

APPROVED

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

All commissioners and members of the public verified they could see and hear.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm 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
Stephani Briskman, Prog. Mgr.: Youth, Arts, Camp
Adam Wohl, Facility Manager: Takiff and Watts
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant

All commissioners indicated they approved recording the meeting during roll call.

Members of the Public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Brandon Hinkle, Bart Schneider

Matters from the Public: There were no matters from the public from those in attendance on Zoom and no emails sent to Lisa Sheppard prior the meeting to be read into the minutes.

Discussion on Year 2 and 3 Future Capital Projects: Executive Director Sheppard specified that the Board approved the list for year one capital projects at the last meeting and would like to continue the discussion on years two and three tonight. This list is flexible and may change due to budget, grants, or facility failure, but would be a guide to staff for the next three years. The details of each project would still need to be vetted and approved by the community and commissioners.

Director Leiner reviewed additional information on the year two Friends Park project including the history of the park project, Friends Park is one of three ADA accessible parks in the District, poured in place surfacing without concrete around it with wood chips and sand debris on it degrading the surface, and lighting that doesn't work. Staff expects the poured in place to fail in two to three years. Staff answered commissioner questions and discussion ensued regarding not being able to pop out one piece of playground equipment and replacing it in the same spot, CPSI required depth per fall height, staff cannot recommend including sand at Friends Park if renovated and be able to guarantee that it won't breakdown the poured in place again, and ADA accessibility was very important to the Board and neighbors at the time of the renovation.

Staff are worried about catastrophic failure by putting off Friends Park repairs to year three or four and be forced to close a playground in the middle of town for an indeterminate time.

Discussion continued including not needing the best because it only needs to last eight years when the whole park is redone, for which, playground grass and manufactured wood chips were offered, we won't know the financial position of the District in eight years and might need to keep the playground for another 20 years, new curbing could be reused in the next park design, wrestling with paying for repairs that might last longer than the playground, already being forced to remove equipment due to failure followed by removing the sand feature is reducing functionality of the playground just to have a specific ground surface, and this being a 'lights on' list, not a 'wants' list.

Chair Brooks asked for less expensive solutions that will carry the park through, however staff indicated, after looking at other options, the most cost-effective way to fix it is by replacing the poured in place or using an artificial grass surface.

Discussion continued on other projects on the list.

Sheppard explained the committee just needs to approve keeping it on the list tonight and can determine amount and changes when year two or three come up.

Commissioner Onderdonk suggested a green approach to stop cutting grass and live with a large rain garden costing much less for Shelton Parkway Drainage instead of hard engineering for that area.

Sheppard indicated the list's dollar amounts are placeholders. We have not done an engineering study or received public input. These are all estimates to be vetted through a committee approach.

Commissioner Boron would like a playground further out since we've done so many playgrounds recently and instead do a field improvement. Staff doesn't recommend it, but the Board would need to be ok with closing down a playground. In the end, a field can still work at the end of the day even if the lights stop working, playgrounds can't.

If we do receive the grant in January, the District will need to immediately begin the project and commit \$4 million for the project for reimbursement upon successful completion of the project. It could delay our long-term plan throughout the District based on our how much our reserve is and the plan for year one. Having the additional facility and grant money is worth the risk of pushing year one park projects off another year.

Staff agreed to install Takiff field lighting that will work with the future renovation.

Chair Brooks, based on committee discussion, directed park district staff to go ahead with the plan as presented.

Verbal Update on Programs and Facilities Operations:

Director Collins reviewed programs including the start of school this week, 40,000 visits to the beach this year compared to 23,000 last year, the beach is open thru September 27, a successful 'Back to the Future' Movie in the Park last week, Kids Club and D35 teachers program started Monday, 1500 enrollments in outdoor programming this fall from recreation supervisors Adam and Shannon, and \$170,325 received from a Child Care Restoration Grant made up for subsidy for Districts that had extra costs due to COVID. Our capacity is lower, but we are filled and do not have room for more classes in other rooms. e-Learning camp is up and running as an essential service for working parents in the community.

Executive Director Sheppard indicated there will be more in-depth discussion regarding operations of the beach and Watts for next season coming soon. Advisory Group meetings are not recommended until after the Board gives input on next year, right now things are changing too quickly

Director Leiner described Connect Glencoe and Duke Park projects as moving forward. Staff are expecting the first payment from the IDOT grant.

Staff sent out a letter to linear trail project neighborhoods, there are signs on the project fence, and donations are coming in.

Discussion Regarding Renaming Park 7n:

Sheppard stated that whenever the District renovates empty park land, the park is renamed. Staff recommended renaming it Ravine Bluffs Park after the neighborhood.

Chair Brooks, based on committee discussion, directed park district staff to move forward with renaming the park Ravine Bluffs Park.

Discussion Regarding Park 11s:

Staff were approached by the owner adjacent to Park 11s. It's the location adjacent to where the District maintains what looks like someone's front yard. 11s is part of an alley with 18% of property encroached on with garages by a previous owner. The current owner would like to purchase 11s.

To use the land, the District would need to cut down mature landscaping and remove garages and enter into a legal process in order to act on the encroached land.

To sell the land, the District would need to go to court and all costs associated would be wrapped into the purchase price of the parcel. The property has its own PIN, so the District would not need to subdivide the property. The property is zoned multi-family.

Discussion included concern over the development being multi-family and the possible backlash that the park district was the one who started the process by selling the land, there are many small areas that the District owns and no one can use, other property owners have encroached on Park District property, this property has no value to the

park district, and we have a fiduciary responsibility to the community to get something of value for the land if the Board decides to sell.

Chair Brooks, based on committee discussion, directed park district staff that this is a non-useful finger of land and is appropriate to pursue the next steps even if the result is retaining the parcel.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjourn: Commissioner Boron moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. Commissioner Lutton seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

AYES: Boron, Covey, Lutton, Onderdonk, Brooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary