



**GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT WATTS ADVISORY GROUP**  
**Tuesday, November 26, 2019 – 7:00pm**  
**Takiff Community Center**

Consistent with the requirements of the Illinois Compiled Statutes  
5 ILCS 120/1 through 120/6 (Open Meetings Act), notices of this meeting were posted.  
Location of the meeting is Takiff Center, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe, IL 60022

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2019
- IV. Review of Watts Community Meeting – November 5, 2019
- V. Watts Advisory Feedback
- VI. Matters from the Public
- VII. Other
- VIII. Adjourn

The Glencoe Park District is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, are asked to contact the Park District at 847-835-3030. Executive Director E-mail address: [lsheppard@glencoeParkDistrict.com](mailto:lsheppard@glencoeParkDistrict.com)

MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2019 WATTS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
WATTS RECREATIONAL CENTER  
305 RANDOLPH STREET, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. and roll was called.

Members present: Commissioner Robert Kimble, Seth Palatnik, Steve Norhad

Members absent: Michael Glass, Patty Talbot, Jack Weinberg, Hilary Lee

Staff present: Adam Wohl, Watts and Takiff Facility Manager; Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation and Facilities; Chris Leiner, Director of Parks and Maintenance; Ann Scheuer, Recreation Assistant

Members of the public present: Gary Hazan, George Kelly, and Brian Farrell

Introduction: Staff and committee members introduced themselves to one another and shared what they liked most about the Watts Center as well as on areas they would like to see improved.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Member Palatnik to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2016 Watts Advisory Group Meeting. Member Norhad seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote. No further discussion ensued.

Review of 2018-19 Watts Report: Staff reviewed the 2018-19 Watts Report that summarized the 2018-19 rink operational season. Group members commented on areas where there is potential for growth and operational improvement.

2018-19 Survey Results: Staff reviewed the 2018-19 Watts Pass Member Survey. Staff highlighted both positive and negative feedback provided in this year's survey.

Planned Facility Improvements: A list of planned facility improvements for the 2018-19 season were reviewed with staff and group members. Staff discussed the various facility improvements over the past couple years. Items included new rubber flooring, HVAC replacements, new program room doors and awning for After School Program, and painting of the whole facility. Planned projects for next year include tuck pointing of the outside brick and a new roof. Staff plans to do a facility value engineering of the Watts Recreational Center to determine the useful life of the facility and a cost analysis for replacement or renovation.

Planned Operational/Program Improvements: Staff reviewed a list of planned facility operation and program improvements for the upcoming season including adding more public skate times, improved facility rental processes, and adding additional family friendly activities.

Advisory Group Feedback: Members communicated how helpful the staff was throughout the season. They also commented that the ice has been the best it has ever been the last three seasons. The consensus of the group was to explore ways to maximize year around usage of the Watts Recreational Center.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation and Facilities

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2019 COMMUNITY MEETING ON WATTS  
RECREATIONAL CENTER  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The community input meeting began at 7:00pm.

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/Comm.  
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant

Members of the public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Adam Bandari, Josh Cooper, Sandy Culver, Francois Delcourt, Anita Diat, Dan Dorfman, Michael Glass, Sacha Gordon, Lou Harrison, Taylor Hartz, Gary Hazan, Natalie Holtzman, George Kelly, Steve Kohn, Paul Krieger, Hilary Lee, Lee Lyle, John McAdams, Susan Mehlman, Matt Miller, Jim Montembeault, Steve Nolan, Steve Norehad, Kevin Osimitz, Joe Rosenthal, Ann Scheuer, John Scully, Muareen Valvasson, Simon Ward, Jack Weinberg, Keith Weinstein, Brit Wright, Willie Zimberoff, Commissioner Lisa Brooks, and Commissioner Dudley Onderdonk

Executive Director Sheppard explained the meeting is for community feedback to aid the Board of Commissioners in the development and plan for the future of Watts Recreational Center. The history of the Watts facility and its use were highlighted. Staff shared current detail on facility use and programming, past renovations, and a possible grant.

The next step in applying for the grant is receiving feedback from the community. The Watts Advisory Committee will review the feedback and provide a synopsis to the Board.

Members of the public were then asked a series of questions. Public comments included:

What makes Watts special to you and your family?

- All children in Glencoe schools learn to skate.
- A group of 40 men drove a bus all the way from north of Toronto, Canada to experience Watts.
- A unique facility that differentiates Glencoe from other communities
- Has skated every year with friends since the facility opened and is one of the reasons he still lives in this town

- Grew up here with great memories skating and drinking hot cocoa in a safe environment and now wants her kids to have that experience
- A way to enjoy winter and darkness under the stars, it is not the same in indoor facilities and would be nice to see it continue.
- Bring someone from outside of Glencoe and they are blown away by the facility being under the lights outside at night. It is what makes Glencoe very special.
- Worked at Watts for four years in high school and would want his kids to have the experience of a job there.
- Taught their kids how to skate at Watts, their kids played hockey in high school, and then one became a skate guard. Without Watts, their child would not have had that leadership opportunity.
- Watts drew their family to Glencoe and have held Thanksgiving events there with such good memories.
- It is something for kids to be active in the winter.
- Watts is magical and unique and wants to see it live on.

Do you think it is important to retain the current “experience” of the ice rink?

- Yes: Everyone in attendance
- No: 0

Would you be opposed to an addition to the side of the building? Non-rink /north side and would not take away from soccer (same side), path might need to be adjusted/moved.

- Opposed? 0
- Northeast side will be reviewed per suggestion. Second floor will also be reviewed.

If you could only make one improvement to Watts, what would it be?

- Beef up coolers, add shade on the north sunny side, add on for company parties, beef up the allure
- Reduce distractions including level/style of music, extends beyond hours, pucks hitting a home’s garage
- Lighting needs to be improved, dead light spots, sodium vapors
- Rustic ski chalet similar to the fireplace room, more comfortable seating, concessions
- A bar, fire, better theme for those who do not skate but spend time there
- Heating lamps near the benches to keep warm
- If families are being turned away from Kids Club, expand to include them
- Stay open during fall/spring (DekHockey is a great start), utilizing the facility would be a big improvement for the community
- Could be open another month if shade is added on the north side, use the facility more than three months a year
- Off months put down turf for lacrosse or an outdoor soccer field, if the drainage can be fixed, would be a good opportunity and another field for practice

Is there anything that you would like to see during the off-season on the rinks? Dekhockey was used for a couple months already or perhaps a modular circuit for skateboarders, bikes, etc.?

- Modular units would be used less than lacrosse, soccer, team play
- Roller skating/blading
- A sport field that never floods or gets muddy would be used by schools and during after hours
- Adult fitness classes
- Portable bike/scooter/skateboard circuit

Answers to questions and additional comments

- Add parking to support activities
- Wight and Company's report is an existing conditions assessment and giving a few options and plans for a makeover rather than a teardown.
- The grant application has not been released yet, so staff do not know how much the grant will cover, how much we have to match, or any other detail. It is a very competitive grant for the whole state. We have a historic facility, after school care, and programming to make it an attractive grant. If there is not a grant funding, we may make it a long-range plan as opposed to something we do right away. There is \$50 million total in grant funds available.
- Sustainability Task Force: solar panels/ efficient lighting

The next step is to bring this feedback to the Watts Advisory Group for review. The District will keep everyone updated who shares their email on the sign-up sheet. Progress will be available on our Web site.

Adjourn: The community input meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Sheppard  
Secretary



# WATTS RECREATIONAL CENTER COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING

November 5, 2019

Enriching lives and creating memorable experiences.



# GOAL OF TONIGHTS MEETING

- Gather community feedback to aid the Board of Commissioners in the development of a plan for the future of the Watts Recreational Center.



# BRIEF HISTORY

## WATTS RECREATIONAL CENTER

- 1959
  - Watts Recreational Center built without ice rinks
  - Named in honor of

*Amos Watts was the Park District's only indoor recreation space prior to the leasing of North School (Takiff Center) in 1979*



# THE ICE RINK IS BORN

- **1972**
  - Referendum passes for a facility expansion and the addition of two outdoor ice sheets.
- **2000-2001**
  - \$3.1 million invested in renovations to modernize the facility. Project is funded by a combination of \$1.6 million referendum and \$1.5 million GPD fund balances.
  - Friends of Watts instrumental in supporting the referendum.

# HOW IS THE FACILITY CURRENTLY USED

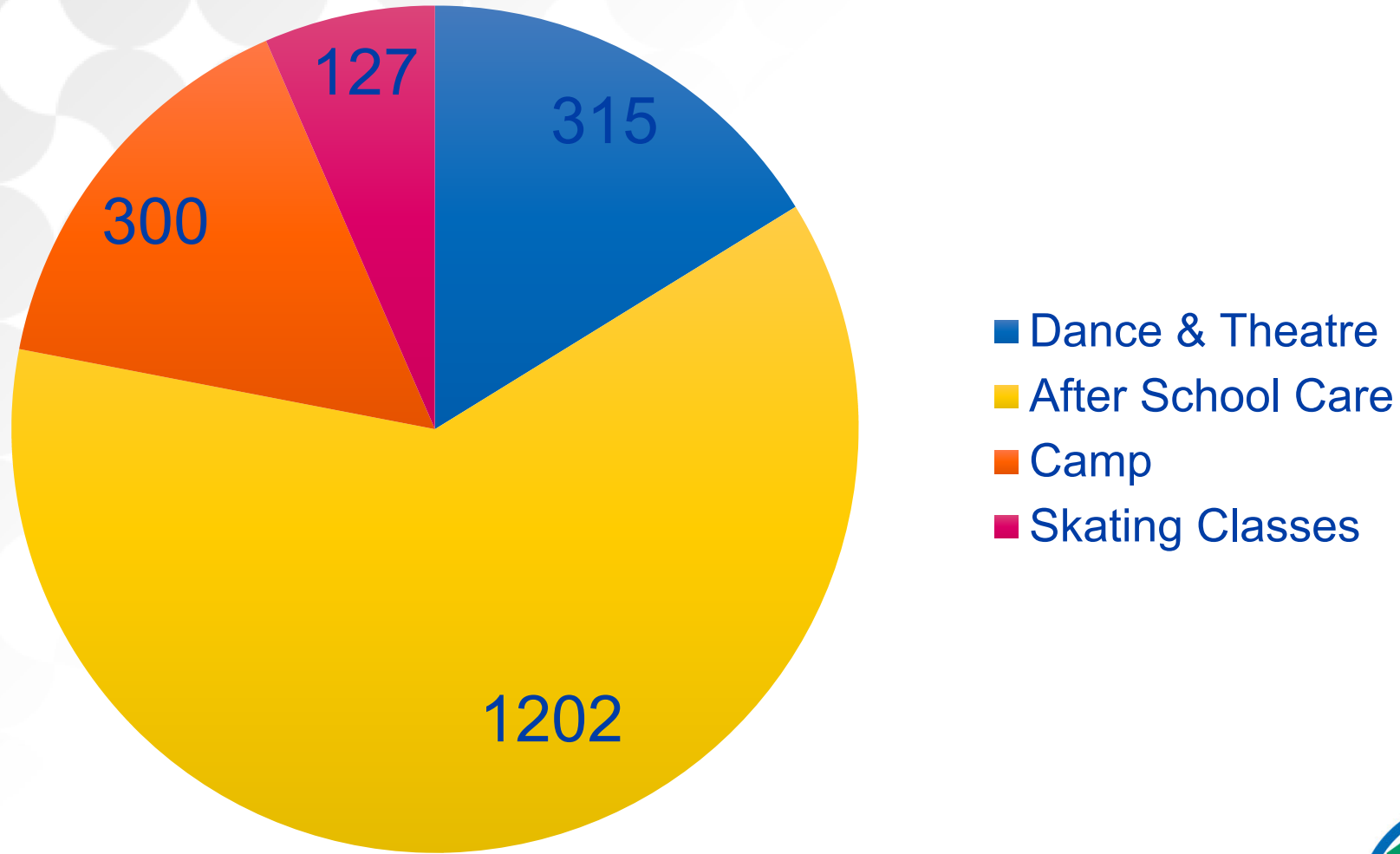
- **Year-Round**
  - Kids Club Before & After School Care (Including Day Off Care)
  - Dance/Theatre
  - Summer Camp
  - Dek Hockey (New Fall 2019)
  - Indoor/Outdoor Bathrooms
  - Room Rentals
  - Polling Place
  - Community Events
- **During the Rink Season** (Nov 29 – March 1)
  - 432 Hours of Public Skate
  - 504 Hours of Open Hockey
  - 349 Hours of Private Ice Rink Rentals
  - Skating Classes
  - School P.E.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public Skate	80.43%	185
South/West School Physical Education Ice Skating Classes	38.26%	88
Park District skating/hockey classes	31.74%	73
Birthday parties/room rentals	30.87%	71
Open Shoot Hockey	24.78%	57
Hockey rink rentals	23.04%	53
Special Events	21.30%	49
Broomball	20.87%	48
School Day Off Programs	20.43%	47
Before/After School Kids Club	18.26%	42
Outdoor bathrooms	18.26%	42
Dekhockey	15.22%	35
General recreation programs (dance, theatre, etc.)	14.78%	34
Summer Camp	12.17%	28
Other (please specify)	9.13%	21
Children's Circle Full Day Preschool Skating Lessons	6.52%	15
Total Respondents: 230		

The Survey Says  
**“HOW IS THE FACILITY CURRENTLY USED”**



# 1,944 Hours Of Programming Per Year (Average 7 Hours/Day)



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The projected lifespan of a facility renovation is approximately 20 years.

# RECENT FACILITY INVESTMENTS

- **2015** Interior facelift
- **2016** Interior flooring replaced
- **2017** Repairs made to ice rink cooling floor
- **2018** Building HVAC systems replaced
- **2019** Flat roof replaced

*In addition, between 2015-2019 approximately \$100,000 spent on repairs to the ice rink mechanical equipment (rink chiller)*

# ICE RINK

- Despite best efforts, elements of the ice rink's equipment is nearing the end of its useful life. An investment will need to be made to ensure the continuity of future ice rink operations.
- The Board of Commissioners has retained Wight and Company to perform a facility assessment to determine which aspects of the rinks that need to be replaced.

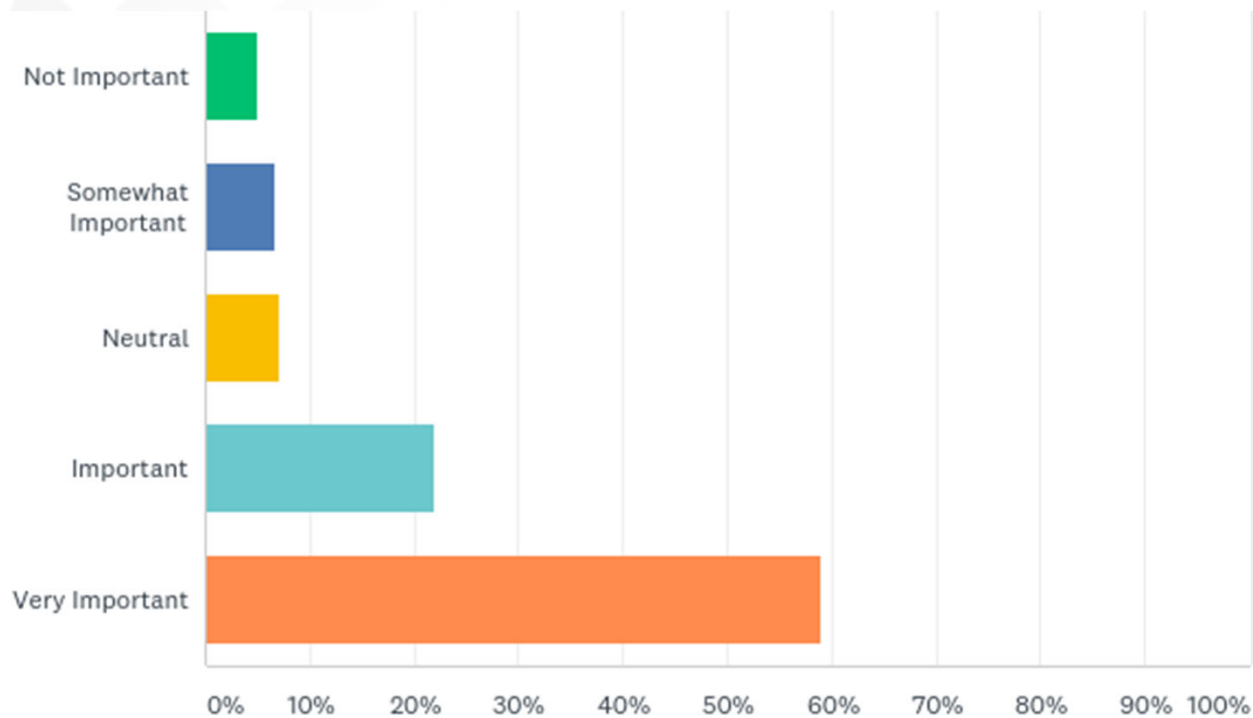


# Program Space

- The recreation program space is at capacity with no room to expand.
- Watts provides the only dedicated age appropriate space for Kids Club.
  - Families were turned away the last two years due to lack of facility space
- The facility requires updates to meet modern ADA standards.

# THE SURVEY SAYS

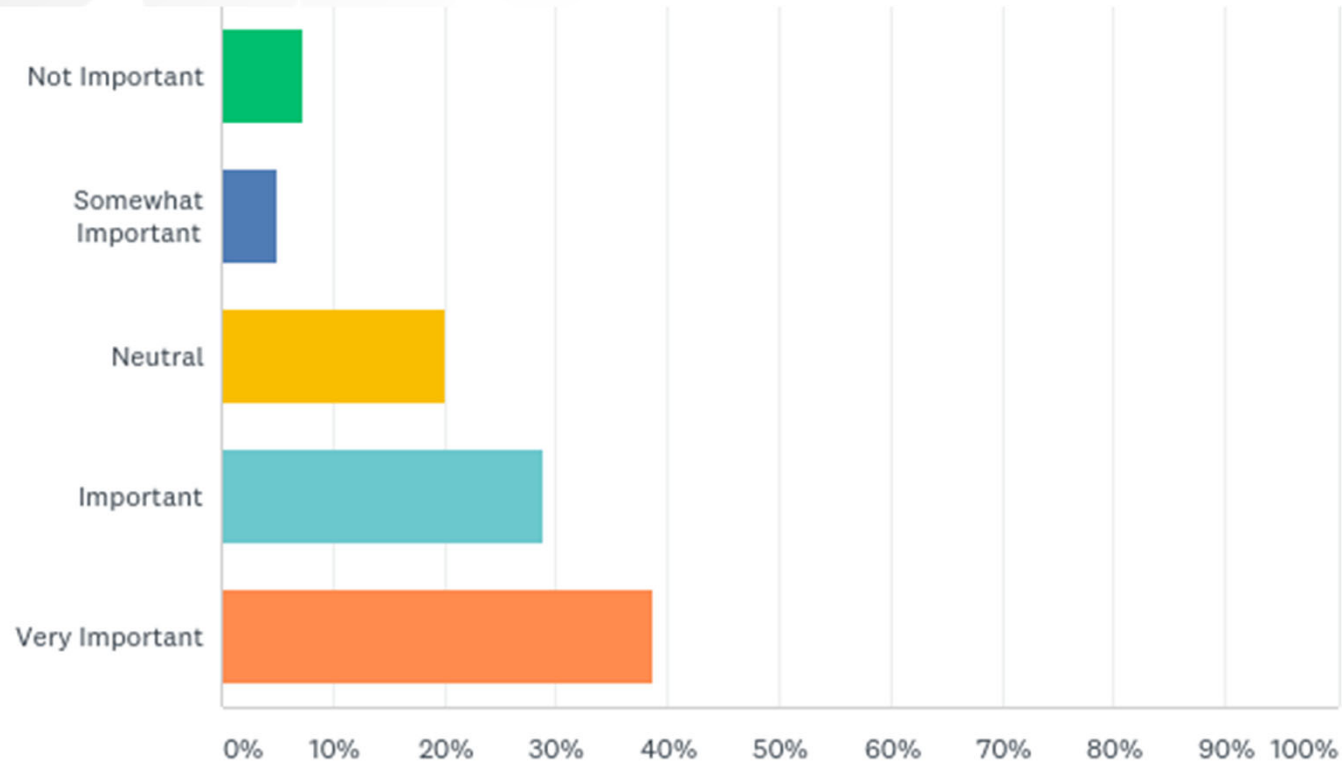
- When thinking about ice rink operations, how important are continued operations?



**81%** say continued ice rink operations are important or very important

# THE SURVEY SAYS

- Do you support facility improvements to provide expanded before and after school programs at Watts Recreational Center?



**68%** say facility improvements to expand before and after school programs is important or very important

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- \$2.5 million matching (75/25%) Park and Recreation Facility Construction grant (PARC grant) available through the IDNR to renovate/ update select components of the facility
  - Grant applications are due January 17, 2020
  - This grant has been only been offered twice through the State of Illinois in the last decade

# NEXT STEPS

- Feedback from this meeting will be provided to Watts Advisory Committee.
- The Watts Advisory Committee will provide a synopsis of the feedback to the Board of Commissioners.

*Watts Advisory Board applications are available at the door.  
If you would like to be notified of future meetings, please  
sign in at the door with your email address.*

**What makes Watts special to you  
and your family?**

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# Show of hands

**Do you think it is important to retain the current “experience” of the ice rink?**

# Show of hands

**Would you be opposed to an addition to the side of the building?**

**If you could only make one  
improvement to Watts, what  
would it be?**

Is there anything that you would like to see during the off-season the rinks?



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# Questions?



[glencoe parkdistrict.com](http://glencoe parkdistrict.com)

