

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm and roll was called.

Commissioners present:

Lisa Brooks, President  
Stefanie Boron, Vice President  
Michael Covey, Treasurer  
Josh Lutton, Commissioner  
Dudley Onderdonk, Commissioner

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary  
Carol Mensinger, Director of Finance/HR  
Chris Leiner, Director of Parks/Maintenance  
Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation/Facilities  
Erin Classen, Supt. of Marketing/Comm.  
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant

Members of the public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Bob Breisblatt, Dan Dorfman, Alison Kendall, Hilary Lee, Adam Weinberg, Mike (last name unknown)

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Commissioner Boron to approve the consent agenda items as presented including Minutes of August 20, 2019 Regular Board meeting, Minutes of September 3, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting, and Approval of the Bills. Commissioner Onderdonk seconded the motion. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Boron, Covey, Lutton, Onderdonk, Brooks  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

Matters from the Public: Bob Breisblatt commented on next year's Fourth of July event including food trucks needing to be moved to not block the view and to make sure all lights turn off. He also commented on a July 3 event including uncertain barge availability and that July 3 workday travel is difficult with a family. He also offered the option to shoot off fireworks from the north beach property to keep the beach open.

Hilary Lee commented that she is still adamant about July 4 as the nicest Glencoe day of a race, games, parade, and ending with the fireworks. She also commented on the disappointment the year the barge did not make it.

Discussion of Independence Day Fireworks Date: Executive Director Sheppard shared background from 2014 when the barge was no longer an option on July 4, 2014 and survey results were reviewed. That year, the Board decided to keep the fireworks on July 4, close the beach, and move viewing up to park level. Residents had the option to use their beach passes at Winnetka Beach. These last five years, residents and non-residents have asked why the beach is closed. We were presented with the opportunity to rent a barge on July 3 or 5. Staff did not feel July 5 would be a good option. The barge owners stated that the cost is \$13,000 for July 3. This would be a yearly contract with no contract for long term rentals, but the barge owners did not foresee any obstacles for the future. Supt. Classen explained the survey was responded to by 546

people restricted by IP address (not scientific). 54% said July 3 and 45% said July 4. Comments and key words were reviewed. 65% said they would not donate money. 30% were concerned about cost and 37% wanted to keep the beach open. Executive Director Sheppard explained that revenue from the beach is subjective to the weather. Bad weather, high surf, and high bacteria can affect revenue, therefore we cannot count on revenue generated from the beach to offset the barge cost. We cannot use the boating beach to shoot off fireworks because the residences are much closer in that area and does not meet the legal safety zone.

Commissioner Boron was torn due to the survey results not being clearer, but preferred the idea of having them on July 3. She felt that it would be better for children to not have to stay up late on July 4 and then go to camp the next day.

Executive Director Sheppard suggested the Board should choose a date for 5 years due to the difficulty of communicating date changes with the community.

Commissioner Covey agreed with Boron regarding July 3 versus 4 and commented that trains are not available in late evening on July 3, it's a 50/50 call, it is a long day from an early race to late fireworks, in America fireworks are on July 4, 20% more respondents want it on July 3, and there was a lot of feedback on obstructed views. Covey liked the idea of a one-year test and thought communication would not be an issue.

Commissioner Onderdonk commented that he does not have a strong viewpoint, beach viewing has advantages and also the disadvantages of getting down there, added expense, and uncertainties of getting a barge. Onderdonk continued with the slightly higher cost, but it is July 4 and wants a celebration. Overall, he is risk averse and is slightly leaning toward the fourth, but either date would be good.

Commissioner Lutton commented that he would leave it as the status quo, appreciates the survey and results, July 3 is more costly with the barge, date confusion, uncertainty of the barge cost in future, barge availability, and weather issues, it is not a life or death situation and he would be more inclined to make a change with a more compelling reason.

Commissioner Onderdonk thanked staff for bringing up options. Discussion ensued on the non-scientific survey. Commissioner Covey commented that both are good options.

President Brooks commented that she was on the beach with children when the barge didn't show up, no announcement, and the walk of shame off the beach with no fireworks, staff do such a good job and will do so no matter what day, staff do not have an issue with working either date, she does not want to spend more money on a barge, and there is a higher risk with a barge for many reasons. Based on the survey results, 20% more respondents want July 3. Solely based on the survey, we have to give July 3 a chance although she does not feel like we have to do it for 5 years and can talk about it next year. Brooks read survey comment 103 included in the Board packet about being friendlier with neighbors when walking around Glencoe.

Matters from the public: Adam Weinberg commented that he does not have a date preference for the Fourth of July celebration, shared many suggestions to improve both the survey and communication of the survey, asked the Board to share this information with the community, and resubmit the survey to the community for more accurate results.

Alison Kendall and her husband did not complete the survey, but would like it on July 4 and confirmed with the Board that there is a contract that the barge will be available for this year only.

Discussion of the Sale of Linden House (233 Linden Avenue, Lot 1): Executive Director Sheppard reviewed that the house was used by past executive directors, but no longer requires them to reside in Linden house. The Park District has rented the house for three years and needs considerable renovations in order to rent it in the future. The expense of maintaining and/or renting the house does not meet the Park District's core mission and is not in the best interest of the community. The District explored the option of tearing down the house and restoring it to parkland, but would be an expense to do so. The Park District owns and maintains a significant amount of passive parkland near Linden house meeting the needs of the community in the area. In addition, the land served as a private residence and has not been available for public use. If sold, the funds would be used toward Master Plan Capital Projects dedicated to improving park infrastructure including parks, playgrounds, pathways, and building improvements. The residence was subdivided off the park, following Village codes. Only the residence lot would be sold. At the May 2018 Board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to subdivide the lot from park 22s. There was the opportunity for public input at that meeting. In September 2018, the Village held a series of public meetings to discuss the subdivision of the parcel. Per Village code, a sign was posted at the residence announcing the meeting. At the meeting tonight, the Board will listen to public comment prior to taking action. This meeting was noticed at both the facility and Web site, posted on social media, shared via email, and the adjacent property owner was emailed by the executive director. Next steps were reviewed if the Board approves the sale of Linden house. The plat was reviewed.

Commissioner Boron shared that the Board has been discussing this topic since 2017, it is not our mission to deal in real estate, the park will remain, and the house will remain a house, so she does not have an issue with approval.

Commissioner Onderdonk stated that housing is not in our mission, the ownership of the house will change not the use of land, the lot is physically isolated and will not enhance the park, the house needs work, and the outcome will improve the neighborhood and is a good idea.

Commissioner Lutton commented that this lot has not benefitted the community for some time and is not a wise use of resources.

President Brooks stated that there is value to the community to sell the house when a new owner can enter the community.

Matters from the Public: Alison Kendall commented that no one was specifically notified about the specific issue of selling park land, tearing the house down would make a beautiful addition to the park, the Park District may have filled all minimum requirements but the entire community should have a say even if a referendum is no longer required, and asked the Board to engage the community before bringing it to a vote.

Bob Breisblatt commented that it makes a lot of sense to sell it, will supply money to the Village and the Park District, it has not been a green space but for someone to live, the park superintendent is not required to live there, and thinks it's a good idea.

Mike (last name unknown) thinks it is a good idea.

Commissioner Boron stated that no one on the Board is in favor of selling park land, but this is a house and was always a house. The taxes will go back to the Village and Park District. Our mission is not to sell park land just as real estate is not our mission. The house needs a lot of work.

Executive Director Sheppard explained that the Circuit Court must approve the Park District ability to sell the land. Executive Director Sheppard indicated that the Board takes selling land very seriously, about five times a year we receive requests to purchase slivers of land by homes and the District says no. This situation is unique; the fact that it has always been a residence. We have met all legal standards.

Financial Report: Director of Finance/Human Resources Mensinger stated we are six months into the fiscal year. Summer months are behind us and we can take a closer look at beach and boating departments combined. As of the six-month mark, we are under what we have done in previous years. Still hoping for a positive, but not as bad as what it looked like during summer. Fitness revenue is coming in monthly opposed to a one-year membership.

Daycare shows lower revenue in summer months, but we have to keep staffing consistent. There is a huge jump in September and it is running full force. Transition ages, potential participants required 4-6 weeks cancellation notice to their current daycare that we try to work with, and existing participants with new pregnancies of babies on the way affect numbers and revenue. Staff just started the budget process for next fiscal year. We made teacher salary increase adjustments to attract better staff and decrease the margin. The change is alarming, but it was more alarming when the revenue margin was extremely high.

Presentation of the 2019 Summer Camp Report: This presentation was rescheduled to the October 15 Regular Board meeting if needed. Staff answered commissioner questions on the report included in the packet.

Staff Reports: Staff shared additional information not included in their Board Reports. Director Mensinger highlighted legal calendar and the Finance Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled prior the October Board meeting.

Director Collins shared that the Mud Run had 356 participants and was a huge success with a great community feel, participants and spectators tried out the new Dekhockey sport court during the Mud Run, and we are hoping Beach SAFE will take off in other communities.

Director Leiner shared the wrap up of the Takiff Center shutdown, the Takiff playground should be done in in fall 2019 hopefully in November, wrapping up roof replacement at Watts, project specs are being developed for the Schuman Overlook, the Linear Trail project is continuing to progress including design development, and fall plantings are ongoing the next five to six weeks. Linear Trail will go out to bid in spring and staff met with the IDNR representative for the grant today. There are 130 districts applying this year versus last year at 110.

Superintendent Classen worked heavily on the Mud Run, Inside Glencoe is going out this week, and is working on a Web site usability study with staff, customers, and heat mapping the site to track user behavior.

The Safety and Wellness Committee ran a safety week with Glencoe Public Safety for three drills including a fire drill with blocked exits to keep staff on their toes, tornado drill, and lockdown drill to be followed by a meeting with Public Safety on how to improve.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director Sheppard shared that someone posted incorrect signs throughout town, "All are invited, all are welcome to tonight's meeting at Takiff Center. Park Board meeting regarding the sale of Lakefront Park or restoration or preservation of tennis courts." We have no intention to sell Lakefront Park. The District communicated it to the community via social media.

The Gold Medal announcement is scheduled for next Tuesday. We worked on the three pillars internally and it shows in our story.

The beach report is scheduled for next month and the beach house will be open when warm through October 13.

Early childhood is off to a good start with great training and staff are being very flexible with playtime due to the playground construction; GJK included.

After school care is full, we are watching trends and trying to expand program.

ELC playground shade canvases were removed from the structure so they would not be damaged.

#### Action Items:

Approval of Donation and Naming Rights Agreement for Park on Lincoln Drive and Crescent Road: A motion was made by Commissioner Boron to approve the Donation and Naming Rights Agreement for the park located at Lincoln Drive and Crescent Road as presented. Commissioner Lutton seconded the motion. The agreement is for 25

years, but after 25 years they have the first right of refusal. If no one else wants the park, it will remain under the same name. The family is very excited. The playground poured in place and train would not be added without this donation. They are willing to allow donors for individual train cars. Officially, the park name will be Duke Park. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Boron, Covey, Lutton, Onderdonk, Brooks  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

Motion passed.

Approval of Independence Day Fireworks Date: A motion was made by Commissioner Boron to approve the Independence Day fireworks for 2020 only to be barge fireworks on the third of July. Commissioner Onderdonk seconded the motion. Commissioner Covey does like the idea of a test, but not on a Saturday and is torn. Is it worth doing a test on a weekend, when the issues occur on weekdays? Commissioner Boron agreed that it is unique that it is on a weekend, but could make the same argument that they will be off on Friday. Covey stated we surveyed for a five years, but now voting on one year. Boron stated that staff is still recommending five years, but the barge owner cannot give staff 100% that the barge will be available the next five years. Sheppard shared that we are the only one to close our beach, Highland Park only closes a portion of their beach, however we do send our beach pass holders to Winnetka. As soon as the fireworks begin to be setup, the beach needs to be closed. If a storm whips through, the beach would have to closed on July 5. Once the barge sets sail, we are on the hook for the fee. That is the risk with fireworks. History was reviewed.

Discussion ensued included that the people have spoken through the survey, this is not life or death situation, the survey is not statistically accurate every poll has a margin of error, this is not a referendum, commissioners were elected to look at information and make the hard choice, the Board knows more than those who clicked the button, not overwhelming enough of a difference, there are not a lot of communities looking to use a barge on July 3, the barge is expensive and is an additional expense, and it's about the date and beach access.

If Commissioners should vote Aye for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nay for the 4<sup>th</sup>. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Boron  
NAYS: Covey, Lutton, Onderdonk, Brooks  
ABSENT: None

Motion failed, the fireworks will remain on July 4.

Approval of Ordinance No. 902: Authorizing the Sale of Linden House (233 Linden Avenue, Lot 1): A motion was made by Commissioner Onderdonk to approve of Ordinance No. 902: Authorizing the Sale of Linden House at 233 Linden Avenue Lot as presented. Commissioner Boron seconded the motion. Discussion ensued including per citizen comments, should we take more time for community input that they are not aware of it however time has been adequate, facts are clear we have been talking about and made it clear for well over a year, it should not go to referendum as commissioners have studied the facts and voters elected us to make a decision, and we could take

more time but do not feel it will change the outcome. There is one objector at this meeting and one objector at the Village meeting all other objectors at the Village meeting left when they found out only the house would be sold, not the park land. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Boron, Covey, Lutton, Onderdonk, Brooks

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed.

Approval of the Glencoe Beach Halfway House Bid: A motion was made by Commissioner Boron to approve the lowest responsible bidder, Red Feather Painting Company of Glenview IL, for Base Bid A, A1, A2, A3, A4, for a total of \$134,000 as presented. Commissioner Lutton seconded the motion. Director Leiner explained that the lowest bidder was also the high bidder on the other project. Leiner had a meeting to make sure there were no misunderstandings. It is a statement project for contractors who are trying to break into certain communities. The architect thought we might have an issue with the lowest bidder, so went deeper to make sure the project would be completed as requested. The building is 90 years in and we do not know what will happen. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Boron, Covey, Lutton, Onderdonk, Brooks

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed.

Review and Approval of Closed Session Minutes 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21): A motion was made by Commissioner Lutton to approve and keep confidential executive session minutes including April 2, 2019 and July 9, 2019 as mandated by 5ILCS120/2 (c)(21). Commissioner Boron seconded the motion. No further discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Boron, Covey, Lutton, Onderdonk, Brooks

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: Commissioner Boron moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. Commissioner Onderdonk seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Sheppard  
Secretary