

APPROVED

MINUTES OF AN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING OF
THE GLENCOE BEACH AND LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP OF
THE GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were members Andre Lerman (Commissioner and Chair), Scott Goldberg, Lisa Brooks, John Fitzgerald, Linda Singer, Tom Sparks, Susan Isaacson, Gael Strong, Tom Welch, and associate member Toni Risdon. Also present from Park District staff were Don Van Arsdale, Executive Director; Steve Nagle, Director of Facilities; and David Johnson, Facilities Manager. Member Jon Ruderman arrived at 7:40 p.m. and Seth Palatnik arrived at 8:15 p.m.

Matters from the Public. There were no matters from the public.

Orientation. Executive Director Van Arsdale briefed the Group about their responsibilities and obligations relative to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. He also briefed the Group on their advisory role to both staff, and to the Park District Board of Directors through its Special Projects and Facilities Committee. He pointed out that the Group will only vote on two items in each meeting -- approval of minutes from the prior meeting, and motion to adjourn.

Welcome. Commissioner Lerman welcomed the members of the Group on its inaugural meeting, and gave a brief background on the purpose of the Group, mentioned the immediate task of providing input to the 2012 Bathing and Boating Beach Recommendations regarding the operations plan, and also indicated that the Group would be asked to provide input into the upcoming Master Facilities planning process as it relates to the Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Park.

Introduction of each member. Commissioner Lerman asked each member of the group to introduce themselves, and to give some background related to any particular connection to the Beach and Lakefront Park. Each member spent between two and four minutes introducing themselves. Staff also participated in self introductions.

Review 2011-2012 Lakefront Report and Recommendations. Director of Facilities Nagle walked the Group through the highlights in the draft report. An initial discussion item that generated a lot of questions and comments from members was related to the size of the Swimming area. A number of members requested that the swimming area be enlarged next year, and others mentioned that they would like to see improved maintenance of the placement of swim buoys after storm and strong wave days that disrupt normal placement. Some members observed that the swim buoys were not reset for a good part of last August, which did not reflect well on operations. Facilities Director Nagle noted that

that draft plan for 2012 included options to expand the swim area, and options for establishing arrangements with contractors to be available to reset buoys in a more timely manner when disrupted. He also noted that estimates for the costs for these changes were detailed in the draft plan.

Another topic of lively discussion concerned water testing. Executive Director Van Arsdale and Facilities Director Nagle pointed out that Glencoe uses a testing system approved by the State of Illinois that provides bacteria data 24 hours after testing. They also went over comparative year data for number of water closures and noted that 2011 had an exceptionally high number of closures -- 22 including 18 for high bacteria. They noted that there were many heavy rains in July which contributed to the result. 7 of the closures were on Sundays, a high revenue day for the Beach, and their estimate for "lost revenue" was \$21,700 on Sundays alone, and over \$50,000 in total.

Beach testing protocol was discussed. Nagle mentioned that staff took samples at the beach, observed by supervisors, and that two samples were taken on Fridays and Saturdays even though only one sample per day is required by the State. Lerman observed that this practice led to some mid day closings, which were awkward for staff, and very unpopular for patrons, and suggested that until the district has same day testing technology approved by the State, that we may want to limit testing to the required once daily. Facilities Manager Johnson also mentioned that he would be especially diligent in monitoring the taking of samples, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays, as these sample testings impact actions on weekends.

Nagle and Van Arsdale explained the science and costs of SwimCast, a same day predicting system that Wilmette is piloting. They noted that the cost is \$40,000, and it takes a full year to get samples to enter into its predictive model.

The discussion turned to recommended changes in the hours of operations, with staff recommending 2012 hours be 9:30 am to 7:00 p.m. for the swim beach. There was much discussion about maintaining an 8:00 p.m. close for safety reasons, and also there was clarification about options for changing the current start time from 10 am to an earlier start. Commissioner Lerman stated that earlier discussions only referenced possible adjustments for weekend start times only as a means to limit members of the public who come before the start time in order to avoid payment of a daily fee. There was discussion about whether this is really an effective strategy, since an earlier start time would possibly result in these same users adjusting their patterns to show up earlier in order to get into the beach for free on weekends.

Weekend parking was also a discussion topic of the group, even though this was not mentioned in the draft plan. One member asked if it was possible to limit parking around the perimeter of the Lakefront Park for vehicles with Glencoe stickers. Another member stated that they thought other communities followed similar practices. Commissioner Lerman informed the group of a discussion he had with Village Manager Paul Harlow on this topic, and was told by Harlow for various reasons the village cannot use a village sticker as a basis for parking restrictions near the beach, but can utilize a permit parking approach, making permits available for a (nominal) fee. This would require formal Village of Glencoe action to enact such a solution. Members then mentioned that a possible solution would be to bundle

distribution of a summer weekend permit with the purchase of season tokens, if the Village Board would agree to such an option. However, the discussion was inconclusive regarding direction on this issue.

Members representing the Glencoe Boat Club discussed options relating to purchase of two rental Hobie 16 foot "Getaways", noting that these are popular resort boats, and they believed that having these types of rental boats on the south beach rigged and ready to sail on weekends would increase rental income for the beach, and could aid in promoting sailing programs as well.

Commissioner Lerman circulated a two page abstract entitled "What will be different in 2012", based on an abstract of staff's response to a July 14 memo from Lerman that was included in the meeting packet. This list included a number of operational changes outlined from staff's comments on the memo, and from previous discussions on beach operations at earlier 2011 Special Projects and Facilities meetings.

Executive Director Van Arsdale noted that the 2012 plan draft presented at this meeting was incomplete, and that a completed draft would be ready for the December 8th 2011 Special Programs and Facilities Committee meeting (SP&F). Commissioner Lerman, who is also chair noted that he would like to have the Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Advisory Group have the opportunity to fully provide input on the completed 2012 Beach plan at a meeting to be scheduled in mid-January, prior to the January Regular Board meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners.

Matters from the Public. No matters from the public.

Other. There was no other business for this meeting

Adjourn. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Lerman and a second from John Fitzgerald.

Respectfully submitted

Andre Lerman
Secretary