

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2015 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll was called.

Commissioners present:

Hilary Lee, President  
Seth Palatnik, Vice President  
Steve Gaines, Treasurer  
Bob Kimble, Commissioner

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary  
Chris Leiner, Director of Parks and Maintenance  
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant

Commissioner absent:

Andre Lerman, Commissioner

Members of the public in attendance included John Byrne, Jerry Coleman, James Conley, Sally Conley, Dan Dorfman, Fouad Egbaria, Lisa Finke, Hamilton Hill, Kathy Janega, Peggy Kimble, Melissa Lee, Rosie LaLonde, Nello Lucchesi, Alison Lucchesi, Jennifer Molinar, Veronica Mosgow, Ashini Whiteman, Ilyce Tamkin, Sam Tamkin, and Robert Whiteman.

Matters from the Public: Comments from the public are as follows.

Allison Lucchesi stated that construction for a baseball stadium at Central Park would disturb the neighborhood, baseball games, and would be loud.

Ilyce Tamkin does not want a large stadium at Central Park, vocalized concern of the 60-day expedited timeline on this project including a missing Board Member who seems to be the only one on the side of Central Park neighbors, confusion over the application process and non-working form, differing timeline of the Task Force announcement and why no one called her about her application in the evaluation process, concern over the amount of money being spent on a gender specific project when gender neutral options are available, and to take into account the cost of garbage, garbage removal, and upkeep.

Nello Lucchesi voiced concern that the community is taking over front yards and using them for community events making access to homes difficult, the park is a multiple use open space and to make it less usable to general park users does not make sense, and concern that this project seems to be forced through with backing of a lot of money.

Rob Whiteman stated that changing a neighborhood park used for multiple reasons by the community and transforming it into a state of the art sports facility which has traffic, parking, and trash consequences should not be taken lightly.

Jerry Coleman stated the field needs to be enhanced and thought through. He does not want a state of the art field, but it should have a safe, flat field of play as bumps cause adjustments of the field of play in order to reduce injuries.

Hamilton Hill commented that improvement of the level of the field is necessary, but a permanent fence and lights would reduce the multipurpose use of the field, which is currently the majority of use of the park. The neighbors are the most at-stake and trust that the Board will not betray their trust.

Sally Conley stated that Glencoe already has four baseball fields with green space and not many multipurpose fields; additionally we need multipurpose fields that will accommodate sports for girls.

James Conley vocalized concern over the rush of a project over a good opportunity for the community, that the task force list of directives given to the Board was not shared with the public or with the Task Force being chosen, that the weight on the task force is in favor of baseball when baseball was not listed on the task force directive document, and that the legitimacy of the Board rushing with two members exiting before the next meeting is in question.

Rosie LaLonde said the field is currently open for all uses and a fence would split the field and reduce access for public and school use, vocalized concern that drainage will spill into school property, and do we plan on filling field use when there is a lack of use of the current bleachers.

John Byrne declared that the original press release described this field as Wrigley North with back-peddling since then, that documents released do not match our words, the task force has an outcome already determined before meetings have begun, 3 of the 7 task force members are in favor of baseball in spite of baseball participation in decline, this field should not be built up more than what 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders need, this baseball field needs to be removed as there are already three baseball fields in Glencoe, and that the task force should consider other sports for this location.

Kathy Janega would like a field design that will allow for pickup games to continue, a task force should not include the donor who is interested only in a baseball stadium, that the scope of changes to be discussed are more than needed at the field and should be included in the Master Plan, and that a field should not be a fortress in the middle of a neighborhood, like Roemer Field.

Veronica Moskow stated concern over quickness of this project, renovations are needed but not \$1 million worth, and concern that the donor is on the task force.

Lisa Finke commented that the field needs to be flattened and dugouts fixed but not more, the Board is not listening to the fact that it is a neighborhood multipurpose field and is not interested in maintaining that atmosphere, and that the project is rushed and should not begin until after the new Board members start.

Ashini Whiteman stated that Roemer Park was mentioned in an email which has dedicated parking, three dumpsters, and bumps up to back yards not front yards which would not be respectful to Central Park neighbors.

Jennifer Molinar expressed that small towns need neighborhood fields not sport complexes, keep maintenance costs down, listen to neighbors, consider the impact of trash, parking, and those who do not play baseball, and questioned if one person should be able to control creating a giant footprint that will affect all of Glencoe.

Sam Tamkin explained that Takiff money was chased and the building's end result was not thought out well which worries him on this project, asked to keep dialogue open with the community not seen at the last meeting, the task force directive is not broad enough to determine what goes on the field, no need to spend \$1 million to fix the field, offered that the donor could create the field the donor is looking for at Reinsdorf Field instead, and there is a sense of rushing that should not be.

Discussion on Central Park Task Force: Director Sheppard thanked the audience for their input and led the discussion with a statement of the project details to date as follows.

We have a donor who has offered a donation up to \$1 million dollars for the Park District's portion of Central Park. Director Sheppard explained a slide of Central Park on display, pointing out property lines. Effects of drainage on the school district property is part of the scope for the landscape architect. The property currently has a baseball field and GYS teen center. Tennis courts were just renovated, so they are not included in this project. One of the special features of this donation is that the donor has mentioned that Roger Bossard could be part of the project. His expertise is field design, which includes proper turf, drainage, and irrigation. Currently, that field is on clay which does not allow for proper drainage. For example, the rain last week flooded the field and there was no play the remainder of day. It is not our intent to plan for a mini Wrigley or US Cellular field. Incoming commissioners Dudley Onderdonk, and Lisa Brooks have been kept informed of this project from the beginning and are supportive of the task force. Just because Roger Bossard and the donor are on board, does not mean the park district wants a mini-Wrigley. The park district hopes to have a field with excellent drainage and turf, the remaining amenities will be discussed at the focus group meetings with recommendations given to the Board. Our goal would be if it rains, the children can still play on the field a couple of hours after the rain has stopped and the turf would be free of holes, so that not only baseball can take place, but other recreational uses as well (Frisbee, kite flying, school use, etc.). In response to the rush for a task force, there are many misconceptions surrounding this project. The hard part of a FOIA is only receiving half the information, as verbal communication was not documented; therefore not provided with the FOIA request. The amenities listed in the FOIA were a wish list of items that the task force will flush out. During that task force, discussions will include how many are playing baseball and trends from the last couple of years, including girls' softball, who is a part of GBA. We do not anticipate the usage to change on this field, but we do hope that it will accommodate 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade practices and baseball games. We do not feel that one field lends itself to accommodate

tournaments and do not believe the traffic and parking will increase due to the improvements on this field, because we are not recommending that the use of this field change. We are not addressing the soccer fields, because those fields are on school property. We will address any issues that may affect the school district property that results in any improvements that we make on the park, such as drainage.

The purpose of this Task Force is to gather community input and consensus on Central Park and Field, mainly the amenities of the baseball field and teen center. A \$1 million dollar donation is a lot, but we hope it will also replace the teen center as a valuable asset in the community. The task force is responsible for determining other amenities, there is no hidden agenda. Input from the task force is not binding; under the Park District Code, all final decisions reside with the elected Park Board of Commissioners. It is my desire that through education and discussion, the members of the task force reach a consensus on issues. In the event that they do not, then we may ask for a non-binding vote on an issue. The results of the vote then will be given to the Board, so that they can understand where the Task Force members stand on items and make a more informed decision.

The Task Force will follow the Open Meeting Act, so other residents may observe the Task Force meeting and offer comments during the scheduled public comment agenda item, most likely at the end of the meeting after the education portion. I am recommending a 90-day task force facilitated by the landscape architect. The community feels rushed, however our intent is to educate and stop misconceptions. We are looking to bring an amenity to the community that everyone can enjoy.

Director Sheppard then responded to public questions.

Concerns about a big baseball stadium? We are recommending improvements to the current baseball field at Central Park. It is not our desire to put in a "big baseball stadium, or state of the arts sports complex" or a "Roemer" type field on this site, we do not have the room for that type of field. We would like a field that drains quickly, is smooth, hole-free, crown-free and has excellent turf conditions. The amenities of this field will be discussed with the Task Force and recommendations will be given to the Park Board.

Increased demand on public safety and more garbage? We don't feel that the usage will change with this field, so there should not be a need for increased public safety or increased garbage removal.

Will the field be less useable by the public and school? The Park District would like to continue the same usage of this field, for GBA baseball, park district programs, school use, and community recreational activities.

Concern about drainage in the neighborhood? Drainage for Central Park's site is addressed in our scope of services with the landscape architect.

Why do we have three seats for baseball? We have two seats on the task force for GBA because the baseball field is a main component of the park. The donor received a seat on the task force and is not using it himself, but gave a name for another individual. That individual made it very clear that on his application that he is an independent voice. GBA participation is growing due to great management; they believe that kids should play with others in their own community. GBA serves both boys and girls in their baseball and softball programs. While other baseball group's participation has gone down, GBA's numbers are going up. These stats will be brought to the task force.

Is maintenance being considered? Yes, we have discussed with GBA that players would need to absorb some of the cost and they were open to this. This is something that the staff is looking into and will address in the Task Force meetings and with user groups.

The board packet included the function, goals, areas to consider and application requirements for the Task Force. This will be shared with the task force once they are selected.

#### Action Items:

Motion to create a 90-day Park District Task Force to be called the "Central Park Task Force" for the Specific Task of receiving input and advisement regarding Central Park Improvements and also to include the function, goals, and areas to consider.

A motion was made by President Lee to create a 90-day Park District Task Force to be called the "Central Park Task Force" for the Specific Task of receiving input and advisement regarding Central Park Improvements and also to include the function, goals, and areas to consider. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. No discussion ensued.

Roll call vote taken:

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

#### Appointment of members to the Central Park Task Force

The park district received 15 applications and everyone was very qualified. Decisions were based on creating a diverse task force and the task was tough. Recommendation was suggested to add a member for representation of Glencoe Youth Services. We appreciate everyone who applied.

A motion was made by President Lee to appoint the following members to the Central Park Task Force including Howard Buckner, Drew Cardonick, Kathy Janega, Thomas Fink, Michael Perlberg, Connie Brandfonbrener, Howard Dubnow, and Debbie Jha. School representatives will be Cathy Crawford, Catherine Wang, and Ryan Mollet who will count as one on a rotating basis due to scheduling conflicts. The Village

representative will be Sharon Tanner, Assistant Village Manager. The Park Board representatives will be Seth Palatnik and Lisa Brooks. Park District staff will include Lisa Sheppard, Chris Leiner, and Kraig Owens. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. No discussion ensued.

Roll call vote taken:

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

Adjourn: President Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Commissioner Palatnik seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard  
Secretary