



**GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 Green Bay Road
Glencoe, Illinois 60022**

**GLENCOE BEACH AND LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP
Tuesday, October 9, 2012
7:30 p.m.**

A G E N D A

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – July 24, 2012 Meeting
3. Matters from the Public
4. Beach Report
5. Mission and Vision Exercise
6. Other
7. Adjourn

MEETING TO BE HELD AT 999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS

Celebrating 100 Years of FUN!

MINUTES OF THE GLENCOE BEACH AND LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING JUNE 28,
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 "cattrax". 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.

MINUTES OF THE GLENCOE BEACH AND LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING JULY 24,
2012. HELD AT GLENCOE BEACH, GLENCOE ILLINOIS

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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, John Fitzgerald, Jon Ruderman. Also in attendance from staff was Steve Nagle, Director of Facilities, and David Johnson, Facilities Supervisor. From the public in attendance were beach patrons Janet Lerman and Bob Footlik of Glencoe, Larry Smith of Glenview, and Dave Zupan of Cary.

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. Sparks motioned to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2012 Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Advisory meeting and Welch seconded. This motion was approved unanimously.

Beach Report: Nagle reported a "great July". The 4th of July fireworks event at the beach was a big success. Revenues are up compared to last year, in part thanks to the good weather and the arrangement with Northbrook that attracted over 195 families. Most sailing programs are filled up with great positive comments. Boating programs going strong with 2 regattas so far, two more scheduled. Two additional seasonal staff were hired to help with the fall season to ensure staffing for the fall weekend season. There is a family beach campout scheduled for Aug 3.

Matters from the public: Ruderman mentioned that staff has done a fabulous job this summer. He also mentioned that there was water seeping from the village owned drain pipe by the walkway to the north boating beach, and asked if that was being addressed. Nagle commented that he believed the Village did some work before the season but will check further. Ruderman also said that with the expanded swim area, there are instances in strong Northeast wind conditions and heavy surf -- that he noticed some boaters who launch can drift into the swim area, and suggested active instruction/supervision by harbor masters on the south sailing beach when those conditions exist. He also asked about beach closures, particularly July 4, and Nagle mentioned that closures were down from previous years, but there were closures on June 13, July 4, July 18, 19 and 20. There was further discussion about beach closures including when water samples are taken, who takes them, and how are they taken. In addition, mention was made of Elder Beach in Winnetka where there has been a crossage of a sewer and drainage pipe that emits untreated sewage into the lake, just south of Glencoe. Nagle noted that there is an IEPA study being done on this topic.

Welch commented that the weekend before Memorial Day was a hot, summerlike weekend drawing very large crowds who did not have access to washroom facilities, as this was the weekend before GPD

officially opened the beach. He said that the portable facility had bad smells and appeared to be overflowing, and asked about plans for making facilities available on a soft open basis during the “shoulder season” weekends before May opening, and in September after Labor Day close. Welch also noticed patrons skateboarding down the roadway past the halfway house and asked if staff should enforce rules around this. Welch also asked questions about enforcement of swimmers in non swimming areas, smoking, and daily fee scoffers who walk in the foliage down the bluff to the beach. Brooks also voice a question about enforcement of rules by seasonal staff.

Larry Smith commented that staff did a very good job keeping swimmers off the boating beach area for their safety.

Fitzgerald asked if GPD could get an easement from the village to use the beachfront by the water plant for rental launches.

Discussion on Staff Safety Patrol: Johnson and Nagle gave an overview of how seasonal staff performs patrols. Johnson said that supervisors do a patrol every half hour, but this year does not have a budget for a person whose primary job is to patrol on land to enforce park rules and handle crowd control. Nagle said that Public Safety comes down every night at 10 pm to close down the beach. Lerman thought that it may be difficult for a teenager seasonal staff to effectively enforce beach rules with nonresident adults on a crowded weekend, and suggested that perhaps next year some funds are budgeted for weekend and evening “security” personnel, who can discourage smokers, catch fee scofflaws, and help the younger seasonal staff better enforce rules. He referenced the staff at Ravinia who walk around with “quiet please” signs during certain concerts. Nagle said that that could be an easy model to implement, and said that such a presence could also help reduce after hours trash on the beach that currently needs to be cleaned up the next morning by seasonal staff. Palatnik said that these people should not be perceived as a policeman in a swimsuit, but be more approachable like a “Wal-Mart greeter”, and can have a shirt that says “Guest Services”.

Update on operational plans for remainder of season: Nagle noted that there are two additional boat staff to ensure coverage, after much of the seasonal staff leaves for college. Lerman asked if the south beach house could be staffed on weekends after Labor Day to allow use of facilities. Nagle said that there are plans for light staffing the weekend after Labor Day if it’s warm and not raining. Johnson noted that it’s difficult to staff much beyond that, and noted that there are plans to add a second portable facility to better support restroom needs of users after the beach is closed.

Mission and Vision: Lerman briefed the Group on the board’s desire for the Group to present their concept of the “Mission and Vision” of the beach at a board meeting sometime this fall. He circulated copies of beach master plans for Wilmette, Highland Park (Rosewood), Evanston and Lake Forest prior to the meeting as some examples of what other community advisory groups are doing, noting that he feels Glencoe should map out its own path that is unique to the needs of our community and property. He suggested that such a presentation be organized into three sections: 1.) Natural Environment; 2.) Built Environment; and 3.) Programming and Operations. Johnson noted that such a document would be very helpful when making long term plans for beach development.

Singer said that a mission could include the following: “To preserve natural resources while allowing the community to enjoy of the lakefront and its beauty”.

Ruderman noted that we should clearly state that there not be a swimming pool on site. That we do not want to have any paved ramp or roadway to the shoreline. And that we investigate sources of pollution.

Bob Footlik noted that Trellis lighting should be explored. With regards to “guest services”, he noted that there are many retired police and firemen who would qualify for such a role. He would like to have GPD do things to get more people in the community down to the beach, such as an adult exercise area, more Yoga classes, and other ways to bring people down especially on weekdays.

Palatnik noted that there should be a zone for lap swimmers, similar to efforts by Chicago to create lap lanes in the areas adjacent to Oak Street Beach. He suggested a lap lane immediately beyond the edge of the swimming area.

Brooks noted that preserving the natural beauty is paramount. The beach needs to be promoted better to residents, taking into account changing demographics, and trying to figure out what would bring more people down, especially women walkers.

Welch said he wanted to keep the natural beauty, and does not want an overbuilt “Disneyland”. “GPD does not have to develop 100% of the space.” He also said there needs to be better use of the water plant area, and the South Beach shed’s active life and replacement should be addressed.

Strong wants to keep the informal character of the beach, preserving the views from the bluff so residents can see the lake, and said that there are some plants (Sumacs) that have grown in the past five years that are starting to obstruct these views. She asked about the tree maintenance program for preserving views on the bluff. She also spoke out against a “cement launch”.

Sparks asked about the overall capacity and development constraints of the beach space. He wants to preserve its character, and not be exclusive like Lake Forest, and not a free for all like Chicago. He said that Glencoe has a unique habitat, but we need to do some work on bluff restoration.

Fitzgerald said that Glencoe has the premier small boat area on the north shore and wants to keep the tradition. He suggested using volunteer talent in the boat club to help train and mentor staff.

Ruderman added that years ago, the junior fleet was a great way to get kids 12-18 interested in sailing and would like to see something like this resurrected.

Lerman suggested that a motto could be “progress without change”, preserving the current character and family oriented feel of the beach, while continually improving the offerings, operations of the beach, and paying attention to maintenance and opportunities for replacement (or careful/mindful enhancement) of the natural and built environment as needed. He said he was not interested in the type of development (artificial bays) planned for Rosewood Beach and that exists at Lake Forest. He said that the group will work to craft a more formal draft document in preparation for a presentation to the Park Board, and the comments at today’s meeting were a good starting point.

Nagle said that at some point in a formal process, a consultant could canvass users and the community to get additional input, and then to facilitate a process to create a long term plan for improvement in accordance with the needs of the community and patrons.

Next meeting: No date was set.

Other: There was no other business.

Motion to adjourn by Welch, seconded by Strong. Unanimously approved at 8:38 p.m.

Draft Beach Area Mission and Vision Statement for Master Planning

Illustrative draft for discussion purposes, developed informally from input the Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Advisory Group and collected by Andre Lerman with help from Tom Spark. This is merely a discussion document to assist in the mission and vision statement exercise and not a formal statement of any sort.

Introduction

The Beaches, Bluff, and Bluff Park area (the "Area") is special; perhaps unique. It is the crown jewel among the Glencoe Park District's assets and one of the things that give Glencoe its "Mayberry like" hometown feel. It is imperative to recognize what makes it special and retain and protect these qualities.

Natural Environment

Mission Statement: To preserve the serenity, natural beauty, vistas, and ecosystems of the Bluff Park, Bluff Overlook, Beach, and shoreline.

Assets:

The Bluff Park is a nice balance, with pathway, benches, and picnic tables providing access to spectacular vistas of Lake Michigan and Glencoe Beach shoreline, copious open space, yet also a tot-lot and tennis courts next to the Park Ave street-end turnaround.

The Bluff Overlooks are a true gem, with beautiful stonework, benches, views and intelligent flower plantings.

The ecosystem immediately below the Bluff was cleared years ago and native plants have returned, bringing a marvelous melange of flowers, insects, and birds.

The Glencoe Beach's open shoreline is a treasure for the unobstructed views of Lake Michigan it affords.

What's Working: Serenity, beauty, ambience, open space, access to the Lake. Long views East and South. A long view North along the shoreline and pier. Natural bluff and waterfront views from the bluff.

What's Not Working: Built Environment has competed for space with the natural environment, and the Advisory Group believes that where at all possible, the natural environment should take precedence. There is erosion on bluff area and resulting damages to halfway house and stairs and paths off the overlook where patrons and daily fee scoffers have created "scars" along the bluff. Bluff Ecosystem needs maintenance, removal of invasives, plan for attracting and retaining diverse species of flora and fauna. In addition, some of the natural areas borders at the beach level appear to be in need of weeding and pruning. Also, there are some concerns about the water testing system in terms of accuracy and timeliness, and concerns about reducing sources of pollution near Glencoe Beach.

Vision of the Future: Well-planned and maintained natural areas, open spaces, beauty, serenity and vistas. Utilize botany experts to plan plantings to recreate indigenous ecosystem and attract insects and birds. Expand this ecosystem as feasible. Policy to balance public access/crowding and the management and regulation of its consequences on natural assets and historic character. Reduced beach closures due to pollution, or faulty water testing protocols.

Suggested next steps: Immediate removal of overgrowth on bluff to restore open areas for flowers and vistas. Consult with botany experts to determine best mix of annual and perennial plants to attract desired fauna. Regular program of weeding and clearing of unwanted growth at beach level. Better understand littoral drift and opportunities to take advantage to increase sand space on the beach. Staff should explore protocols for water testing and proactively examine sources of water pollution near the Glencoe Beach, becoming an advocate to eliminate or reduce pollution.

Built Environment

Mission Statement: To provide limited infrastructure and amenities for recreational and instructional activities and access to the area's natural beauty.

Assets:

Swimming Beach: Beach house, Sprayground, volleyball, sunshelters/trellis, rental hut, pier, and swimming area. Boating Beaches (South and North): Boating spaces, lockers, and Boathouse. Bluff Overlook: benches and stonework wall. The stone entry structures are a signature for the Glencoe community and must be maintained and refurbished on a regular basis.

What's Working: Infrastructure additions (sunshelters/trellis) and improvements (beachhouse) and limited commercialization (shelter and kayak rentals) have improved the beach-going experience.

What's Not Working: Halfway House and stairs structure repairs (currently in process). Space at the Beach is a highly valued asset but not always maximized for its highest and best use, and there are some assets that have outlived their useful life and need to be replaced (South beach shed), or can be relocated to provide additional area on the beach for patron use (south beach driveway to water plant). There is also underutilized beachfront directly East of the water plant that could be put to better use. And there may be opportunities to do some reconfiguring of the south beach house to increase its utility to patrons.

Vision for the future: For the most part, the Advisory Group feels that the Glencoe Beach is fully and sufficiently developed as is, and there is no real drive to do any major development similar to Lake Forest and planned development at Rosewood Beach. There should be no plans for a cement launch. Future development should be done more

as part of a replacement cycle than adding to the development/commercialization of the beach. However, there may be opportunities to enhance the Beach without changing the basis character of the facility.

Suggested Next Steps: Replace boating storage shed on South Beach with new, more useful structure. Expand the number of boating lockers on the South Beach which may also be offered to non boater families for beach item storage. Consider redesign of boat and locker spaces on both beaches to better utilize beach space including redesign of the driveway space directly west of the South Beach lockers. Explore possible uses of park district owned beach land south of the Trellis, perhaps an expanded event area. Explore ideas around extending the south beach pier to help capture the littoral drift and expand sand area. Review and consider upgrades to Beach House, including installing better drains in shower areas, reconfigured space possibly reducing footprint of concessions.

There are also opportunities to do some joint planning with the Village regarding possible usage of Water Plant and the surrounding land. The Park District should work with the village to examine opportunities to utilize deck atop the water plant for private events, and also to find ways to better utilize the beach front areas directly east of the water plant, including perhaps a decked catwalk to provide safer access between the North and South beaches. In addition, GPD should work with the Village to address drainage pipe overflow issues near stairway to north boating beach.

At some point, the GPD board may want to initiate a formal facilities and open space planning process for the Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Park using a qualified consulting firm, and our Group would welcome the opportunity to contribute to that process. If and when a formal planning process takes place, the Advisory Group would also suggest that the Village be included as a partner in the process, particularly since a Plat of Survey of the total beach area would include pockets of Village owned land within the Beach footprint, including the water plant.

Finally, the top of the bluff and the Lakefront Park could use a longer term plan for benches, foliage, replacement of playground equipment and exercise equipment, and possible repaving of the path with bricks, in order to enhance the look and feel of the Lakefront Park. Possible discussion of other walking path options.

Programming and Operations

Mission Statement: To provide access to the beach for recreational, educational and skill-building activities, within the context of maintaining the Area's natural beauty. To maintain the current high quality of infrastructure. Provide access by non-residents while keeping the "Mayberry like" hometown feel regarding behavior, crowding and burden on the area.

Assets: Sailing instruction. Access by summer camps. Family campouts and sleepovers. 4th of July Fireworks. Inclusiveness.

What's Working: The planning process which includes an annual survey, and deep dialogue between staff, the Advisory Group and the Board was a big success in preparing for the 2012 season. Access by summer camps. Programs for families and group parties in the Trellis. Sun shelters for groups. Live Music. 4th of July. Adding two new Hobie Getaways was a big positive for the sailing programs. Seasonal staff appeared to be very motivated in 2012, and generally responded well to most situations, and there was sufficient staff throughout the season. Traditional boating beach services (rescue via jet ski, staff help) model. Expansion of the swim beach was helpful on busy weekends reducing the need for swimmers to be outside the swim area, creating a clearer boundary between swimmers and boaters. Addition of additional portable facilities also a plus, particularly during the “shoulder season” after the beach house is formally closed.

What's Not Working: A gradual change in the character of the Beach including a noticeable increase in crowds, litter and smoking on hot summer weekends. At times, there are some noticeable issues surrounding patron behavior combined with a lack of enforcement or control by beach seasonal staff. These can lead to safety issues with swimmers outside of swimming area. There are also some apparent operational gaps between supervisors and seasonal employees at the boating beach. Also on weekends, there is increased parking congestion and heavy traffic flow.

Vision of the Future: Balance of access with preserving what makes Glencoe Beach/Bluff special. Not exclusive like Lake Forest, but not chaos like Chicago. Clear, direct, proactive role for resident feedback and action on this feedback. This would involve policies to enforce a rational comprehensive approach to rule dissemination and enforcement, particularly with respect to litter, smoking and fee-pays. This may include some awareness and prioritization toward enforcement, particularly on weekends when the beach is more crowded. Need to ensure continuation of staff and management responsiveness and accountability to resident and patron concerns. Proactive utilization of Public Safety to back up Staff.

Suggested Next Steps: Explore the need for having some mature seasonal staff to support younger staff in enforcement situations. Continued focus on beach and boathouse management including use of onsite beach and boathouse managers who are present all day on weekends. Review policies related to how the halfway house admission process is managed including rules and consequences; enforcing prohibition on auto traffic; connectivity with Public Safety and mature seasonal staff for enforcement.

Develop a maximum capacity model, and manage attendance accordingly. Explore parking and traffic controls. Determine if and when overcrowding has reached carrying capacity of the area. Evaluate options for new permanent signage to replace the tired signs at the Lakefront Park and at the beach entry.

Consider moving the swim beach area about 20 - 30 feet south to take advantage of the wide stretch of shoreline between the south end of the swim beach and the pier. Such a move would still leave 70-80 feet clearance which should be sufficient for safety purposes.

Boathouse needs a “full time” qualified boat house manager who is fully trained in all aspects of operations and commands respect of the team. Operational policies and procedures need to be reviewed and approved by Facilities Manager and then implemented by the boat house manager on a real time basis, especially on weekends. Consider better use of some of the boat space area on the north beach to increase capacity. As safety is a key concern, GPD should replace the broken jet ski in order to have two units available.

Tennis courts need signage detailing rules and proper attire.

Review system for admittance for day passes patrols. Catch scofflaws who come down from the Bluff, or who use the water plant stairs. Develop a plan for skelton staffing of the south beach house for warm weekends in late May and early September.

Facilities staff should proactively work closely with the Recreation staff to develop weekday programs that encourage residents and patrons to use the beach, including adult exercise classes, yoga, etc.

Review and improve rental hut operations. Be more proactive on boat rental by storing rental boats on south beach and have a boat rigged on weekends. Create a better system to encourage boat rentals and skippered rentals. In addition, the Hobie Getaway fleet should be expanded to at least four boats to enable all sailing program students to be trained on the same type of boat at the same time. The development of a junior fleet program should be encouraged.

Determine if the current concession arrangement meets the needs of patrons in terms of quality and pricing.

Facility manager should do a proactive inventory of all assets large and small at the end of the season to recommend cleaning, repair or replacement as part of the following year planning process.