Minutes

Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. and the roll was called. Present were Committee members Trent Cornell (Chair) and Andre Lerman. Also in attendance was Commissioner Max Retsky (President). Staff present included Interim Executive Director/Secretary Steve Nagle, and Director of Parks Rick Bold.

Members of the public in attendance include Glencoe residents Bob Footlik, 940 Sheridan Road; Steve Gaines, 655 Greenwood; Seth Palatnik and his daughter, 1191 Fairfield. Also in attendance was Jon Faris, Writers’ Theatre.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2012 and December 17, 2012
Commissioner Lerman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Committee Chair Cornell 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

Commissioner Kimble arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Discussion of Friends Park Renovation. Mr. Cornell stated the staff has continued the review of the train concept design for the renovated park. Mr. Cornell then asked Interim Executive Director Nagle to bring the Committee and audience members up-to-date on proposed plans for the park. He stated jump/fall zones are required for several of the play pieces. Cost estimates were also discussed. Discussion ensued with regard to stone seating areas. The stage area included in the design concept could be added at a later date. It was also discussed that the renovation could take several phases to complete. Discussion ensued with regard to the ultimate use of the park.

Commissioner Kimble expressed concern about the overall scope of the project and realistic timelines for this project. He appreciates the community input and would like more if it. He would like to consider the possibility of fundraising efforts which were done when the park was renovated in the mid-1990s. He felt it was important to have ADA accessible elements in the design and also to include design elements which the community will enjoy and use. He thought it was important to reach out to the families with young children to give their input with regard to new play pieces and developments in playground design.
Commissioner Cornell then explored the District’s fund balances for this project and other capital needs of the District. Mr. Nagle stated currently $250,000 in the District’s capital account is requested to be allotted in the fiscal year 2013/2014 budget and $50,000 from the NSSRA as part of its 5 i 8 special recreation funding allocation. Discussion continued with regard to capital items which might not be completed. Commissioner Lerman inquired about other capital items which would not be completed in order to complete the Friends Park renovation. Discussion of capital items will be held at an upcoming Finance Committee of the Whole meeting as the budget planning process proceeds.

Mr. Nagle stated the concept being presented has a combination of mulch and rubberized surfaces and accessible access throughout the renovated park.

Mr. Cornell then mentioned the possibility of selling the park house which is currently vacant. Mr. Cornell stated years ago park districts had housing for their directors so the director lives in the same community and over the decades the park district houses have been sold. Commissioner Kimble addressed concern about selling District and if the residents want the District to sell park district property as a possible funding source.

Discussion continued with regard to the percentages of mulch and the rubberized surface of the park.

Mr. Cornell then asked for comments from the audience. Mr. Cornell then recognized Mr. Gaines. Mr. Gaines felt it was important to have a timeline for this project and it was also important that it be done correctly. He thought the Board might be missing an opportunity if the residents are not included discussion of this renovation. To a question from Commissioner Lerman, Mr. Gaines felt it was important get input from families with young children to get their feedback and thoughts on the renovated park, plan a timeline, and budget. Messrs. Lerman and Gaines stated their then school age children felt they had a part in the design of Friends Park. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cornell stated that residents of Glencoe expect good quality playgrounds. He would like to take the train concept design and get more specific information for budget review.

Commissioner Kimble stated he felt it was important to learn what the residents want in the new park. Commissioner Cornell stated it was important the five Board members are comfortable with the concept plan and share it with the community to keep the process going forward. Ms. Retisky inquired if Messrs. Kimble and Gaines would be interested in spearheading fund-raising efforts based on their previous fund-raising experience. Ms. Retisky stated fund-raising could be difficult because it is still a difficult economic time. Mr. Gaines stated it was important to get younger families involved in the process. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Lerman commended the staff for its ability to keep the project moving forward.

Mr. Kimble stated the concept is well designed and accessible.
Mr. Faris stated he appreciated the opportunity to look at the concept plans and was enthusiastic about the opportunities which Writers’ Theatre and the library would have with story-telling times at the park.

Mr. Cornell stated that the equipment in Friends Park will be replaced because the standards for play equipment have changed including new play surfaces and larger jump/fall zones for the equipment.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have staff finalize the concept plan and financial information, regardless of fund-raising, and consider residents who might be willing to help with fund-raising.

Mr. Nagle stated the Recreation Department staff will be sharing information on Friends Park with children participating in District programs to get their input on the plan. He would also like to defer financial discussion so staff has the opportunity to develop more details for the project.

Director of Parks Bold stated the landscape architect can contact vendors to negotiate prices on equipment once the equipment style is selected. Mr. Bold stated stock play equipment is usually less expensive than custom equipment.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have the staff move forward with a topographical survey for Friends Park.

Other Business  There was no further discussion.

Adjourn  With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. on a motion from Commissioner Lerman and a second from Commissioner Cornell.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven T. Nagle

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Secretary