

APPROVED

MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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, Director of Recreation and Facilities Dave Figgins, Manager of Marketing and Communications Erin Maassen, and Administrative Assistant Jenny Runkel.

Members of the public in attendance included Glencoe Jr High Project's (GJHP) Program Director, Grace Borgstrom, GJHP Staff Member David Gonzalez, and Glencoe resident Lori Morse.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Commissioner Kimble to approve the consent agenda items as presented including Minutes of December 17, 2013 Regular Board Meeting, Approval of the Bills, and the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Meeting Dates. Commissioner Lerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

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

Matters from the Public: Lori Morse announced that the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a coffee conversation with the Village President at Glencoe Roast Coffee this Thursday at 7:00p. President Leven is coming to answer questions and offer his vision of what is going on in the Village right now. The public is invited.

Financial Report: Director of Finance/Human Resources Mensinger stated the District is currently ten months into its current fiscal year. Mensinger wanted to clarify that Recreation looks like they had a phenomenal month, but the reality is that there is timing involved. Winter registration occurred in January last year, but this year, registration was moved up to December. By the end of January, the numbers will level out. We are still up from last year January, but not that drastic of a revenue jump.

Glencoe Junior High Project (GJHP) Annual Report: Sheppard introduced Grace Borgstrom and David Gonzalez. Borgstrom described their program offerings including recess for 5th-8th graders to play and do homework and social service activities after school, some of which are helping out at soup kitchens, the community garden, and the Book Buddies program at the library. Gonzalez added that they also have an annual theatrical play fundraiser. This year, 'Lucky Stiff' will be showing at Miser Stadium including 56 cast members, 10 crew, and 25 volunteers. Gonzalez continued that it has

been a really good year for GJHP. They engage the kids, know every kids name and see how the social and social services combine. They now offer over 11 social services programs and see kids engaging in so many different ways. Borgstrom added they have been working with the Park District to improve social programming including a broom ball event coming up and the Beach Bash at which last summer the kids had an amazing time.

Gaines asked how many sign up for social service programs. Borgstrom explained that participation depends on the program needs, however most are full and many have waitlists. For example, they can only bring four students to the soup kitchen and for other programs they can bring twelve. Gonzalez added that they are fortunate to have a strong parent volunteer base and on top of that one third of the school's population has participated. It's also about switching things up to adjust and evaluate, for example, the literacy program at Jordan School in the city will be moved to another school in order to keep it new, fresh and kids engaged in different ways. They also survey participants on what they want to do, sometimes secretly, for example, while hanging out with them as they play pool.

Lerman supplemented that his children were active in the program when they attended Jr. High, the program they attended was Crew and they have a great reputation in the community. He encouraged GJHP to work together with David Figgins and brainstorm for activities for 4th-5th graders. Sheppard added that GJHP has already been working with David Johnson and Beckie Korzyniewski. Beckie is collaborating with GJHP on one of our initiatives for volunteerism opportunities at our programs and GYS.

Sheppard explained that she started out in her career at a Teen Center, so she really understands how hard their job is working with that age group and she really appreciates GJHP's hard work in the community.

Lee asked if there was still a rule about restricting participation in both basketball and the play. Borgstrom explained it is an unenforced rule only in that participation in both is usually impossible schedule-wise, not that they discourage it. Gonzalez added that he has been with GJHP for five years and the play has adjusted tremendously to adapt to their social service endeavors. To that effect, the play is going on the road to two different locations where they provide social services. The new Director, Adam Bush, has gone out of his way to work with young people to work with their schedule.

Gaines asked about the big picture in regards to the budget change the last couple of years. Are funds growing with increased usage? Gonzalez answered that the parent board are there more than ever, which is a direct reflection of their budget. Their treasurer has been doing magic to build back up reserves. Due to those efforts and an increase in revenue, both the programs offered and revenue can now sustain a second full-time staff member of both Borgstrom and himself.

Lerman added that GJHP really compliments what we do in the teen segment of the population. It helps the community in that they reach out to so many Jr. High kids to stay connected, build self-esteem, and participate. This program is unique to our area.

Palatnik stated that his daughter participated for three years and was a wonderful program for development of leadership and confidence. It is remarkable to hear stories about the crew team getting into college because of this program. His wife is on the board of one of the volunteer programs and it is remarkable the commitment of the parents.

The entire Board thanked GJHP for their efforts.

Action Item:

Approve a stipend of \$10,000 for Glencoe Junior High Project and direct staff to include said amount in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget: A motion was made by Commissioner Lerman to approve the stipend as presented. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

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

Staff Reports: Sheppard introduced Dave Figgins as our new Director of Recreation and Facilities and Figgins thanked everyone for the great welcome.

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

Mensingher asked to schedule a Finance Committee of the Whole. The meeting will occur on Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30p. The outlook is smooth sailing with good capital.

Executive Director Report: Please review my report which is enclosed in the Board Packet.

Watts Ice Center is going beautifully this year, besides a panel breaking during a game. Over 400 participants enjoyed our successful Winter Carnival and Sheppard complimented the staff for doing such a great job.

Regarding July 4th Fireworks, we were informed that we won't have a barge this year due to changes in requirements. We immediately met with the Village to review options. Sheppard showed maps of possible locations. The red circle area is a 350' Fallout Zone. Gaines clarified the Fallout Zone 350' is not referring to a hot ash fall zone, it is a catastrophe zone if fireworks shoot sideways and explode.

Sheppard explained that if the fireworks occur at our beach, the swimming beach would have to close the entire day. The boating beach could be open until 6:00pm. If the fireworks occur at the boating beach, the swimming beach could remain open. However, two homes are in the Fallout Zone.

If the fireworks occur from the pier, there is a little bit of beach that remains open, but the viewing area is not preferable since fireworks would be shot off from the side. Additionally, we are not sure if the pier could handle the heat created by the fireworks.

Fireworks from Watts and Takiff will not work due to too many homes in the Fallout Zone and too many points of egress for people to sneak in.

If the fireworks occur from Glencoe Golf Club, Sheppard explained that there is a good Fallout Zone however, there is limited parking, crowd control is difficult, and traffic would most likely ruin the course. The golf course was not meant for that number of traffic, unlike our parks, which are more conducive to large crowds. Gaines stated that the forest preserve was used for Ravinia for parking years ago. Lee said the Forest Preserve would never allow cutting down fields to be used for parking.

Gaines stated that conversations with two homeowners would need to take place if we wanted to shoot fireworks from the boating beach. Lee added that both homeowners have large 4th of July parties annually.

Kimble expressed that this is a conundrum with July 4th landing on a Friday making it a three day weekend, so people might be in town. He stated he hates the thought of the swimming beach closing in particular as it would affect hundreds as opposed to 40 at the boating beach. Lerman offered that the boaters could reposition the boats the night before.

A member of the audience asked who is responsible for the event. Mensinger clarified that the funding is primarily from the Park District. The Patriotic Committee normally puts forth \$3000. The Village pays for half of the barge at \$4000, and the Park District pays the remaining cost of \$28-\$30,000.

Kimble added that the 4th of July is an important event and the idea of revenue lost does not sit well, but even more so the loss of swimming or enjoyment of the beach. This has an impact on a much bigger community than our section of it.

Gaines asked about the schools as a location and Sheppard answered that there are too many homes. The same impact happens at our parks. Municipal Buildings are easy to empty, but houses are difficult to empty for an entire day.

Kimble asked how long it takes to setup fireworks. Sheppard stated that they need to begin at 10:00a or 11:00a. Bold added that because of the change to regulations, examples of other entities that setup later will no longer happen. The greatest risk happens during setup of the fireworks, so the area must be clear.

Lerman offered an option to move the boaters. Lee asked if we could review our problem with the two homes affected by the Boating Beach location Fallout Zone. Sheppard added that their homeowner's insurance may not cover them for a Fallout Zone.

Kimble asked what the impact would be to the beach the following day. Sheppard answered that our entire staff would need to arrive at 5:00a to clean up debris, which is common.

Kimble stated it is becoming obvious what the answer will need to be and that if we need to close the beach we could add more events to make up for the lack of swimming.

Lee asked for clarification on not swimming if that includes not going on the sand as well. Sheppard answered that the entire beach would be closed at 10:00am and the boaters would need to access from the stairs by the boating beach. Sheppard added that it is not ideal. Even if we communicate to the public that it will be closed, we will receive many regional visitors who would not receive that communication. We will be handling complaints and will handle them as best we can. None of our options are ideal.

Lerman added that he understands where the Coast Guards are coming from regarding using an open water barge based on the Lake Geneva accident when they used a barge which exploded during the fireworks and, added by Gaines, blew out all windows in Geneva Bay.

Sheppard added that we can investigate the pier option further, however the concession stand and bathrooms/showers would be blocked off for the entire day.

Lee offered a suggestion that there is no good answer, so we should go with the best option of the beach. It is worth trying for a year. If it is horrible and people complain, we will not do it again.

Kimble added that people have to understand that because there are new rules in place, it means we cannot do things as we've done in the past. Either way, they would not be happy with cancelling the fireworks.

Gaines asked who contracts out the barge company to which Sheppard replied that the fireworks company does this. He asked if we could call the barge company. Sheppard answered that the fireworks company already called in a request. The problem is there are only two barges that meet the criteria required for all of Lake Michigan. If we contract with a barge and they get called out for a Coast Guard issue, we could lose our barge at the last minute. If requested by the board, staff would personally call the barge companies. Additionally, the barge will cost \$5000 more than last year and would be located further away making the show not as entertaining.

Palatnik said that if we decide to close the beach, we need to communicate very far in advance and include why we need to close the beach. Then, as Lee stated, we will have to watch, adapt, and see. It is one day in 90 that the beach is open, opposed to one day in the year that we set off fireworks which for many is their favorite day.

Lee and Gaines agreed with Palatnik, it is unfortunate, but it is one day and we cannot get rid of the fireworks. People enjoy it too much.

Sheppard also added for discussion, blocking off certain areas for parking with shuttles. The beach is the only area that does not affect houses. The view may be impacted above due to the trees; however, the fireworks reach 350', so we are not sure at this point how they will look.

Mensinger stated that we would need to adjust the budget as that is a high revenue day.

Sheppard stated that we do not need to make a decision today, but within a month and a survey could be helpful. Gaines added that a survey would be answered emotionally based on memories of good times. Mensinger stated that 75% of survey results stated that the 4th of July event was their number one event. Maassen added we do have a week to add an article to the Glencoe Quarterly. Starting the message in the Glencoe Quarterly is the best avenue to get the word out in a controlled fashion.

Gaines said we should not abandon the fireworks and we need to enhance the experience. If we are saving money on the barge, we close streets and enhance the event. Lee stated the extra revenue should be spent on better fireworks. Mensinger said that money saved on barge would cover loss of revenue for closing the beach for the day. \$14,000 saved on the barge is more than the loss of revenue from the beach and staffing cost for the day.

Lerman stated that closing the beach will not be popular to which Lee responded that not having fireworks will be even less popular.

Kimble added that he realizes this is a real challenge and he hopes another option will present itself, but this at least allows us to start planning. There are so many events going on that day that we can enhance what we already have planned.

Sheppard explained plans for a July 4th Committee with the Village and other interested groups and volunteers to meet on logistical and enhancements to the 4th of July celebration.

Kimble asked if we could vote on this if it was not on the agenda, Sheppard stated that this is more advisory in order to tell her the direction the Board would like to take.

Approval of holding 4th of July Fireworks from the beach and closing the beach for the day of the event unless other options become available later due to the new regulations:
A non-binding motion was made by President Kimble to approve holding the fireworks on the beach as stated, Commissioner Gaines seconded.

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

Continuing the Executive Director Report, Sheppard has a new organization chart available and about three months ago; she challenged her staff to create a list of goals for the year based on the Strategic Plan and congratulated her staff on a job well done. Gaines also wanted to congratulate Sheppard that the goals were well done and the document will keep staff on task to make sure goals are accomplished.

Gaines then brought attention to page 1/29 of the Survey. Great Pumpkin Day had high participation by Early Childhood aged families. He challenged staff to bring in an Autumn Fest appeal by improving the event to include other age groups and to bring back the Petting Zoo and Ropes Course the Scout Troop ran in previous years. Sheppard responded that the event was thrown in the Park District's laps at the last minute and Beckie Korzyniewski has already brainstormed many additions to next year's event and will find the right organizations to bring to the table.

Gaines also mentioned that more off ice activities at Winter Carnival would be nice, but keep in mind that we do not want to put too much money into one event, which could be cancelled due to inclement weather. Broadening the appeal should be a goal. Concerts on the Beach and Movie in the Park are two gems we should reach out through Marketing or collaborating with other groups like GYS running concessions or Scout Troops. Sheppard added that we will be having a new Children's Concert Series, Tots & Tunes, on Tuesday mid-mornings. We are also looking at moving the Concerts in the Park back to the gazebo at Kalk Park for a better draw not requiring a beach pass to enjoy the concerts. Gaines praised the fun trips we offer during summer camp and would like to offer more during the year. Sheppard answered that we just began offering trips during the school year starting with school day off trips and we also just held our first Teen Ski Trip. The Capital Purchase of a minibus will also help with those events.

Sheppard's last report item is that NSSRA is looking for a new facility that is more conducive to providing recreational opportunities to Special Needs participants. Sheppard continued that if we approve this Action Item it gives them the authority to sell/purchase a new building when the opportunity arises. They have no plans at this time. Mensinger added that it is similar to our Disposal Resolution that we do every three to six months. Gaines asked for clarification that since we do not know where they will move and they have not sold yet, what would our exposure be for a future site. Their plans are probably appropriate, but he has not seen them yet. He has been in their facility many times and it does not meet their needs which is solved by reaching out to other facilities like ours. Sheppard added that they will continue to do that. Gaines asked to what they are asking us to provide. Sheppard stated that when they decide, it will have to go to a vote with their Board of Directors for which Sheppard is on the Board. She would be open to direction from the Park Board. Sheppard affirmed Gaines' statement that at this time we do not have any exposure or responsibility at this time. We are simply allowing them a negotiating stance for enhancing their options.

Action Items

Approval of Resolution to ratify NSSRA board action authorizing a petition to Circuit Court for leave to sell property no longer needed for park or special recreation purposes: A motion was made by Commissioner Lerman to approve Resolution 813 as presented. Commissioner Palatnik seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

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

Matters from the Public: Lee stated how excited and happy full-time staff was about conference a few days beforehand. What a difference a year makes that morale is so high. The Board expressed approval of this change in staff morale.

Adjourn to Closed Session: Commissioner Lerman moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:02 p.m. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Return to Open Session: Commissioner Palatnik moved to return to open session at 9:43 p.m. Commissioner Lerman seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Gaines asked for a new agreement with GYS as it should be updated. He asked for questions to be formulated before the next meeting. Sheppard stated the current agreement with them is over 20 years old. We should review insurance and other items that we should be taking care of and Sheppard said she would take the lead on it. She also asked that if the Board's philosophy has changed she would need to know that. Right now we make a cash donation, take care of all repairs in the building, for example plumbing, electrical, etc. GYS takes care of cosmetic changes/upgrades. Sheppard stated that this is a great organization and her recommendation is to continue in a cooperative agreement, but she would like to hear from the Board. Gaines agreed that it is a nice program, but the agreement should be revisited in a relatively thorough manner certainly before every 10 years.

Adjourn: Commissioner Palatnik moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Commissioner Lerman seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary