

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2013 REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and roll was called. Commissioners present: President Bob Kimble, Vice President Hilary Lee, Treasurer Seth Palatnik, Commissioner Andre Lerman, Commissioner Steve Gaines; Staff present: Executive Director/ Board Secretary Lisa Sheppard, Director of Finance/Human Resources Carol Mensinger, Director of Parks Rick Bold, Manager of Marketing and Communications Erin Maassen, Registration/Customer Service Manager Lorise Weil, and Retired Executive Assistant Nancy Symonds

Members of the public in attendance included Glencoe residents: Tamara & Jay Dempsey, Lisa Fremont, Robert Footlik, Kelly Glauberman, Rita Grassl-Shefa, Nancy Guenther, Brooke Hecht, Brian Homens, Susan Isaacson, Dan Lantry, Lisa Lesniak, Laurie Morse, Bart Schneider, Eileen Sirkin, Natalie Slotnick, Jack Smyth, Gael Strong, Dennis Weil, Tom Welch; Non-residents: Mark Kirte, Jean Schreiber, Larry Smith; Also in attendance was Dan Dorfman, Sun-Times Media/Glencoe News reporter

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Commissioner Gaines to approve the consent agenda items as presented including Minutes of October 15, 2013 Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of October 15, 2013 Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting, and Approval of the Bills. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES:           Gaines, Lerman, Palatnik, Lee, Kimble  
NAYS:           None  
ABSENT:       None

Matters from the Public: There was no one present wishing to address the Board on issues not listed on the Agenda.

10 Year Service Resolution Number 810: Lorise Weil was employed as the Registration Office Supervisor in the Recreation Department for the Glencoe Park District on November 24, 2003. Lorise has been a vital part of the Registration Office staff on which she has, over the years, brought much credit and honor and currently serves as Registration/ Customer Service Manager for the Glencoe Park District. Her service, dedication and leadership abilities have been an asset to the Glencoe Park District through a period of rapid growth and change with regard to implementing and automating the District's registration procedures and policies and many enhanced customer services to the District. Lorise has served the Glencoe Park District in a loyal and faithful manner for 10 years. The Glencoe Park District Board of Commissioners, representing all the residents of the Park District, recognize the meritorious service of Lorise Weil and record it in the permanent records of the Glencoe Park District for all to see. This resolution shall be in full force and in effect immediately upon its passage.

President Kimble made a motion to approve Resolution Number 810 as presented. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES:           Gaines, Lerman, Palatnik, Lee, Kimble  
NAYS:           None  
ABSENT:       None

Lorise thanked the Park District for the pleasure of working every minute including challenges and the staff with the hope of continuing to make a difference. Director Mensinger described her as a special employee who always works hard, thinks of her team, and has a positive and polite attitude toward both external and internal customers.

Retirement Resolution Number 812: Nancy M. Symonds was employed by the Glencoe Park District as Executive Secretary on October 7, 1996 and is the Executive Assistant of the Administration Department. Nancy has been a vital part of the staff on which she has, over the years, brought credit and honor to the Glencoe Park District. Her service, dedication and leadership abilities have been an asset to the Glencoe Park District through a period of rapid growth. Nancy has been a welcoming first contact with the park district and played a vital role in working with the community; serving the Glencoe Park District in a loyal and faithful manner for seventeen years. For that service, Glencoe Park District would like to recognize Nancy's retirement. The Glencoe Park District Board of Commissioners, representing all the residents of the Park District, recognize the meritorious service and retirement of Nancy Symonds and record it in the permanent records of the Glencoe Park District for all to see. This resolution shall be in full force and in effect immediately upon its passage.

President Kimble spoke of Nancy's incredible service including Friends Park and advice to the Board and staff. In her honor, the Board is dedicating a park bench to be placed in one of the parks to remember her service to the Park District – a first for a non-commissioner position.

President Kimble read aloud the resolution recognizing Nancy Symonds. A motion was made by President Kimble to approve Resolution Number 812 as presented. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES:           Gaines, Lerman, Palatnik, Lee, Kimble  
NAYS:           None  
ABSENT:       None

Lisa thanked Nancy for her service including all the little details never overlooked and all the history and information passed on to the Park District staff. Nancy was touched by the resolution stating that the last 17 years went quickly watching small children grow into adults. Over the years, the Board was always dedicated to the betterment of the community, a difficult task to achieve.

Director of Operations: Sheppard announced that Steve Nagle, Director of Operations has accepted an opportunity at another park district and will be leaving Glencoe Park District later this month. President Kimble stated that Steve was integral in the improvement of operations and served the district well during his tenure Interim Executive Director and will be missed.

Village Water Treatment Plant Initiative: President Kimble noted that there was a sizeable group of residents in the audience, presumably in attendance to comment on the agenda item related to the Park District's response of the request by the Village to consider the possibility of a land swap exchanging Perlman Park for the land under the Water Plant. He said that he would move this item up in the agenda.

President Kimble noted that since this matter has been the source of some controversy, we wanted to walk everyone through what has happened so far from the Park District's perspective. He noted that one of the roles a Park District President plays is meeting with lots of people. He mentioned that he and Lisa Sheppard met with Village of Glencoe officials on the subject of the water plant and the Village's discussions with the Northwest Water Commission, and listened to the Village's thoughts on something that they might ask the Park District to do in relation to development of the water plant.

The Park District Board had two meetings in which this topic was discussed. The board consented to ask its attorney to do legal research of the covenant in relation to what the Village was potentially requesting. The board also consented to have a letter sent to three residents living adjacent to Perlman Park, co-signed by the Park District and Village Presidents.

The intent of the letter was to say that there were many considerations about the beach and considering where you live and the role you play you should know that these conversations are going on. If you would like to ask questions, please feel free to contact us. I know that one of the families met with Village President Levin, and then met with Park officials separately, because the interests of the Village and the Park District are not necessarily the same.

President Kimble continued that the Park District received information about what the Village was thinking and then held an executive briefing for other members of the board. He continued that there was no official request by the Village to swap land exchanging Perlman Park for the land under the water plant. That being said, depending on the process at the Village, this request may eventually come to the Park District in the future.

He noted that many people seem to think that the District has already made an agreement with the Village and that this is simply not true. There have been no votes before this Park Board on this issue. President Kimble recommended that Glencoe residents approach Village Trustees directly to ask questions and express concerns to them to discuss at Village meetings. For all practical purposes, the Park District has no role with whatever the Village is doing with their deliberations regarding the water plant.

President Kimble continued that the District has done no investigation to this point on any Village Beach project. He noted that should the issue ever arise before the Park Board with a hard request, that the board will have many public meetings, focus groups, will give everyone a chance to comment, and then will make whatever decision is advisable in the best interest of the community and Park District.

He added that the major focus over the next six months will be the creation of the Park District Comprehensive Master Plan. He commented that if anyone has questions or comments regarding the letter which was written by a lawyer and could have been reviewed better, please feel free to do so. He welcomed comments and questions from the audience.

Eileen Sirkin: Thanked the Board for a beautiful community. The response to this initiative from the community has been intense; she has never seen anything like it. She is concerned about why a new water plant is necessary and why we are supplying other towns with water. President Kimble explained the Village can provide their reasons; however the Park District's role is to protect and communicate with the residents.

Gael Strong: Looking from the bluff down to the beach, the Water Plant fence looks to be inconsistent. What property lines are included? Director Bold explained the property line from Park Ave down and over to the Water Plant is Village Property and from Hazel down is Park District property.

Bart Schneider: Before commenting on the Water Treatment Plant, I would like to mention appreciation for the ease of beach access. The Village and Park District have different interests with the Village looking to the Board as a separate entity for a decision. There must be another solution for a construction site. In this instance, I am glad the District has our best interests in mind. President Kimble thanked Bob for his comments.

Bob Footlik: Suggestion for a resolution to adopt favoring not doing land swaps in general, not causing disruption to the beach and not favoring this project at this time under the circumstances as the District can change its mind later. These viewpoints have been discussed in previous meetings and would be an appropriate resolution to vocalize to the Village as a position established. President Kimble took his comments under advisement.

Laurie Morse: Thanked the Board for giving time to receive comments from those interested in the issue. She mentioned the request for proposal from the Village of Glencoe to the engineering community in January 2013, which only asks for consulting advice on new construction. There is no RFP for renovation of the existing plant and no advice sought. The next step was contacting the Park District regarding a land swap and cooperation has occurred with the following step being approval of plans. As the Park District has confirmed that this is not the case, I ask that the Park District protect the beach and staff. Please make a resolution to reassure the community that the beach is not for sale. It is also my understanding that the Park District was offered \$3

million for repairs. President Kimble, Commissioner Gaines and Executive Director Sheppard confirmed that they are not familiar with any dollar amount and is a mystery. Commissioner Gaines is proud to stand with the Park District's integrity. The District has contacted a lawyer as an independent request, which hasn't been received back yet and has not been researching in cooperation with the Village. Overall, the Park Board has provided tremendous caution and deliberation in any piece of land offered or for possible purchase. That history goes back decades. If the Village becomes prepared earlier than expected, there is no reason the District will need to rush into a decision and we have not been backed into a corner or been offered money, and have made no promises to anyone. Gaines added that the Village's presentation reflected their thoughts, not the District's thoughts. One of the reasons we have not put the Village presentation on our website is that it is the Village's presentation and something we have listened to, but not approved. In the end, we will find a way to make this work for the citizens of the community.

Commissioner Gaines noted that there is no \$3 million dollar offer by the Village and no one has made promises to anyone. He said that the Board asked its attorney to issue an opinion only for the Park District and not a joint opinion with the Village. He stated that the District was not doing the analysis in cooperation with the Village, and that the District was unaware of what the Village was doing. He added that the Park Board has historically been very deliberate with issues around use of land and that any process, if a specific request is made, will be very deliberate from the District's perspective. He noted as an example that there were at least four open meetings to receive community input to discuss Friends Park.

Commissioner Gaines referenced the awards that the Glencoe Water Department has received and stated there is nothing in his gut that tells him the Village needs to do anything quickly.

President Kimble noted that the Village's presentation in October was strictly the position of the Village, and does not reflect the point of view of the Park District at all. Please contact your elected officials at the Village who can answer questions.

A guest mentioned frustration over the lack of transparency from the Village.

Commissioner Lerman thanked all the other commissioners for agreeing to put this topic as an agenda item at an open meeting. He noted that he has been passionate about the concept of transparency and accountability and tonight's discussion was a great example of how the Park Board demonstrated its commitment to those concepts. He also thanked everyone who attended the meeting and hoped that the takeaway was that this Park Board was transparent to the community by going through an open process based on the request it received from the Village, and the discussion about how the board would respond.

Commissioner Lerman noted a November 2013 Village of Glencoe Special Mailing entitled "What's happening with our Water Plant?" In the letter, Lerman noted that Village President Levin made the following statement: "...As part of this study, we (the

Village) have asked the Park District to help us determine, if the plant were built adjacent to, and just north of its current location, what would the Park District like to see as beach improvements?”

Based on the question posed in the letter, Commissioner Lerman asked why would the Park District be willing to spend any taxpayer dollars, or spend staff time or extend any other effort to develop a Lakefront Master Plan to address the question based on the “what if” scenario posed. He added that it made no sense to respond, particularly until such time that the Park District gets a hard and specific request from the Village. Commissioner Lerman continued that he felt that any master plan related to the Glencoe Beach should be based on its “as is” footprint, because the Park District has no ideas as to which of the options reference in the Village letter will be ultimately recommended by the Village for possible consideration by the Park District. He asked why would the Park District conduct a process to visualize a future beach based on a “what if” scenario that the Village is not even certain it wants to pursue.

Executive Director Sheppard responded that no time has been spent by staff on any kind of plans for what the Park District would want if a replacement water plant were constructed north of its current location. She emphasized that staff has spent no time at all because it would be premature to do this at the current time. She continued that as part of the upcoming master plan process, the request in the Village’s letter is a moot point and we would not move forward on evaluating any such request until we receive a specific hard request from the Village.

President Kimble added that he was not aware that staff is not doing or planning to do anything to analyze this request. As part of the upcoming master plan process, the Park District will be looking at all facilities, including the Glencoe Beach. He continued that he thought the District is pretty much there in terms of what the beach should look like, by reading the Vision statement put together by the Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Advisory Group, and that is what we would look at.

Commissioner Lerman asked about Board policy, based on two deed restrictions related to the 1967 gift by the Perlman family, relating to maintaining views of the beach and shoreline for the homeowner above the beach, and the restriction that the beach be used solely for recreation/boating. He noted that in accepting the gift, the Park Board made a promise to the donor, and asked on what basis the Park Board would consider breaking such a promise, and wanted to know if the other members of the board would even consider breaking the promise if the covenants were solid?

President Kimble replied that the Board has not received an interpretation from counsel. If the interpretation comes back with an opinion that we have no right to break the covenant than he believes, the Board will not break the covenant. He noted that the Board was not even thinking of breaking the covenant, but just trying to understand what the covenant means.

Commissioner Lerman replied that it sounds like if the covenant is still in force, that President Kimble would take a position that the Board has no right to break the

covenant. President Kimble noted that he historically been the person on the Park Board who has put up the most resistance to the topic of land sales or dispositions during his tenure.

Nancy Guenther: As a 20 year Glencoe resident, I see that this is an issue that isn't ripe for discussion yet. The Board has given us no reason to think that they don't have integrity. If I were on the Village or Park Board right now, I would be deeply insulted by all the innuendo that they are not competent to protect our interest. That is their job as what they took an oath for. They have no reason to not be transparent as there is nothing to discuss at this point. When they do receive an actual request is when discussion and information can be held. There is too much inaccuracy being spread.

President Kimble noted that the Village will have a difficult time deciding the best course of action regarding the water issue.

A follow up question was asked regarding hypothetical scenarios for which Commissioner Gaines responded that we couldn't answer hypothetical questions when we don't have any information at this point.

Commissioner Lerman responded to a comment in the Village's October presentation that referenced that the Village and the Park District determined that the beach was usable for a water plant. He noted that the Park District never reviewed any engineering study regarding possible use for the beach. As far as the Park District is aware, the only determination made to date is that the beach is only useable as a beach. It is not for us to determine if the land is useable for a water plant.

Tamara Dempsey: We are one of the homes to whom the covenant pertains to directly. There is currently mistrust with the Village due to the mention eminent domain and when asked about the covenant they explained that as long as there is one boat on the property they have fulfilled the covenant. We were alarmed at that point. Under pressure, the Village agreed to look at other options. If they determine the land swap is the only option, they asked the Village to communicate with them to decide what to do with their private property. We ask the Village to stop including the Park District in all communications which gives the Park District a negative image. I would like to add that our mistrust is with the Village, not with the Park District. President Kimble thanks Tamara for her comments.

President Kimble assured that everyone present would receive direct communication regarding any resolutions, etc via email.

Lakefront Advisory Meeting Overview: Commissioner Lerman stated that the Advisory Group held a productive meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>, that was very similar to the Water Treatment Plant issue just discussed of which the meeting minutes are available on our website. The second half of the meeting we discussed operations with Steve Nagle regarding the 2013 season including a good job by staff, revenue, signage, patron services, and crowd control during weekends. A review of the survey results was conducted with discussion of improvements for next year. With Director Nagle's

departure and a new Director starting in January, one of the items the Group would like to be involved with would be to share observations with the new hire to provide them with patron perspective on beach operations as input for next year planning. Executive Director Sheppard stated that the Recreation Department will report on the 2013 season at the December Board Meeting and recommendations will come January. The November Advisory Meeting was a productive. Commissioner Lerman closed with a thank you to the beach staff for a great 2013 season.

Financial Report: Director of Finance/Human Resources Mensinger stated the District is eight months into its current fiscal year. A comparison of this year to the last two years included day care revenue is slightly down, Watts revenue is slightly higher although the season doesn't begin until next week cooler temps are boding well for ice skating.

Truth in Taxation Hearing: An Ordinance Levying the Taxes for the Glencoe Park District: No Public Comments

Staff Reports: President Kimble asked if anyone had any additional comments to the written divisional reports included in the Board packet.

Kelly Glauberman: In the Business Department & Executive Director reports there was mention that December will have the last lottery and is going to first-come first-served which is a cause of concern regarding inequities including computer issues, working parents, and those without a computer or Wi-Fi. Sheppard responded by noting that she has heard anyone complain about lottery, I question if it's necessary to rush to register at a certain time. What is the reasoning for the change, as it hasn't been discussed at previous Board Meetings. Executive Director Sheppard stated that they had discussed all issues mentioned. Statistically, 50% of registration occurs online only within the last two years. With our new RecTrac system, registration is more streamlined. Our neighboring Park Districts do not have lotteries, although Buffalo Grove and Deerfield do hold lottery for Camp and Preschool only. Communities 5-8 times our size like Glenview and Skokie do not hold lotteries. Lottery came into effect 20 years ago, because we didn't want customers standing outside in the cold and rain in order to get into classes. This is no longer the case, customers are able to go online to register in the comfort of their home. We did however think about those who do not have computers and we decided our front desks would be open, so those who need to register in-person have the option to do so. The time was chosen to start before work, so those who can't register during work would be able to do so before going in. The inconvenience of an early time only occurs three times per year, although for every one person who doesn't mind waiting there are ten who say we want to know when we are making our schedules whether we are in a class or not. Strengths of not holding a lottery include consistency with other local park districts to reduce competition with other district's programs. GJK is not part of our system and will continue holding lottery. What hurts the Park District revenue, are those who register for five programs hoping to get into one and then they cancel the other four classes which could cancel a program due to low enrollment. Additionally, families will be able to get into one program where that was a negative using lottery and if a class fills a supervisor has the opportunity to

add another class to give waitlists the opportunity to participate. Priority Registration will still be held for specific programs and residents will still receive priority in general registration. Kelly noted that although she appreciates our reasons, she would like us to review other options for example shortening the time between when registration opens and the lottery occurs. I encourage you to table the issue to allow for community input. Commissioner Lee stated that this information was out there, that there are some decisions that should be open for public opinion and there are other decisions that need to be made to make operations run smoothly without asking for public input. This decision needed to be made in-house. Director Mensinger noted that registration in July with lottery in August caused those on vacation to not know programs until after they returned from vacation at which point they would cancel programs leading to confusion and many last minute program cancellations. Commissioner Gaines also noted that the staff will bend over backward to make sure those with registration limitations will still be taken care of. Executive Director Sheppard assured that the reason this information needs to be in the winter brochure because there is an invitation to be part of a focus group to determine dates/times registration will occur allowing for the public input Kelly is requesting.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director Sheppard added to her report that Glencoe Youth Services requested that their adult program for special needs run the concession stand at Watts on Sundays and we think that is a great idea. It is during a time that the Park District does not normally open the concession stand. We have entered into an agreement with them to handle all operations, supplies, proper licensing, etc. This will be a great benefit to the patrons of GYS.

### Action Items

Approval of Levy Ordinance No. 811: An Ordinance Levying the Taxes for the Glencoe Park District, Cook County, Illinois for 2013: This is the statutorily required Ordinance which directs Cook County to collect and disburse property tax proceeds to be used to help support District operations in 2014. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve Ordinance No. 811: An Ordinance Levying the Taxes for the Glencoe Park District as presented. Commissioner Lerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES:           Gaines, Lerman, Palatnik, Lee, Kimble  
NAYS:           None  
ABSENT:       None

Approval of Glencoe Beach Concession Bid: Please review the staff recommendation and bid summary enclosed in your packet. Due to an incorrect amount of \$460, this motion has been tabled until the December Board Meeting.

IAPD/IPRA Annual Meeting – Appoint Delegates: As discussed at last month’s meeting, the Board will need to appoint delegates to the IAPD Annual Meeting held on Saturday, January 25, 2014. A motion was made by Commissioner Gaines to appoint Vice President Hilary Lee as the delegate for the Glencoe Park District Board of

Commissioners and Executive Sheppard as second. Treasurer Palatnik seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES:       Gaines, Lerman, Palatnik, Lee, Kimble  
NAYS:       None  
ABSENT:     None

Matters from the Public: Appreciation was vocalized for how we handle testing and closure for public safety due to bacteria in the water.

Adjourn: Commissioner Gaines moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard  
Secretary