

MINUTES OF THE GLENCOE BEACH AND LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING JUNE 21,
2012. HELD AT GLENCOE BEACH, GLENCOE ILLINOIS

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Andre Lerman, Chair and Commissioner.

Roll Call: In attendance were Seth Palatnik, Linda Singer, Tom Welch, Andre Lerman, Lisa Brooks, Tom Sparks Gael Strong and Toni Risdon. Also in attendance from staff was Steve Nagle, Director of Facilities, and David Johnson, Facilities Supervisor. From the public in attendance were beach patrons Jack Smyth of Glencoe, Eric Brislawn of Buffalo Grove, Larry Smith of Glenview Karina Wang of Evanston and Jay Adler of Deerfield.

Tom Sparks called a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2012 meeting of the Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Advisory Group and Tom Welch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matters from the Public: Larry Smith spoke up about the great job staff is doing this year, commented on the beautiful new deck at the boat house, and said that the level of professionalism is higher this year than previous years. He also spoke out in support of the expanded swim area at the south beach and inquired about whether the swim buoys could be all moved about 20-30 feet south to provide more area for safety for sailboats leaving the beach launching area during Northeastern wind conditions. Jay Adler commented that on most days, this is not an issue, but during Northeastern winds, launching boats may drift towards the swim area with current buoy placement> Eric Brislawn also supported the expanded swim area but did also express concerns about buoy placement for safety during Northeastern wind launches. Lisa Brooks noted that that it's important to properly prioritize the size of the swim area relative to the boating area on the south beach.

Nagle responded that there is a south pier that needs to be separate and apart from the swim area, including a buffer zone in addition to the 20 feet needed for a swimmer to break a rip current. Currently there is 98 feet buffer between the current south end of the swim area and the south pier.

Adler also spoke about the importance of keeping swimmers away from the boat launch area and said that the expanded swim area helps alleviate the issue by providing swimmers with more space in the water. He said that it may be helpful to have some boating staff more visible on the south beach. He also praised the practice of placing cones to buffer the boat launch area. Wang mentioned a situation where she addressed swim patrons who were swimming in the launch area on the south side, and Nagle suggested that she should first talk to beach staff that is responsible for patron management and safety.

Smyth said that staff was fantastic this year and said that hopefully the district will not experience the exodus of beach staff at the height of the season as seen in previous years. Brislawn praised staff and its organization, thanked staff for the picnic table and garbage can at the south boating beach and requested that the garbage pickup be monitored so that it does not overflow, especially on weekends.

Beach staff report: Nagle recognized Johnson who works hard seven days a week to improve services and exceed expectations at the beach. He thanked the Advisory group for its useful input to get ready for the 2012 season and appreciated the passion and commitment of its members. He said that staff like working at the beach and appreciate the interaction.

Nagle noted that as a weather driven facility, patron traffic was higher than expected during Memorial Day with beautiful weather, and that weekend experienced the highest token sales in four years. He said that Johnson and his staff were well prepared for the increased volume. Last year at this time, the beach was closed 5 days for e-coli, this year only one. Nagle also noted that there is still advancement to do, including Rental Hut operations but safety related operations are good.

Nagle recognized the Safran family who donated funds for the recently opened "Sprayground", highlighted at a special ceremony in June.

Johnson noted that he hired quite a few new staff at the beach and put them through intensive training. He talked about his criteria for hiring and emphasized that he looked for people who care about the job, and are looking for a positive experience. Their number one objective is safety, and the guards have been very diligent with this responsibility. Nagle updated the group on water safety procedures and the access road repavement project and stairway repairs.

New initiatives; Nagle mentioned new approach using non lifeguard staff cross trained as beach services, and mentioned that this group went through extensive customer service training and role playing. . The entire beach staff is working on customer service, and he has high expectations of them.

Lifeguard in-service training is ongoing, twice a day. There are new staff recognition programs. On the boating side, there are two new Hobie getaways and also new sand covering materials for the rescue boat launch, and new "catrax". On the beach side, new pier umbrellas new guard chairs, and the new playground equipment, also new is signage using "universal language" to remind patrons about rules related to smoking, alcohol, and littering. He is also looking into a sign that says "Caution -- Boat Launch Area" for safety purposes.

Nagle mentioned that token sales are at 2600, of which Northbrook accounts for about 600. He is satisfied with the success of the shared aquatics program with Northbrook, and noted that there are about 150 Northbrook pool tokens sold to Glencoe residents at Northbrook resident rates.

Mission and Vision of beach discussion: Lerman solicited input and comments from the group to start a discussion about the Advisory group developing a recommendation to the Board about a "Mission and Vision statement" for the Glencoe Beach. There was general discussion about various points of view on this topic, and Lerman gave a "homework assignment" to the Group members to think about this topic some more, research what some of the other Park Districts and towns on the North Shore have come up with regarding mission and vision for their lakefront and beach, and be prepared to articulate their thoughts at the next Advisory group meeting, tentatively scheduled for July 24.

With no more business, Sparks motioned to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Strong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.