

MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2022 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT  
ZOOM AND 999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

Commissioners and members of the public confirmed they could see and hear. The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm and roll was called. All commissioners gave permission to be recorded.

Committee Members present:

Lisa Brooks, President  
Michael Covey, Treasurer  
Bart Schneider, Commissioner  
Carol Spain, Commissioner

Staff present:

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

Committee Members absent:

Stefanie Boron, Vice President

Members of the Public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Ira Chaplik, Elsa Fischer, Andre Lerman, Mitch Melamed, Robin Melamed, Lisa Rosenfeld, Max Rosenfeld, Carl Rosenthal, Jon Ruderman, Jill Siragusa, Adam Weinberg

Matters from the Public: Mitch Melamed shared a few items from the focus group he attended including no one mentioned there was no need for a dedicated pickleball court, nor that pickleball is not popular. He commented on the economic benefit, the Lakefront tennis courts must be redone, dedicated pickleball courts should be at Shelton Park where tennis courts are underutilized and a better location for parking and noise.

Ira Chaplik indicated agreement with Mitch's previous comments, that Lakefront Park is a difficult location, Shelton Park will ease parking, and to consider alternate locations other than Lakefront Park for pickleball.

Carl Rosenthal commented that pickleball is growing big time and people are looking for a place to play, empty tennis courts could be used for pickleball, and pickleball is for all ages even young folks are playing it in school.

Presentation of Report from Focus Groups for Lakefront Racquet Courts: Executive Director Sheppard indicated that the focus groups were for Lakefront Park only. This idea stemmed from tennis players during the West Park project focus group who suggested that Lakefront Park tennis courts are not used and would be a great location for pickleball. We will know closer to the end of the budget year if we will have funds within the next two years for Lakefront Park courts. Focus groups were already held and the next step will be a community meeting on February 22 at 7:00pm where concept designs will be shared for review and feedback.

Executive Director Sheppard shared the report which is available on our website for review by the community. Sheppard indicated that pickleball is a hot trend. The District currently has shared tennis/pickleball courts at Watts and Shelton Parks. Through the pandemic, there has been a spike in tennis court usage and all courts are being used. Different hybrid models were offered in the focus groups. Report statistics and comments were reviewed. Sheppard indicated we do not currently have the funds for new courts at other locations. Director Leiner reviewed tennis court inventory and pickleball construction estimates of \$130,000-\$150,000 to add pickleball courts or to convert existing tennis courts to pickleball courts for \$35,000. Overall, they indicated, loud and clear, a preference for dedicated courts.

Staff answered commissioner questions. Sheppard indicated that only one focus group member said that Lakefront Park is not a good location. Other comments included the concern of noise because Lakefront Park is a serene location, worry over traffic especially during beach season, and would attract additional non-residents. Sheppard recommends the Board take a trip to other courts to listen to pickleball noise 90 feet away to see what the noise level would be at the surrounding Glencoe homes. Most liked the hybrid court, similar to the shared basketball courts throughout the District. Based on existing conditions, the tennis courts are not heavily used, but Director Leiner indicated they will be used following renovation. Focus group members who are tennis players indicated they prefer hybrid. Leiner indicated that surfacing is a matter of preference. Typical in the Midwest, we have Nova grass over a failed asphalt court. From a maintenance standpoint, look at asphalt for the new courts in regards to cost, maintenance ease, and longevity. Due to the water tank underneath, courts can get larger not smaller.

Discussion ensued on the focus group results.

Sheppard reviewed potential layouts that will be shared at the community meeting. Sheppard asked the Board to consider the layouts and determine if any should not be options. Next steps are a community meeting on February 22 to review layouts and playground conceptual designs. After community input, it would be brought back to the Board to decide on the conceptual design.

Carl Rosenthal indicated that a minimum of four courts are needed, if not six courts. Other communities have put in 10 courts and it still isn't enough. A reservation system would be needed. It brings people to the park which is a good thing.

Glencoe Beach Pier Decking and Railing Bid Discussion: Leiner indicated for the first time in eight years, we received a bad bid. Our pre-COVID estimate including deck and new railings had a budget of \$320,000. Due to the pandemic, stainless steel costs have skyrocketed bringing the current cost of the railings only to \$480,000. Staff recommended putting a hold on the railings and repair/paint the current railings. If the price drops before the contract ends it will be possible to move forward at that time. If not, it would be up for review in three to four years. Leiner indicated that the coating will come off by the end of the season, but contractors can repaint within one day; longer for staff to complete. Replacement railing sections are made for \$2,000-3,000. The

\$480,000 stainless steel railing cost is just not justified. Baird indicated that putting a hold on railings now will not stop us from doing this later. The Committee, following discussion, directed staff to bring this before the Board as an action item in January without the railings.

Discussion on Reciprocal Agreement with Northbrook Park District Regarding Aquatic Center and beach Passes: Sheppard indicated this program was suspended in 2020 and 2021 seasons due to the pandemic and limited passes. Discussion ensued over whether to reinstate this service as a best practice to share resources between other organizations. Pre-pandemic beach pass numbers were reviewed. Discussion comments included the cost savings to residents of \$130-140, Northbrook's cost is \$100 extra for a non-resident, Northbrook includes resident swim lessons that we cannot offer, we don't have a pool, what is the lost revenue of pass sales if they don't buy our pass, Northbrook resident's feedback was very negative for having to pay non-resident rates, despite pandemic unknowns we have to do this now for marketing purposes, take it off the table for one more year to finish out the pandemic, last year the beach did not feel crowded, and only 60% of Northbrook passholders would buy a pass again this year. Chair Brooks, based on committee discussion, directed staff to add this as an action item at the January meeting.

Other Business: Sheppard shared that clarification from Cook County was helpful following feedback from the whole park district community regarding the new vaccine mandate. The Board thanked staff for efforts at a time when would probably rather spend time with family. Programs for winter are pushed back to January 15. Early childhood wing programs are short-staffed and will communicate with the Board if any classes need to be canceled. Director Collins reviewed current staffing levels and indicated that DCFS has not adopted the reduced 5-day quarantine yet. District 35 is going with the 10-day quarantine for their staff as well. Programs work on a per class basis or percentage revenue split, so there is no loss. Programs will run longer at the end or are running over spring break. Contractors are also struggling with staffing and were relieved with the delayed start. There is very little financial impact to the District.

Adjourn: Commissioner Schneider moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. Commissioner Spain seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken:

AYES: Covey, Schneider, Spain, Brooks  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Boron

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Sheppard  
Secretary