Roll Call The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. and the roll was called. Present were Chair Max Retsky, President Trent Cornell, and Bob Kimble. Also present was Commissioner Andre Lerman. Staff present included Executive Director Don Van Arsdale, Manager of Recreation Services Emily Vanderkamp, Athletic Program Manager Kraig Owens, Arts and Youth Program Manager Breanne Schnoor, and Executive Assistant Nancy Symonds.

Approval of November 9, 2011 and December 6, 2011 Recreation Committee Minutes Committee Chair Retsky moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2011 and December 6, 2011 meetings as amended. Commissioner Kimble seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Matters from the Public There was no one present wishing to address the Committee at this time.

Discussion of HYF Negotiations Executive Director Van Arsdale stated Director of Recreation DeClerck and he will meet with Ms. Boris in the near future to begin negotiations for her new agreement to offer programs. Mr. Owens indicated Ms. Boris will honor her fitness passport/punch cards through May 31, 2012.

Proposed Tennis Program Fee Recommendation Athletic Program Manager Owens began the discussion by stating he had contacted area park districts to learn more about their fee structure for the tennis programs. He stated the District’s current fees are competitive with area districts. Mr. Van Arsdale stated it was important to have standardized fees and price point. Discussion continued.

After discussion, the Committee concurred with staff’s tennis fees as presented and the item will be recommended for Board approval.

Recreation Program Analysis As discussed at the last Committee meeting, staff was asked to review recreation programs to determine a plan for increasing enrollment. Mr. Van Arsdale began the report by stating the Recreation Department staff and he met to discuss the programs which could be reviewed. The programs selected were based on their historic value to the District, core program that the District should offer and potential to be significantly revenue positive. Program revitalization considerations include elements generated from customer feedback, staffing, session format, and marketing plan. He continued by stating that staff would like to review the basketball program, the karate program, Kinder Culture and the Early Learning Center’s 2 year old program. Discussion ensued. Mr. Owens stated the basketball program is going well; however there are other basketball opportunities available.
He indicated younger children try many sports until they decide which one sport to play. Being on a travel basketball team is a large commitment for the children and their families. He continued by stating there is a strong connection with Ms. Marla Cohen and her staff for karate students. He indicated the time of the karate classes fluctuates.

Arts and Youth Program Manager Schnoor stated Kinder Culture is offered at Watts. Discussion continued. It was suggested that Kinder Culture could be combined with the District’s Introduction to the Arts class, which is offered at the Takiff Center. She indicated School District #35 is teaching more art programs and has altered its curriculum to match up directly with District offerings.

President Cornell stated he felt more programs could be offered at Watts. Ms. Schnoor indicated that the Recreation Department has included additional furniture and equipment for Watts in the capital budget for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Van Arsdale stated the Early Learning Center 2 year old programs is an important introduction to the District and other programs offered at the Takiff Center and it would start the progression to other District programs.

President Cornell remarked that reviewing these programs will set the stage for revised programs. Mr. Van Arsdale indicated one consideration is the changing demographics of Glencoe.

At the direction of the Committee, staff will develop ideas for revitalizing the basketball, karate, Kinder Culture/Introduction to the Arts, and Early Learning Center 2 year programs and report to the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Other Business Commissioner Kimble stated he was talking to a friend of his who attends events at the Takiff Center through the North Shore Senior Center’s Oasis program. He enjoys the Takiff Center and the programs offered by Oasis.

Other There was some discussion about scheduling the next Recreation Committee meeting. A date was not scheduled.

Adjourn With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Kimble and a second by President Cornell.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald P. Van Arsdale
Secretary