

MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and roll was called.

Commissioners present:

Nicole Reifman, Vice President
Jacki Avitia-Guzman, Treasurer
Meg Cummins, Commissioner
Gary Hazan, Commissioner
Michael Covey, President (phone)

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary
Kyle Kuhs, Director of Parks and Planning
John Cutrera, Director of Finance and HR
Bobby Collins, Deputy Dir./Dir. of Rec & Facilities
Erin Classen, Superintendent of Marketing/Comm.

Members of the public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Brandon Stoller (Signed in)

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Commissioner Cummins to approve the consent agenda items as presented, including Minutes of the June 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of July 7, 2026, Regular Committee Meeting, Approval of the Bills, and Approval of the Children's Circle Food Contract. Commissioner Hazan seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Guzman, Cummins, Hazan, Covey

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Reifman

Motion passed.

Matters from the Public: No one spoke

Audit Presentation: Jamie Wilkie of Lauterbach & Amen presented the District's Fiscal Year 2026 independent audit and reported that the District received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion with no material audit adjustments, internal control findings, or reportable exceptions. The auditor commended the Finance Department for its exceptional preparation, noting that requiring no audit adjustments is uncommon and reflects the strength of the District's financial management. The presentation also highlighted the District's continued receipt of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and reviewed upcoming governmental accounting standard changes that are expected to have minimal operational impact. Board members commended Finance staff for their outstanding work, professionalism, and commitment to maintaining transparent and accurate financial reporting.

Financial Report: Director Cutrera presented the first quarter financial projections for Fiscal Year 2027, noting that overall operating revenues and expenditures remain closely aligned with the adopted budget. Projected excess operating revenue increased slightly from the original budget, while the overall improvement in projected revenues over expenditures is primarily attributable to the timing of capital project expenditures rather than changes in project costs. Strong enrollment in programs such as FSA and Game On contributed to increased program revenue projections. John also reviewed the District's annual capital transfer process, which supports future capital projects while maintaining the District's fund balance policy. The Cook County property tax collection schedule is delayed again, but the District's healthy fund balance eliminates the need for loans despite the anticipated delay in receiving the second property tax installment. The Board asked clarifying questions regarding capital project timing and the District's financial outlook.

Intern Research Project Presentation: Recreation Intern, Danni Ferris presented the findings of the District's CAPRA research project examining whether participation in Children's Circle is associated with greater long-term engagement with the Park District. The study compared Children's Circle participants with a similar comparison group and found that Children's Circle families demonstrated higher overall program registrations, greater participant and household spending, and significantly higher participation in Kids Club, suggesting a strong correlation between early childhood participation and continued involvement with District programs. She also reviewed the study methodology, limitations, recommendations, and proposed next steps, including continuing the research over multiple years and using the findings to inform future programming, marketing, and investment decisions. Board members commended Danni on the quality of her research and presentation, discussed opportunities for additional analysis, and expressed support for continuing the project as an ongoing evidence-based planning initiative.

Presentation of the 2026 Employee Survey: Director Cutrera presented the results of the District's 2026 Employee Survey, administered by an independent third-party consultant to ensure anonymity and encourage candid feedback. The survey reflected strong overall employee satisfaction, with high marks for job satisfaction, workplace safety, available tools and resources, supervisor support, and pride in working for the District. Staff identified teamwork within departments and communication across departments as the primary opportunities for continued improvement. John outlined the plan to share the results with staff, gather additional feedback through department discussions, and develop a follow-up survey to better understand communication challenges and identify meaningful improvements. Board members discussed the survey findings, commended staff on the positive results, and offered suggestions for further evaluating communication and collaboration across departments.

OSLAD Grant Resolution No. 988 for Friends Park: Director Kuhs presented Resolution No. 988, authorizing the District to apply for an Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant to support the Friends Park renovation project. He reviewed the grant program requirements, including the District's obligation to provide matching funds, comply with ADA, procurement, and prevailing wage requirements,

submit required financial and progress reports, and maintain the park as a publicly accessible facility if awarded funding. Kyle also noted the District's successful history of administering OSLAD and other IDNR grants and explained that grant applications are due at the end of August, with award announcements anticipated later in the year. The Board discussed the grant requirements and timeline before proceeding with consideration of the resolution.

Executive Report: Executive Director Shepard provided an overview of current operations, highlighting that the summer season is progressing successfully and recognizing staff for their hard work. She commended staff for the successful execution of the Independence Day celebrations, noting that careful monitoring of weather conditions allowed the District to safely adjust the fireworks schedule while still providing a successful community event. Lisa also discussed the annual facility maintenance week, during which staff will complete routine maintenance projects while maintaining essential operations and public services. Many staff are off or working from home during this week. Director Kuhs provided updates on major capital projects, reporting that the Takiff Maintenance Facility and Ballfield project is nearing completion with exterior work substantially finished and interior finishes underway, while construction at West Park continues on schedule with paving, fencing, and artificial turf installation progressing. There will a ribbon-cutting for the maintenance center on September 3. Lisa also updated the Board on restoration efforts at the Ravine Bluffs Cottage, noting that interior renovations are nearing completion, exhibits are expected to be installed over the coming months, and the facility is anticipated to open to the public in June 2027. Finally, she reviewed the application process and timeline for the Lakefront Park Parking Task Force, explaining that applications will be evaluated jointly by Park District and Village leadership with the goal of appointing a diverse group of community representatives to begin work in September. Board members asked questions regarding the West Park stormwater improvements, the Ravine Bluffs Cottage project, and the process for selecting members of the Lakefront Park Parking Task Force.

Action Items:

Approval of the Annual Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Commissioner Hazan to approve the Annual Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Guzman seconded the motion.

AYES: Guzman, Reifman, Cummins, Hazan, Covey

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion passed.

Acceptance of the 2025/26 Audit: A motion was made by Commissioner Hazan to accept the finding sof the 2025/26 audit as presented. Commissioner Cummins seconded the motion.

AYES: Guzman, Reifman, Cummins, Hazan, Covey
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The motion passed.

Approval of Resolution No. 988 for the OSLAD Grant for Friends Park: A motion was made by Commissioner Reifman to approve Resolution No. 988 for the OSLAD Grant for Friends Park as presented. Commissioner Hazan seconded the motion.

AYES: Guzman, Reifman, Cummins, Hazan, Covey
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The motion passed.

Approval of the purchase of Shelters for Glencoe Beach: A motion was made by Commissioner Reifman to approve Resolution No. 988 for the OSLAD Grant for Friends Park as presented. Commissioner Hazan seconded the motion.

AYES: Guzman, Reifman, Cummins, Hazan, Covey
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

The motion passed.

Other Business: None

Executive Session: There was no reason to enter into Closed Session.

Adjourn: Commissioner Hazan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. Commissioner Cummins seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary