

MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2021 COMMUNITY MEETING ON WEST PARK
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The community input meeting began at 6:02pm.

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary
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: Chris Baskin, Steve Konters, Michael La Porte

Presentation on West Park: Lisa Sheppard indicated this is meeting regarding conceptual design, if the District does not receive grant funds this project may not move forward. At the Board meeting directly following this community meeting, the Board will see the same presentations given at this meeting and hear the community's feedback and any comments shared on YouTube Livestream.

Superintendent Classen reviewed the community survey results on West Park sent out to 1700 addresses in our database, of which, there were 282 responses; all Glencoe residents. The community had from July 27 until today at noon to complete the survey. Questions included quantity use, travel, accompanied by, park use, and upgrade requests. The elements will be discussed at the Board meeting immediately following this community meeting.

Steve Konters gave a presentation on the West Park design concept for the grant application. Mr. Konters reviewed the project background of existing elements and lack of ADA amenities. The proposed master plan encompasses renovation of existing ball fields, change of one tennis court into two pickle ball courts, add a picnic area, improve accessibility to the park from surrounding park area connections, a walking loop, rain garden, shade structure over the dugouts, and the ability to install a single stall bathroom in the future. The plan graphic for the large field indicates light green and brown turf for the infield's grass and dirt areas, the darker green is grass outfield, soccer field, or open space. A turf infield is suggested as that area has the most drainage issues and would increase play; the turf added based on budget. The smaller field will remain grass.

Community members in attendance offered feedback on the design concepts.

Chris Baskin commented that the pickleball addition is great, turf will increase field play and safety, turf is probably too cost prohibitive to extend to outfield, increase the height

of the backstop to stop balls from going into the road, add an overhang, extend the foul ball fence on the street side, move the back stop closer to first base. Mr. Konters confirmed that the backstop replacement is in the plans, so kids do not run into the street for balls as well as on the baseball/softball field. They will look into other solutions. The infield and dirt area would be turf based on the current design plans.

In response to Michael La Porte's questions, Mr. Konters and staff confirmed that the donation bench will remain, the dotted area is a space held if there is a requirement for stormwater retention, a path from the West side inlet over to the existing porta-potty area was removed from the original plans to allow room for soccer and general open space play.

Michael La Porte would like to see the sitting area and the small ball field flip-flopped. Coming off the lagoons, it would be a calmer area to rest. The sitting area, where it is located now by active play, is not a calming area to relax. This feels like another super feature ball field park. Baseball season is only for three months a few nights a week, plus T-ball and a couple other programs and feels like overkill for how it's used all year. It is not a baseball-centric park. Chris commented that the reason the fields are not used, is because drainage issues will not allow for play. Michael commented that fields should then have drainage fixed or not situated in a low spot in town. Chris responded that there is no super field in all of Glencoe. The tennis courts are used continually. There is nowhere for open play for the children to play in Glencoe. The gazebo located between all the areas allows for viewing of all the activities. The fields are not being used because of field condition. Michael counterpointed that he wasn't saying this was a super field, this is a baseball centric plan in a community that doesn't play baseball and could be a softball specific field.

Executive Director Sheppard indicated that artificial turf allows for moving mounds and bases for baseball or softball of all ages.

Michael retorted that multiuse fields always get used by other sports and girls' softball gets the short end of the stick. He would like to see softball have priority and feel valued.

Executive Director Sheppard confirmed that lights were eliminated.

Supt. Classen confirmed there were two retracted comments on YouTube.

Director Leiner pointed out that the color delineation in the field makes the project seem larger than it is and clarified that the darker green is grass and will remain untouched. The stormwater area should eliminate the two inches of standing water from the middle of the field, the plan does not include re-grading the entire park. Mr. Konter explained that we won't know how much disruption until the engineering report comes back.

Sheppard indicated that West school uses the park for recess and gym and would be appreciative of fixing drainage. We partnered with District 35 for improvements and

funds. There is limitation of use during school hours, District 35 owns the area for class or recess and will not allow public use during those times for safety reasons.

Mr. Konters indicated the grant is due September 1, the District will be notified three to six months later, and once the agreement is signed, the District will have two years to prepare and complete the project.

The next step is bringing concept design to the Board tonight for review of design elements (not actual pieces or locations), followed by applying for the grants.

Adjourn: The community input meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary