocating the necessary resources to effectively manage the daily launching process while ensuring the safety and smooth operation of the beach. Adequate staffing levels and proper training would be crucial to handle the potential increase in boater interactions and provide a positive experience for all beach visitors.

Please consider the arguments presented, as well as any additional factors that you believe should be taken into account. Your perspectives will help us better understand the community's needs and concerns and guide our discussions on beach operations.