

MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2020 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm and roll was called.

Committee Members present:

Lisa Brooks, President
Stefanie Boron, Vice President
Michael Covey, Treasurer
Josh Lutton, Commissioner
Dudley Onderdonk, Commissioner

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary
Carol Mensinger, Director of Finance/HR
Chris Leiner, Director of Parks/Maintenance
Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation/Facilities
Erin Classen, Supt. of Marketing/Communications
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Michael Bier, Thomas Bittman, John Bjork, Kim Bloomberg, Emily Borovsky, David Duckler, Richard Espe, Kooki Finkelman, René Firmin, Tom Fraerman, Ed Goodale, Erich Haupt, Alvin Katz, Liz Katz, Holly Kempner, Ann Koch, Harvey Mysel, Jen Napier, Leslie Polakoff, Sam Rakestraw, Lisa Salzman, Steve Salzman, Marlene Samson, Ann Satter, David Stein

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

Presentation on Dog Park Task Force Findings: Executive Director Sheppard gave the presentation attached to these minutes including review of the process from the community meeting to formation of a task force, task force determined potential locations, selection of Shelton Park as the preferred location, survey to Shelton Park neighbors and surrounding area, and the task force's conclusion that they would not recommend a dog park on Park District property although a citizen group should be formed with Winnetka, Northfield, and Glencoe for a dog park at the Cook County Forest Preserve. Survey results also attached to these minutes were reviewed. Task force members gave more detail of the process and decision. Member Erich Haupt reviewed survey results for *Would Glencoe be good for a dog park?* 45% answered yes, but then when answering if they would want it near their house, 86% responded no. Member Haupt visited dog parks in different seasons and asked users if they would want it next to their home and most said no. Smell and sound mitigation was reviewed as well as DC's Chevy Chase dog park closing. Member Tom Zachar reviewed survey results and the thoroughness of the Park District having taxpayers and residents in mind. Executive Director Sheppard has reached out to the Cook County Forest Preserve and have indicated no desire for a dog park, but the Task force believes a united voice of community members may be a stronger influence. Member Michael Bier agreed with other task force members completely and is a more rabid supporter of a dog park. The neighbors will kick up an awful fuss if a dog park is built at Shelton Park. They believe there should be a dog park, but not in their backyard. Member Bier also reviewed other options. There is just not a good enough space in Glencoe at this time

and is not worth the Board's time or taxpayer's money to make it happen. The task force really tried to make it work, but decided there was no way.

All documentation on dog park and task force meetings are available on the website.

Matters from the Public Relating to Dog Park Task Force Findings: Alvin Katz spoke on Shelton Park as an odd choice being an active park with about ten homes abutting the park and less than 50 feet from his home, Chevy Chase dog park was a fiasco, and he thanked the task force for the reasonable and considerate effort.

Emily Borovsky commented she would love a dog park in her backyard, thanked the task force, spoke about paying \$150/year at Highland Park's dog park and has never experienced an odor, dogs are playing happy and not barking, and everyone is missing the bringing of a community together. Borovsky commented that those saying it will be noisy purchased homes next to a train track and playground. Everyone missed the whole point of having a dog park in Glencoe and is very disappointed.

Steve Salzman spoke on completing his own study before the process started and came to similar and different conclusions, a citizens committee with the leadership coming from the Park District regarding land at the forest preserve and Little House, and is not sure noise and smells are a serious concern. He asked the Board that if it is true there is no land, to look at other land to utilize it another way more closely. A dog park has been a topic of conversation since the 1990's.

Executive Director Sheppard thanked the task force for giving their time to the community.

President Brooks was disappointed, because we do understand the value of a dog park. This is an ask in every community across the country. The conclusion that the task force came to was not the desired result, but it is what they came to.

The meeting paused for members of the public to exit the meeting from 7:40-7:52pm.

Other Business: Executive Director Sheppard reviewed Master Plan Fund 69 to discuss Kalk Park flooding issues, constant calls, and lack of being able to have programs the last two years at the gazebo. Director Leiner reviewed renovation history, site usage, existing infrastructure, and site conditions of low areas in front of the gazebo. Holding water makes it impassable and unusable. The French drains are not enough although it allows staff to pump water from the site. The last two years, we have experienced the highest rainfall and we had to move a majority of our events last year. Director Leiner review what was included in the Kalk first phase and drainage improvement were not included at that time. Director Leiner reviewed options including no improvements, limited pathway are improvements, develop park drainage, and adding park lighting. Staff recommends developing a concept plan in FY2020/21 to measure the cost benefits of the above listed stormwater mitigation/drainage options at Kalk Park. Next month Fund 69 discussions will continue.

President Brooks reviewed the history of the Kalk Park Liza's Gazebo project. At the time, they decided to increase the gazebo budget and not complete the drainage portion of the project. We did not have a problem with flooding at Kalk Park at that time, the current extent of flooding is new these past two years.

Executive Director Sheppard explained that the gazebo is rarely being used for weddings, the Ruck March, or Tots n Tunes. When rented, a backup location is required. Commissioner Lutton stated there is a long list we would like to fund, but there is a point when planning cost for projects not being completed should go toward the cost of completing a project. Commissioner Covey offered the suggestion of the 20 other parks that can be beautiful for a wedding or rental including the beach. President Brooks suggested flooding mitigation of only the path would be less expensive. Commissioner Lutton commented on lack of interest in spending money to save a path that is flooded two months out of the year. Commissioner Onderdonk commented on the lack of information to decide, Kalk Park as part of the Green Bay Trail system should remain open through the community especially since we are investing so heavily to the north, and nonstructural environmental improvements. Commissioner Lutton suggested adding the plan to the budget, but not the cost to proceed. Commissioner Boron prefers not revisiting a site already complete. In addition, there is a drainage issue in Glencoe as a whole, so why just this site. It is part of Connect Glencoe, but doesn't seem like a good enough reason. Village plans for a Hazel path, not a bridge, along the Green Bay Trail were explained. Commissioner Lutton asked that if the Village plan proceeds that the Park District may want to look it at that time due to savings potential and streamlined for minimal disruption of use.

Adjourn to Closed Session: At 8:02pm, Commissioner Onderdonk moved to adjourn into closed session to discuss lease property as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) Commissioner Boron seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Return to Open Session: Commissioner Onderdonk moved to return to open session at 8:33pm, Commissioner Boron seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Action taken, if any, from Closed Session: There was no action taken during or after closed session.

Adjourn: Commissioner Onderdonk moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm. Commissioner Boron seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary