

APPROVED

MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2015 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll was called.

Commissioners present:

Hilary Lee, President
Steve Gaines, Treasurer
Bob Kimble, Commissioner
Andre Lerman, Commissioner

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary
Carol Mensinger, Director of Finance/HR
Rick Bold, Director of Parks & Maintenance
Dave Figgins, Director of Recreation & Facilities
Erin Maassen, Manager of Marketing & Comm.
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant

Arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Seth Palatnik, Vice President

Members of the public in attendance included Lisa Brooks, John Byrne, James Conley, Dan Dorfman, Fouad Egbaria, Lisa Finke, David Heisler, Hamilton Hill, Paul Guten, Kathy Janega, Chris Leiner, Nello Lucchesi, Laurie Morse, Dudley Onderdonk, Michael Perlberg, Gina Propp-Schmarak, Matt Robbins, Brad Schmarak, Will Steinberg, Ilyce Tamkin, Sam Tamkin, Matt Walker, and Ashini Whiteman.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by President Lee to approve the consent agenda items as presented including Minutes of the March 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting and Approval of the Bills. Commissioner Kimble seconded the motion. A secondary motion was made to approve the amended minutes by Commissioner Lerman as presented.

Roll call vote taken:

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

Matters from the Public:

*Comments to Glencoe Park District on behalf of Central Park Neighbors
Master Plan:*

I'm Kathy Janega, and I live on Greenwood, opposite the third base foul line and scoreboard of the mustang baseball field at Central Park. I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of the neighbors who have joined in the letter we sent you following the March 17th Board meeting. Some of those neighbors are here tonight, there are others who couldn't make it. Out of respect for the Board's time, the neighbors have asked me to speak on their behalf, rather than having each one address the Board to reiterate the same message. If you prefer to have the neighbors speak individually, I'm sure many of them would be happy to do so. Before getting into the substance of our comments, I'd

like to confirm that, at this point in the meeting, we are addressing only the Master Plan. We trust that we will be able to comment on the landscape proposal when that item comes up for discussion later in this meeting.

By way of background, the owners of 10 of the homes surrounding Central Park submitted a letter to the Board following its March 17th meeting, expressing concerns that, without any prior notice to the neighbors of Central Park, the Board was about to accept a large donation to make substantial changes to the Mustang ball field at Central Park and, as the first step, authorized Executive Director Lisa Sheppard to issue a request for proposals for landscape design services for the park.

Our letter also contained a Freedom of Information Act request. Earlier today, we circulated a letter from another 10 sets of neighbors who have since joined in our original letter. We neighbors are the ones most directly impacted by the potential changes because, unlike any other ball park in the Village, the Mustang field at Central Park faces only front yards.

Before turning to our comments on the Master Plan, we want to thank you for your responses to our letter and FOIA request. We received a 115-page response to our FOIA request. We got it before the statutory deadline, and nothing was withheld except personal phone numbers and e-mail addresses. We appreciate both the promptness and the openness of the response.

In addition, on April 7, in response to our letter, Lisa, Steve Gaines and Bob Kimble met with most of the Central Field neighbors for nearly two hours. They assured us that no decisions have been made, that we're early in the process, that they recognize that we're stakeholders and that we will have two seats at the table in the vetting process. I personally want to thank Lisa, in particular. Because I'm the neighborhood point person, she and I have had other conversations. We are keeping channels of communication open, and she continues to be cooperative and forthcoming. I promise the same on my part.

Regarding the specifics of the Master Plan, we are encouraged that the final draft of the Master Plan was revised after you received our letter to address some of our concerns. On p.166, in the Parks and Open Space Strategies, the reference to lights and softball have been deleted from the alternative strategies for Central Park. The timetable on p. 199 has also been modified. The March 17th draft said everything at Central Park would be completed by the end of this year. The final Plan calls for planning and design to take place this year, with bidding and construction in 2016. We think this will provide for a more appropriate deliberative process that takes all stakeholder interests into account.

However, we do have some remaining concerns about the language in the Park and Open Space Strategies for Central Park, in Row M on page 166 of the Plan. First, the opportunities column states: "How can Central Park be redeveloped as the primary GPD sports asset?" We respectfully request that this statement be stricken. "Primary sports asset" isn't defined, and the term is too broad and too general for all readers to have the same understanding of what it means. However the phrase is defined, Central

Park is just too small to be anything more than the neighborhood park that it always has been and that the Plan says it is: Page 34 of the Plan says the Park's area is 4.5 Acres, but based on the maps and aerials at pp. 86-87, that includes the School District's soccer fields. The information we received in response to our FOIA request show that it's actually smaller: The draft donation agreement the Park District sent to the donor says the park area is 2.25 Acres, and a copy of a plat bears a notation that the area of the ball field is about 1.6 Acres. Second, the first of the alternative strategies for Central Park states: "Establish a premier baseball field, serving the entire community's sport's needs." We also request that this statement be stricken. We have the same concerns about this statement as with the "primary sports asset." The term is undefined and is subject to many different interpretations. If "a premier baseball field" means a safe, attractive, well maintained park that is great to play on and to look at, we are very supportive, and suggest that those words be used instead. Whatever "premier baseball field" means, Central Park is too small to provide a baseball field that serves "the entire community's sport's needs," especially when it is one of four baseball fields, and the other three are all in parks that are larger than Central Park. We request that the first statement be replaced by the following: "Assure that the mustang field remains a safe, attractive and well maintained baseball field within an equally attractive park that remains available for informal use by the entire community while preserving the residential character of the immediate neighborhood."

There are three other reasons we are requesting these changes: The list of amenities desired by Glencoe Youth Baseball and the Park District's Rec Staff include such features as lights, brick walls, elevated stadium seating and home run fencing. Coupled with the features contained in materials provided to the Park District by associates of the donor, which are based on a university sports complex, the amenities go far beyond the features that exist today and would not only change the nature of the park, but also restrict its use by the community. Second, we ask that you recall the sensitivity that the Park District displayed when significant changes were proposed for the bronco field at Watts that would have impacted the adjacent neighbors as well as the broader community. The field at Watts is in the midst of a 10.4-Acre park, and the field backs up onto rear yards. Central Park is significantly smaller and the mustang field faces only front yards and is part of the residential streetscape. We ask that you also take into consideration that Central Park is more than just a place for baseball, despite its relatively small size. It has four tennis courts, the old warming house that is now occupied by Glencoe Youth Services, and the pitching and batting cage that pops up with the spring flowers. The park is used for organized soccer and numerous school activities, and it's a hub for pick-up sports and recreational activities throughout the year. It has no unused space and the Park District's own data show that it is not underutilized. It would be a shame and contrary to the park's established character and designated use as a neighborhood park if changes were made that would inhibit the daily, year-round use of the park by the community at large.

Finally, the Master Plan reflects the Park District's vision for what it would like its parks to be, and it's the result of a long, public process. But there's been no public discussion yet about changing the character of Central Park, and none of the data collected for the Master Plan support such a change. The only way to give credibility

to the public process on Central Park that's about to begin is to remove these two statements from the Plan, and we respectfully request that you do so. In sum, we request that you make the two requested modifications to page 166 of the Master Plan, so that the formal statement of your vision for Central Park conforms with your public reassurances.

We thank you for your time and attention. We believe that we-the Park District and Central Park neighbors - have begun the kind of open, good faith discussion that will ultimately strike the right balance so that the demonstrated needs of both the baseball program and the community at large are met, without altering the residential streetscape or harming the property values of those who are most directly impacted by the park and how it is developed and used. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

*Comments to Glencoe Park District on behalf of Central Park Neighbors
Landscape Proposal by Kathy Janega:*

I spoke earlier regarding the Master Plan and am again speaking on behalf of the same group of neighbors who have written you regarding proposed changes to the mustang field. We have some questions and comments on the Hitchcock proposal, based on our review of the proposal in the Agenda materials, the "Central Park Community Engagement Process" document we received in response to our FOIA request, and our April 7th meeting with Lisa, Bob and Steve.

According to the Engagement document, and as discussed on April 7th, there are neighborhood representatives on the task force, and the general community provides input at community forums. Our understanding is that only immediate stakeholders will be included in the task force, and that the neighbors of Central Park are included among those stakeholders. We want to confirm that the "neighborhood representatives" will be representatives of those who live adjacent to Central Park. We want to confirm that the "community at large," meaning the broader community other than the immediate stakeholders, will become involved through public forums held after conceptual plans have been designed, rather than as part of the Task Force. We also want to confirm that the ultimate decision is more qualitative than quantitative. For example, there are more baseball families than there are homeowners adjacent to Central Park. While families with children in Glencoe Youth Baseball may want to see such things as lights or more elaborate seating, that is a reflection of their desires, not their needs. Similarly, while there may be a desire to attract teams from other baseball associations, that, too is a matter of preference rather than identified community need.

In contrast, the neighboring property owners are the only ones who face potential loss of the value of their property if the design intensifies the use of the fields and changes the character of the neighborhood.

We do have some concerns that Hitchcock may be biased in favor of the most intense redevelopment of the Park, as they participated in early meetings with the Park District staff and donor regarding the donor's proposed improvements. Those improvements are all reflected in the proposed Scope of Services. The Scope of Services includes "Sports lighting," although lighting has been removed from the Master Plan. Sports lighting

should be removed from the Scope of Services. The proposal provides for Community input after approval by the Board, and contemplates a staff decision after a single community meeting to determine if "minor" revisions are "warranted." For a truly transparent process that includes meaningful public input and participation, there needs to be an opportunity for more than minor changes, and the process should include a Board meeting following the public comment and input. While it's necessary for the contractor to obtain guidance from the Board so that only a design that would be acceptable to the Board would be presented to the community at large, a final, formal, public acceptance of the design by the Board is necessary after the public weighs in. A final process out of the public eye undermines the transparency that the Park District seeks to provide.

Drew Cardonick, President of Glencoe Baseball Association, stated that they look forward to working together to strike the right balance for both kids and neighbors to make this town a better place to live.

Public Hearing 2014/2015 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance No. 828: President Lee stated that the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance "BAO" has been reviewed by legal counsel and has been on public display for the required 30-day period. President Lee declared "open" a public hearing to discuss the BAO. Director Mensinger gave a brief summary of the BAO. There were no public comments. President Lee declared the public hearing "closed".

Action Item:

Ordinance 828: An Ordinance Making a Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation of Funds for the Glencoe Park District for the Fiscal Year Beginning March 1, 2015: Director Mensinger explained that the BAO establishes the Board's legal spending limits for various funds and line items within the Annual Budget. It does not reflect the Board's intention to spend – only its capacity. The Annual Budget remains the financial tool which guides the District to which the Board holds the staff accountable.

President Lee moved to approve Ordinance No. 828: An Ordinance Making a Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation of Funds for the Glencoe Park District for the Fiscal Year Beginning March 1, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken:

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

Approval of the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan:

A motion was made by President Lee to approve the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan as presented. Commissioner Kimble seconded the motion. A subsidiary motion was made by Commissioner Lerman to receive the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan as presented. No Second, motion denied. Another motion was made by Commissioner Lerman to approve the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan with the changes suggested

by Ms. Janega. No Second, motion denied. No discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Gaines, Kimble, Lee
NAYS: Lerman
ABSENT: Palatnik

Presentation of Watts Ice Center 2014-2015: David Johnson, Watts Facilities Manager, presented a slide show overview of the Watts Ice Center season report included in the Board Packet. Watts Advisory Committee Meeting has been scheduled for May 5, 2015.

Financial Report: Director of Finance/Human Resources Mensinger stated we are one month into the fiscal year. In addition to her report, weather will drive Beach token sales and Recreation programs revenue is higher than last year at this time.

Staff Reports: In addition to their individual department reports, Director Mensinger stated that auditors are coming this week to review last year, with an overview to be shared at the May Meeting. Director Figgins proudly shared that the Spring Egg Hunt had over 500 attend. Meet the Fleet is scheduled on May 12 and we are looking for more vehicles to participate in the event. Director Bold added that the Eagle Scout is coming to Shelton Park this Saturday to work on the bike station and an Arbor Day planting will be on Saturday as well, to be held at Harbor and Shelton Park.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director Sheppard introduced Chris Leiner who will be the third Director of Parks in 100 years. He is starting on May 4, 2015. Elections are final and congratulated Dudley Onderdonk and Lisa Brooks on their election to the board. The Commissioners Elect and will take their Oath at the May board meeting. An all staff training is scheduled for June 3 with an afternoon session from 1:30-4:00 p.m. and an evening session from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Historical Society provided an updated drawing of the Park 7N project, for which there will be a community engagement process once the funds are raised. The NSSRA awards gala is on Friday. Executive Sheppard is recommending a committee meeting in June once Commissioners Elect Onderdonk and Brooks and Director Leiner are on board to discuss playground improvements for this year. Tonight's action item for the Bruce Kaminski scoreboard has a slight change. The group raising funds in honor of Mr. Kaminski were able to raise over the \$5,000 donation originally discussed and would like to also donate those additional funds for future field improvements in his honor.

Action Items:

Approval of the \$5,000 donation in honor of Bruce Kaminski to be used toward an electronic scoreboard and plaque in South Field (Bronco Field) and any additional funds raised to be entrusted to the Glencoe Park District, for future improvements and enhancements related to any of the Glencoe baseball fields and done in the honor of Bruce Kaminski

A motion was made by President Lee to approve the \$5,000 donation in honor of Bruce Kaminski to be used toward an electronic scoreboard and plaque in South Field (Bronco Field) and any additional funds raised to be entrusted to the Glencoe Park District, for future improvements and enhancements related to any of the Glencoe baseball fields and done in honor of Bruce Kaminski as presented. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken:

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

Approval of the contract with Hitchcock Design Group for Preliminary design services of Central Park and Field

A motion was made by President Lee to approve the contract with Hitchcock Design Group for preliminary design services of Central Park and Field as presented. Commissioner Kimble seconded the motion. Discussion ensued:

The Board determined that the donor needs to pay for the preliminary design services in order to move forward with the project. Once the donation is secured, starting the community engagement process immediately is important, so the community realizes that we are open-minded regarding the design. The design firm will need ideas from the Task Force in order to begin any designs. The expectation is a 60-day preliminary design phase. Naming rights and property lines were reviewed.

Commissioner Palatnik made an amended motion to approve the Executive Director to approve Hitchcock's preliminary design services of Central Park contingent on donor reimbursement agreement in writing to pay for all fees of the contract not to exceed \$40,000. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

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

Matters from the Public: Comments from members of the public were as follows.

Laurie Morse stated that the Park District did not communicate with the neighbors of the park regarding the approved scoreboard that was approved at this meeting, she also reviewed with the Board who can make a motion during a Board of Park Commissioners meeting.

James Conley stated that neighbors of Central Park do not feel they are receiving positive support in the process and Commissioners need to remember the park is in their front yards.

Kathy Janega vocalized disappointment in the lack of taking into account Central Park neighbor's comments made today, prior to approval of the Master Plan, and they would like the written document to be consistent with public statements of the Board and staff

before having been approved. The community would like to work in good faith and hope the Park District will as well.

Ilyce Tamkin commented that it sounds like commissioners are in the back pocket of the donor and not a disinterested party looking out for the good of the community. The vision is wonderful, but asked if drainage issues been reviewed. The community would like to understand that the process is thoughtful and has exactly what is good for everyone, not just someone who has a lot of money.

Other Business: No other business.

Adjourn: President Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Commissioner Kimble seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary