

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll was called. Commissioners present: President Hilary Lee, Vice President Seth Palatnik, Treasurer Steve Gaines, Commissioner Andre Lerman; Staff present: Executive Director/Board Secretary Lisa Sheppard, Director of Finance/Human Resources Carol Mensinger, Director of Parks and Maintenance Rick Bold, Director of Recreation and Facilities Dave Figgins, Manager of Marketing and Communications Erin Maassen, and Administrative Assistant Jenny Runkel

Members of the public in attendance included Glencoe residents Craig Eisner, Steve Kennett, James Koval, David Leibson, Peter Monahan, Mark Rader, Steve Santiccioli, GJK Parent Representative Jacqueline Bierig, Heller and Heller representative Barbara Heller, and Glencoe News Reporter Dan Dorfman.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by President Lee to approve the consent agenda items as presented including Minutes of the July 15, 2014 Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the August 28, 2013 Personnel and Policy Committee Meeting, Minutes of the August 12, 2014 Personnel and Policy Committee Meeting, and Approval of the Bills. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Gaines, Lerman, Palatnik, Lee  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Kimble

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

Fourth of July Fireworks: President Lee stated that the Board would hear each member of the public, but no decision will be made until the September Board Meeting. Executive Director Sheppard reviewed the purpose for opening discussion with residents regarding a date for the Fourth of July fireworks. A barge is no longer an option and the beach must be closed the day that we have the fireworks. We have exhausted all means of finding a barge for this year and the coming years. The boating beach is no longer an option as homes are now in the fall-out zone and no other land meets requirements. The swimming beach is our only option, so determining the best day is our topic for discussion. Based on that, we must now determine if fireworks should be held on July 3 or July 4.

Glencoe Residents gave their opinions on Fireworks as follows.

Craig Eisner, Glencoe, IL: My name is Craig Eisner and I am a 19-year resident of Glencoe. My wife and I have raised and educated our two sons here. I have been

active in the community over the years, having coached basketball and baseball and served on the Glencoe School Board caucus. I am also an active member in the Men's Library Club, a local social organization that tries to promote literacy and community spirit. We have donated to various organizations and distributed thousands of books in the July 4 parade over the last few years. Many of our members are here tonight.

First, I would like to thank the Park District employees and the Park District Board for their efforts on behalf of all of us who use Glencoe Park District facilities. You do a great job and we appreciate you.

Secondly, our objective here tonight is to act as a catalyst and promote dialogue in the community and to try and persuade the Glencoe Park Board Commissioners to keep Glencoe Beach open next year for all people to enjoy on Saturday, July 4.

Sharing the beach on July 4 with thousands of friends, family and neighbors is one of the highlights of the year in Glencoe. Complementing it with an evening of an offshore fireworks display is the icing on that cake.

Unfortunately, that tradition was interrupted this year. The unfortunate "barge regulation issue" place the Park District in a terrible position, so you were forced to try to make some lemonade out of a lemon. At the time, experimenting with fireworks from the beach seemed more preferable than canceling the fireworks. But that option required the closure of Glencoe Beach on July 4. A win-lose scenario. We have more time to plan now, so let us explore other options that can result in a "win-win" outcome and benefits more people.

In a perfect world, we would all want to sustain the tradition of offshore fireworks and an open beach on July 4. If a barge is not available, sustaining that tradition no longer appears to be an option. Therefore, please consider another option that provides more of a "win-win" scenario to the community.

Since there are only nine weekends in July/August next year, many people believe that Glencoe Beach should remain open on as many weekends as possible in the summer. And when July 4 falls on a weekend (as it does in 2015), the "open beach" policy should take preference over closing the beach on July 4<sup>th</sup> too accommodate a 15-minutes evening fireworks display observed from the overlooking bluff.

Therefore, I – and many others – strongly support closing the beach on Friday, July 3 and shooting off the fireworks on Friday evening. Wilmette and Deerfield are two nearby communities that do so already. Hawthorn Woods and Wauconda do so as well. And, of course, so does the city of Chicago. So, why not Glencoe?

Moving the fireworks to July 3 will allow Glencoe to keep the beach open on Saturday, July 4 – when most people are at home and not at work and allows them to celebrate America's birthday with thousands of their friends on the beach on July 4. An "open" beach on July 4 will also generate more concession revenue for the Park District.

Instead of a one-day event, the Village can market next year's festivities as Glencoe's "July 4 Weekend", kicking things off with fireworks on Friday night. Saturday, July 4 can then proceed with the traditional "Fun Run", Wyman Green festivities, Glencoe Baseball All Star Games, July 4 Parade and an open beach for all to enjoy. This option provides something for everyone.

Those who appreciate July 4 fireworks can view other festivities along the lakefront. Fireworks from adjacent Lake Shore Country Club or from Winnetka, Highland Park and other communities are typically visible from Glencoe Beach on July 4.

Summer is short in Glencoe. There are only nine Saturdays in July and August. Keep the beach open on July 4, so that we can create summer beach memories for our kids and sustain the unique, annual sense of community that occurs down at Glencoe Beach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Three residents agreed with Mr. Eisner.

Commissioner Gaines appreciated our resident's comments. The Board has an open mind and is trying to come to the best solution for everyone in Glencoe. The Board would like to continue to gather information, so we can make the most informed decision.

Commissioner Lerman concurred with Commissioner Gaines and added that staff did a wonderful job with this year's fireworks event and show. He added that choosing the best date to close the beach is not preferable for anyone and would like to continue with a barge search.

In response to a resident question, Treasurer Gaines reviewed the barge situation regarding two major changes. We now are required to have an open water (ocean-ready) barge, not a controlled water river barge as we have used in the past. Open water barges are committed to construction and no companies are willing to tie up their barge for 24 hours. Additionally, last minute changes are not feasible with timing of permits, types of fireworks, etc.

In response to a resident question, Executive Director Sheppard confirmed that no one was happy that the beach was closed, but they also want fireworks. We did hold an unscientific poll, unscientific meaning that we could not control how many times a person voted, the results of which were 60% want fireworks on July 4 knowing that the beach would be closed and 40% want fireworks on July 3. This poll was sent to 3,466 email addresses, 1,200 impressions on Facebook, and on our website.

President Lee added that whichever date we choose, the event would be held on that date forever. The decision will be made, not based on if July 4 falls on a Saturday, but what is the best date for fireworks.

Mr. Eisner closed with a suggestion to not lock in on July 4 and take into account what is best for the most people, a whole day of beach use for many or 15 minutes of fireworks for a few.

Commissioner Gaines interjected that is our goal. In determining Glencoe's new tradition, so people know what to rely on, we are going to deliberate in this decision.

Commissioner Lerman thanked residents for showing passion in their support for our Glencoe Beach. This spirit is what we are trying to engage in this discussion.

This topic will be an agenda item at the September Board Meeting.

Presentation by Mesirow Financial, Inc.:

Director Mensinger introduced Mesirow Financial Managing Director Todd Kryzskowski. Mr. Kryzskowski presented the current financial status of the market and possible savings estimated net cumulative savings of over \$525,000 regarding refunding of our 2006 debt. He is advising to keep an open window as savings could be up to \$50,000 higher if refunding is completed in the first quarter of 2015 given the current very steep yield curve. Recent decreases in tax exempt interest rates have increased the expected savings from the 2006 bond refunding. If we determine to go forward at normal pace, the normal timeframe is 45-60 days.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification of the presented document.

This agenda item has been tabled pending a Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Master Plan Update by Barbara Heller: Barbara Heller reviewed the results of the survey sent to 2,000 random households. Our goal was 300 returned, however we received 441 returned surveys, which is a great return rate.

Ms. Heller reviewed the survey results with the board and discussion ensued. This survey will be shared with other entities especially regarding the walking and bike trails need response, which are mostly owned and maintained by the Village and Forest Preserve.

Park District staff and consultants will now be working on a plan to bring to the Board regarding the next steps for the plan.

Barbara Heller then moved on to review the result of a Board and staff seminar to create a Mission, Vision and Values. Our Proposed new Mission Statement would be: Enriching lives and creating memorable experiences by providing exceptional services, parks, programs, and facilities. Our Vision: We are committed to become the most innovative, customer driven, and fiscally responsible park district for current and future generations. Our Values: Team Oriented, Integrity, Safety, Innovative, Responsiveness.

Executive Director Sheppard would like the Board to review the Mission, Vision and Values for approval at the September Board Meeting. Her position is that everything we do from that point on follows the Mission, Vision and Values.

Steps within the next month include a Consulting Team Alternative Strategy Meeting on September 2 which is a half-day workshop, a Follow up Alternative Strategy Meeting with staff (not scheduled), and a collaborative effort reviewing the results from these meetings.

Update on Full and Part-time Personnel Policy Manuals: Director Mensinger explained that changes to the Personnel Policy Manuals occur typically every two to three years. The Personnel and Policy Committee met to review changes proposed by Ancel Glink, our attorneys, including a new Weapon Policy, Medical Marijuana Policy, changes to the Affordable Health Care Act, and Apparel Policy. Staff will be required to sign off that they have received, read, and understand changes or the entire manual for new staff.

Financial Report: Director of Finance/Human Resources Mensinger stated we are five months into the fiscal year. Recreation showed a huge jump in revenue due to real-time registration procedure. Rather than have a lottery where revenue is brought in through the course of three weeks, the bulk of revenue is coming in on the day registration comes in which was on July 30. Nearly \$400,000 of revenue came in on that day.

#### Staff Reports:

Director Mensinger stated that the real-time registration glitch was due to a VSI Systems setting that was not correct. The setting has been corrected. A representative from VSI will be in direct contact with someone here the next two registrations and Excalibur will be on-site. We are confident this will not reoccur. Executive Sheppard commended the staff during the glitch and in accommodating so many of the waitlisted registrants.

Director Figgins stated that summer camp is complete and there will be a formal analysis in the September Board Report of camp operations and survey results. Commissioner Lerman asked if staff could look into having staff on at the beach house for restroom duty the weekend following Labor Day if weather permits. Executive Director Sheppard stated that lifeguards will not be on duty, but we will look into keeping the washrooms open. In response to a request for Paddle Tennis, we are looking into developing an agreement with Winnetka Park District to allow Glencoe residents the opportunity to use their Paddle Tennis Courts at resident rates.

Director Bold stated that building maintenance at Takiff is in progress and will be closed tomorrow. Tuckpointing is also in progress. The house at 292 Green Bay Road will be torn down now that the Village has determined where water and utility lines are, making it easier for the contractor to remove the house.

Manager Maassen reviewed results of the unscientific fireworks poll including the email that was sent to 3,466 and 1,200 impressions via Facebook. The main response was from the Men's Library Club who re-tweeted and promoted on social media, however

there were other organizations who shared. Overall, 60% want fireworks on July 4 and 40% on July 3. Executive Director Sheppard stated that staff is open to whatever the community and Board decides.

Commissioner Palatnik discussed the possibility of fundraising in order to rent a barge for 3 months, with an estimated cost between \$40,000-\$50,000. Director Sheppard indicated that the money would need to be raised within three months in order to lock in a barge show. Additionally, the barge is significantly larger, so the fireworks would be out further in the lake. Two years ago, response was negative that the show was too far away. Executive Director Sheppard indicated that she would be against using staff time and Park District funds to negotiate a barge rental for that amount of money.

#### Executive Director Report:

Executive Director Sheppard is recommending contracting with HayGroup to complete a full-time salary survey discussed during budget planning. HayGroup has come highly recommended from other Park Districts in the area. A salary survey will help us move forward by setting salary caps with low, medium, high for each position.

Pumpkin Days will now be Harvest Fest and will be better than ever. We are partnering with Glencoe Junior High Project (GJHP) and Glencoe Youth Services (GYS). Our event will be during the day with the evening event that will include A Taste of Glencoe, beer garden and entertainment run by GJHP and GYS.

Executive Director Sheppard commended the Recreation Team and summer seasonal staff for a safe and successful summer camp experience.

Betsy Leibson, volunteer for Friends of the Green Bay Trail, would like the Board to do a tour on the Green Bay Trail regarding native plant restoration. The Board agreed and the tour will be posted as a Special Board Meeting.

Writers Theatre begins construction in September. We have an agreement with them to use the park known as, but not officially named "Women's Library Club Park". They will need to remove approximately six trees on the property line that will be impacted by construction. Writers Theatre will replace those trees with 4" diameter trees of our choosing at the same location or another park of our choosing. Additionally, their architect will be working with us to create a conceptual plan for that park. We will then need to hire a landscape architect and will be working with Writers Theatre, Women's Library Club, neighbors, and community members to develop that site. Executive Director Sheppard and Director Bold will be meeting with them Monday night.

The adult brochure mailing directly targeted 1500 households in Glencoe as one of Manager Maassen's initiatives. We directly targeted adults over the age of 45 with an interest in fitness, cooking, and arts. We hope to see a reflection in registration.

Sunset on Summer Beach Bash for token holders and staff appreciation will be held on Thursday, September 28 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. We plan on holding this event earlier next year.

Action Items:

Approval of the Full-time and Part-time Personnel Policy Manuals: A motion was made by President Lee to approve the updated full-time and part-time manuals as presented. Commissioner Palatnik seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES:       Gaines, Palatnik, Lee, Lerman  
NAYS:       None  
ABSENT:     Kimble

Approval of the HayGroup Salary Survey Proposal: A motion was made by President Lee to approve the HayGroup Proposal not to exceed \$25,000 as presented. Commissioner Lerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES:       Gaines, Palatnik, Lee, Lerman  
NAYS:       None  
ABSENT:     Kimble

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

Other Business: Treasurer Gaines wanted on record that his reservations for not approving moving forward with the Mesirov proposal was to receive more information of the process as the Treasurer, not Mesirov's capability to see this through to an efficient and effective end. It will be held as a Finance Committee of the Whole meeting which will be posted.

Adjourn to Closed Session: Sheppard stated that there was no reason to go into Executive Session.

Adjourn: President Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Vice-President Palatnik seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard  
Secretary