GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 Green Bay Road
Glencoe, Illinois 60022

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE
6 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Present were Committee members Bob Kimble (Chair), Hilary Lee, and Jack Weinberg. Staff present included Executive Director/Secretary Don Van Arsdale, Director of Operations Steve Nagle, Director of Parks Rick Bold, Takiff Center Facilities Supervisor Brooke Mulcahy, and Executive Assistant Nancy Symonds.

Members of the public in attendance included Glencoe residents: Tom Burr, 545 Washington; Trent Cornell, 538 Monroe; Peter Hecht, 235 Dennis; Andre Lerman, 244 Hazel, Laurie Morse, 271 Hawthorn; Mary Motley, 244 Lincoln Drive; Vera and Klaus Muller-Bergh, 246 Dennis Lane; Jim Nyeste, 258 Maple Hill; Les Ordman, 120 Crescent Drive; A. Popovici, 260 Lincoln Drive; Carol and Robert Reed, 10 Crescent Drive; and Nina Schroeder, 225 Lincoln Drive.

Approval of Meeting Minutes. Ms. Lee moved to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2011 meeting as presented. Commissioner Weinberg seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Matters from the Public. At this point in the meeting Chair Kimble requested a change in the order of the agenda and have discussion of 3N Park discussed before other agenda items for this meeting.

Discussion of 3N park (Dennis Lane and Old Green Bay Road). Commissioner Kimble informed those in attendance that discussion of 3N Park is being considered this evening and it has nothing to do with any proposal from Glencoe Baseball Association (GBA) and is for discussion of how the park is currently being used. He stated there is no action the Committee can do and the comments expressed today may be taken to the Board. He stated that letters were sent to more than 100 neighbors of the park inviting them to attend this meeting.

He then asked if anyone would like to speak. The first to speak was Mary Motley. She began her comments by reading letters from neighbors who were unable to attend the meeting this evening. Primary concerns addressed in the letters from the neighbors of the park include the size of the park which is not large enough for organized sports, there is limited parking available, the park serves as a buffer from train noises in the neighborhood, safety issues with children running across the street to the playground, the park is open space and not suitable for organized athletic use, and vehicular traffic is an issue.
Commissioner Weinberg inquired about the age group for the playground across the street. Director of Parks Bold indicated the playground is for 5 – 12 year olds.

Executive Director Van Arsdale informed those present of the District’s Ordinance No. 700 which describes the use of parks in the village which states in Section 2.33:

(1) No Person shall engage in softball or baseball games except in those parks which have established diamonds and backstops constructed for that purpose, or such other areas as may be specifically designated by the District;

(2) In those parks having established softball or baseball diamonds, participation in softball or baseball in areas other than established diamonds is limited in accordance with signs or notices posted by the District;

(3) In those parks having established softball or baseball diamonds, the type of recreation on said diamonds shall be in accordance with posted signs or notices posted by the District.

He indicated he has heard from several residents who live near 3N Park about use of the park early in the morning for what the neighbors thought was an organized use of the park. This park was not designated for organized sports activities with any affiliated sports organizations. The residents don’t mind the occasional use of the park. He stated per park ordinance all parks are available for use from sunrise to sunset.

Commissioner Weinberg indicated that parking enforcement is the responsibility of Public Safety.

Next to speak was Carol Reed. Ms. Reed indicated her concern about parking on Crescent. It is a short, dead end street and not suitable for parking. She was concerned if a proposal to use the park for baseball or other organized use was being considered.

Commissioner Kimble indicated he is not a member of the board of Glencoe Baseball Association and said the park has been used for practices in the past, but not for games; this park might need to be used because of the limited number of fields. GBA does not play any of its games at 3N Park.

Commissioner Weinberg stated there is plenty of parking along Old Green Bay Road and people should park there.

Next to speak was Laurie Morse. She appreciated the meeting tonight and thought the park should serve each age group and she was concerned that GBA might have its own agenda. She continued her comments by stating the Strategic Plan, which was accepted by the Board, had other high priority items which needed to be addressed, including a community garden. She did not want the discussion of 3N Park to continue.

Ms. Motley stated she is not against having families play in the parks.
Commissioner Weinberg stated 3N Park used to be an outdoor skating rink and it has changed its use over time and games used to be played there. There is no formal request to expand the use the park.

Commissioner Kimble indicated that last year a report was presented to the Committee to primarily address drainage issues in the neighbor with impact the park. Mr. Van Arsdale noted the report was paid for by GBA. There is no further action on this report.

Nina Schroeder was the next resident to speak. She indicated one of the reasons people move to Glencoe is the parks. She stated 3N Park is only used in desperation and rogue teams cannot be controlled. The park is not large enough for organized play and is prone to flooding. She stated parking is an issue and she felt there is enough parking along Old Green Bay Road and she suggested that Public Safety be contacted. She continued by stating that 3N Park is used for a meeting place for many Glencoe parents and their children.

Ms. Motley reiterated she is not against playing in the park and flooding is an issue in the area.

Ms. Reed stated the park is not the place for organized sports and practices were okay, but not games.

Commissioner Kimble reminded those in attendance there is no proposal for organized sports to be held at 3N Park.

Commissioner Lee indicated she wanted to set the record straight and stated the park used to be an outdoor skating rink with a warming house and softball games were played there.

Next to speak was Alex Popovici. He stated he and his family recently moved to Glencoe and lives near 3N Park. He expressed concern that the park is too close to residents' homes and organized sports might change the character of the neighborhood with increased traffic and noise. He said with increased use, there is an increase in cars and garbage. He has a young daughter and likes the quiet area. When his wife and he bought their home, they knew what to expect. He continued by stating the backstop, which is currently there, is an eyesore.

Commissioner Kimble stated before the use of the park would change, there would be a series of public meetings before anything would occur.

Next to speak was Mr. Klaus Muller-Bergh who expressed concerns about preservation and the environment, the architectural heritage of over building of homes, fiscal responsibility with real estate taxes increasing, traffic concerns and the impact on home owners. He also expressed concern about members of the Park Board also being on the board of GBA.

Commissioner Lee stated that when this item has been discussed by the Committee or the Board, both Messrs. Brohman and Kimble have recused themselves so there is no conflict of interest.
Commissioner Weinberg stated because of the size of Glencoe, quite often one resident might have to serve on the board of affiliate organizations and members will recuse themselves from discussion. There are five Commissioners on the Park Board and no one can do anything on his/her own.

Mr. Muller-Bergh is concerned about any proposal.

Commissioner Lee indicated there is no plan.

Mr. Van Arsdale explained that there is a backstop currently in the park and under the current Ordinance, the park can be used. He continued by stating GBA members are also residents and tax payers, along with the other residents of Glencoe.

Ms. Schroeder asked if something could be done with the backstop.

Mrs. Reed stated she likes to have families use the park, but not for organized sports.

Mrs. Muller-Bergh indicated no parking signs would be nice; Mr. Van Arsdale indicated that would be the Village’s responsibility.

Mr. Kimble thanked those in the audience for attending and the residents of 3N Park would be informed of any changes in the use of 3N Park for the betterment of all.

**Discussion of Roof Consultant Bid Results.** Commissioner Kimble asked Mr. Nagle to lead the discussion on this agenda item. Mr. Nagle stated this item is being discussed because the roof at the Takiff Center needs to be replaced and there are many challenges in doing it properly. There are several sections to the roof. The staff had previously reviewed the scope of work involved in the roof replacement and felt it was important to have a consultant assist with the project because there were so many variables involved in the project. Mr. Nagle indicated a Request for Proposal was submitted and bids were opened on April 1, 2011.

Staff has reviewed the proposals and recommends that STR Building Resources LLC be retained as the roof consultant for a lump sum fee of $7,500. Mr. Nagle continued by stating it is anticipated to have the bid proposals for the roof replacement available in June and the replacement to occur in August when there is limited use of the Takiff Center and the replacement would cause the least amount of disruption.

After discussion, the Committee reached consensus on the roof consultant proposal and it would be brought forward to the Board for its action.

**Discussion of Glencoe Park District/Glencoe Baseball Association Batting Cage Update** Commissioner Kimble asked Mr. Nagle to discuss this item. Mr. Nagle began by indicating Tom Burr from GBA was also in attendance at this meeting. Mr. Nagle indicated the proposal is for a batting cage to be installed in the Takiff Center gymnasium. The batting cage would be paid for by GBA and made available for affiliates. The use of the gymnasium would continue as it is with the current affiliate priority use policy.
Mr. Burr said this indoor batting cage would be in addition to the outdoor batting cage at Watts.

Commissioner Weinberg inquired about the use access to this batting cage. Mr. Nagle stated the use requires an access key and staff will have access to the key.

Mr. Van Ardsale indicated that Public Safety has been informed of the installation of the batting cage and it is designed not to impact the sprinkler heads mounted in the ceiling of the gymnasium.

Mr. Nagle continued by stating a proposed agreement has been submitted to GBA for its review and the agreement will be presented to the Board for its review for the June regular Board meeting.

Other  There was no further business brought before the Committee at this time.

Adjourn  With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Weinberg and a second from Commissioner Lee.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald P. Van Arsdale
Secretary
Here is a copy of the letter I have asked Mary Motley to pass out to the board tomorrow night. Thought you might like to see it ahead of time. Best, Madeleine Plonsker

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Madeleine Plonsker  
To: Mary Motley  
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2011 2:04 PM  
Subject: Fw: My letter to the board

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Madeleine Plonsker  
To: marylyon@mtholyoke.edu  
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2011 2:02 PM  
Subject: My letter to the board

MADELEINE P. PLONSKER

232 Lincoln Drive  

Glencoe, Illinois 60022-1330  

847-835-0434

May 15, 2011

Glencoe Park Board Members

Takiff Center

900 Green Bay Road

Glencoe, Illinois 60022

Ladies and Gentlemen:
I have lived in Glencoe for 41 years at our current address and 30 years before that in Hubbard Woods. The land you are seeking to use has never been used for a sports league during my lifetime. My uncle lived on Dennis Lane when I was a child so I have always been aware of the land acting as a buffer zone between the train track noise and the residential area of small streets that lay behind. The parkland along the railroad tracks between Park Avenue and Maple Hill has always been used for quiet enjoyment.

We have Takiff, West School, Central School, and Watts parks that have always been used for organized sports. I have personally tracked the activities at all the active sports areas for the 3 months beginning last May. Never at any time was there full use of any area -- particularly Takiff. Though I was provided with a spring sports schedule from the Park District, I noticed that not all the fields were ever in use at their designated times.

I hear that the board has proposed not only a large batting cage, but tall wire extended fences on either side. These could work perfectly at Takiff where they would not be seen by the entire neighborhood, and where the noise of teams practicing and playing would be better absorbed.

Teams tend to be loud and voices carry. Last fall, a team from elsewhere came to play soccer at 3N. We were awakened to the sound of megaphones and yelling early on a Saturday morning. A baseball team appeared 2 weeks ago at 5pm and loudly did drills until 6:30. We have always had our privacy on Lincoln Drive, and I would hope to be able to keep it that way. A ballfield at the end of the street does not accomplish this -- it destroys it.

Please take the time yourself to look into a better location for the GBA where they can have all the fun they want without disturbing an entire neighborhood used to having it's privacy.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Madeleine P. Plonsker
Dear Mr. Van Arsdale,

We are writing you with regards to the meeting on 3N Park.

We are the people mostly affected by the future use of the park, which is directly on the West border of our property at 260 Lincoln Drive, so we would like the board to know our position.

We moved to Glencoe six months ago, and the primary reason we decided to buy a house and live here was the peaceful and quiet surroundings of the neighborhood, the green parks where we can walk and enjoy the nature, and where our two years old daughter can play outside safely.

Being parents ourselves, we understand the need of young children to have a place where to play, therefore we encourage the occasional recreational use of the park by children and young adults. However, we are strongly convinced that 3N Park is not a suitable place to be used by formally organized sports groups for the following reasons.

Firstly, 3N Park is too close to residential housing areas to be used safely for organized sports (baseball, football, soccer, etc).

Secondly, our neighborhood is a quiet residential area, with little traffic, low noise level and green surroundings. A dedicated sports field for organized sports groups will have a negative impact on the character of the neighborhood by increasing the traffic and the noise levels as well as posing a significant danger for the toddlers and preschool children who play close to the children’s playground in front of 3N Park. The mentioned playground is a meeting point for the Glencoe moms and their little ones for playing and organizing activities in the summer. There are increasing worries that changing the present status of 3N Park will have an impact on the use of the playground for toddlers and preschool children activities.

Therefore we would like the 3N Park area to remain as it is and strongly oppose any use by formally organized groups or any improvements to the parcel related to sports activities. Instead, we suggest increasing the natural character of the parcel by planting new trees to keep it in harmony with the quiet and peaceful character of the neighborhood.

Kind Regards,

Alex Popovici and Elisa Cerri-Popovici

260 Lincoln Drive,

Glencoe 60022

847-786-4071
May 17, 2011

Glencoe Park District Board of Trustees
Glencoe, IL. 60022

Greetings,

We understand that the use of the 3N parcel is again being discussed by the board, and we would like, once again, to make known our position.

As you may know, we reside one house removed from the parcel in question and while we are not opposed to the occasional recreational use of this area by children and young adults, we strongly oppose its use by any formally organized groups. Furthermore, we oppose any and all improvements to the parcel including, but not limited to, drainage, re-landscaping, fences, lighting, batting cages, and sport markings. We would like this area to remain as-is so that area residents may enjoy what little quiet this area has to offer, and so that users of that parcel are afforded some measure of safety.

We also believe that any incremental expansion of use, will lead to further expansion of activities, attract more outsiders and detract from the park-like character of the lawn, and will further burden the storm water drainage system in the area.

We wish to thank the board for it's service to the community and urge it to honor our request.

Thank you.

The Schlaeger family