

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm and roll was called. All commissioners gave permission to be recorded.

Committee members present:
Carol Spain, President
Stefanie Boron, Vice President
Bart Schneider, Commissioner
Jordan Spector, Commissioner

Staff present:
Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director and Secretary
Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation and Facilities
John Cutrera, Director of Finance and HR
Kyle Kuhs, Director of Parks and Planning
Erika Doroghazi, Arts and Youth Program Manager
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant

Committee members absent:
Michael Covey, Treasurer

Members of the Public in attendance who signed in or spoke: There were no members of the public in attendance.

Matters from the Public: There were no matters from the public.

Discussion on Tax Levy: It has always been the District's practice to hold a hearing and adopt the 2023 Tax Levy following approval of the Truth in Taxation Ordinance in two consecutive Board meetings regardless if our levy exceeds 5% over the prior year's levy. Our District is non-home rule, subject to PTELL or a tax cap; therefore, we cannot receive more than a 5% increase to the existing EAV base or CPI (the lesser of those two numbers). There is no new property this year. Staff are proposing a levy of \$5,415,000 which is 3.29% greater than last year's estimated tax extension (estimated the last two years due to Cook County's delayed release). Yesterday, Cook County issued the preliminary final statement, giving us an idea of the final extension amount. It is about \$90,000 less than our estimate which is right where we want to be to capture any new property. Staff are confident the District will capture the 5% and the additional 1.5% from the Rec Fund, which is a 6.5% increase. The District is asking for a 6.5% increase to compensate for our rapidly increasing operating costs. Existing debt service levy is predetermined when bonds are issued. Last year, we relieved the debt service by \$240,000. The levy this year does require the full debt service requirements. Discussion ensued in response to commissioner questions as follows. The county always caps the levy at 5%. The past couple years, \$515,000 was set aside annually for capital projects; staff recommended the increase from previous years' \$500,000 to account for rising costs. Some peer districts are going with 4.99% to not hold the hearing, but a vast majority are going beyond the 5% to capture the additional funds. The dollar amount really depends on their assessed valuation of their home. If EAV remains constant, each home would go up 5% total for park district, school district, etc.

Chair Spain, based on committee discussion, directed District staff to move Resolution No. 956 Truth in Taxation forward for approval at the October 17, 2023 Board meeting.

Discussion on 2024 Health Insurance: This past summer the Board and staff decided to remain with PDRMA for another three-year commitment. The increase for this coming year is about 7.5%. It is not financially sustainable to run on reserves. The current mix of plan offerings include an HRA/PPO Plan, High Deductible PPO Plan, and an HMO Plan. The District will continue to offer the HMO Plan with a lower employee premium as the District can achieve significant cost savings with this plan. A couple years ago the District rolled out an employee buyout program if they are on another household member's health plan. We have 48 eligible employees and 10 of those opted for the buyout; an overwhelming success for the District. Due to the savings, the District upped the buyout amount by 5-6% depending on employee, employee + 1, or family. Grade 1 and 7 employees in Children's Circle only are offered the HMO Plan as a compromise to be able to afford to create those full-time positions. All other Grade 1 employees have the option of all three plans. Discussion ensued.

Chair Spain, based on committee discussion, directed District staff to move the 2024 health insurance options forward for approval at the October 17, 2024 Board meeting.

Green Team Presentation: Manager Doroghazi, Green Team Chair, gave the presentation attached to these minutes. Discussion focused on goat grazing to combat invasives. Staff asked the Board to consider if they want staff to investigate and add this to the budget. It is not required to spend those funds on this project if the Board changes their mind. Further discussion ensued regarding insurance, sustainability, and the impact to the community.

Other Business: ELC and Children's Circle's Harvest Fest is set for this week. The Mud Run was a success and the District is proud to announce our event has increased participation when other communities are reducing. All teams are part of this event. A new family heat was added to allow for younger children and parents to participate.

Beach and Boating Manager Marty Kwiatkowski's last day is coming up. We have an internal candidate to replace him, to be announced.

Plantings in front of the Lakefront Park swing bench were trimmed down. Non-invasive plantings are taking over and staff are working on a plan.

The Duke Park train cars and water feature are shut down early to allow for neighbors to enjoy peace as these features are louder than most in the District's inventory.

Adjourn: Commissioner Spector moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. Commissioner Boron seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary

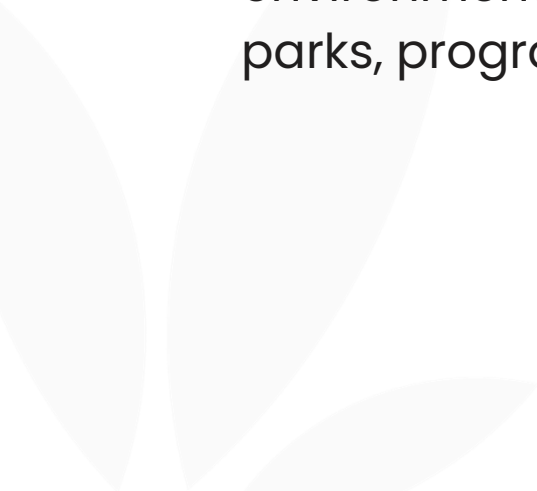
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GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE UPDATE

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Green Team

Work on projects and initiatives that focus on improving the environmental sustainability of our parks, programs, and facilities.



Updates



- 01 Annual Earth Day Event**
Worked with volunteers to collect over 200 pounds of waste and recyclable materials from Everly Wildflower Sanctuary and Glencoe Beach.
- 02 GPD Apparel Share Shop**
111 share shop items were picked up to be reused by staff from all departments.
- 03 Composting Pilot at Camp**
Worked with women-owned Collective Resources for weekly compost pick up of camp lunch items, cookouts, and overnighter food waste.
- 04 Rain Garden Installation**
Rain Gardens were planted at Shelton park and along Green Bay Road/South Avenue. These plantings will help alleviate surface water drainage issues and provide wildlife habitat once established. Educational Signage was also installed near the rain garden.
- 05 Partnership with FGBT and Community Gardens**
Partner with Friends of the Green Bay Trail for trail clean up days as well as planting days in our parks. There is one next week at Woodlawn Park. Provide greenhouse space for growing plants as well supply water and electric to the Glencoe Community Gardens.

Updates



06 **Native Plantings**

Moving away from mass annual plantings and continue planting more native and perennial plants in garden beds. Kalk Park is planted and Lakefront Park will be planted this fall. Transplanted grasses next to Takiff, a further reduction in annual plant purchases.

07 **Compostable Products at Special Events**

Switched from plastic cups to compostable cups at Fourth of July celebration and Bier on the Pier events. We will continue to work with composting organizations to offer commercial composting at large events.

08 **Apiary**

We have three beehives pollinating plants and producing local honey.

09 **Less Salt Use on Pavement**

New steer skid broom was purchased for snow removal that will help sweep our hardscapes more cleanly compared to plowing or snow blowing and reduce our use of salt in those areas. Additionally we began using Entry Chloride Free liquid ice melt, a green seal certified product.

10 **Lobby Recycling Program**

We have new collection containers for snack pouches and batteries for special use recycling. We will continue to work on marketing and best locations for these recycling containers.

IPRA Environmental Report Card

- Assessed our environmental impact and stewardship utilizing IPRA's Environmental Report Card
- Scored in the "Very Good Job Range", just below Environmental Leader range.
- Strong areas include Facility Management & Maintenance and Parks & Natural Resource Management
- Areas of Improvement are Purchasing and Programming



Ongoing Initiatives

- We are working to update our tree inventory and tree care management plan working with Great Lakes Urban Forestry. Will have more information regarding findings by the end of the fiscal year. This was made possible through a grant from the Morton Arboretum
- Recycled paper products throughout facilities
- High-efficiency HVAC and plumbing fixtures
- Swap traditional lighting for LEDs throughout facilities
- Our stewardship agreement with Pizzo and Associates helps manage natural areas at Everly, Takiff, Shelton and Kalk Park. This helps to control invasive species through manual removal and controlled burns, reducing herbicide use



Upcoming

Improve Natural Areas

Hope to improve natural areas at Clara Dietz Bird Sanctuary and along the Bluff at Lakefront Park through staff management and stewardship. Continue to plant less annuals and more native and perennial plants as well as grow native trees in the greenhouse.

Nature Programs

Visit classrooms, camps, and library to provide education on nature based topics, including pollinators and our apiary. Will continue to work on introducing other nature-based programming and lessons in our camps and afterschool.

Sustainable Purchases

Continue to consider energy efficiency and environmentally friendly materials in new equipment and furniture purchases.

Educational Signage

Develop and post educational signage regarding recycling and other environmental initiatives in facilities and parks.

Creative Weed Control

Work on herbicide use reduction through weed-burning tools, utilizing clover in our grass blends, and renting a herd of goats to remove invasive species in the parks.



Goat Grazing

- Met with Kim Hunter aka The Green Goat Lady.
 - Assessed Milton and Lakefront Park
 - Milton is comparable to Clara Dietz and Everly
- Goats are brought in via trailer and left on site 24 hours/day
- Electric fence installed to contain goats
- A secondary fence installed as a barrier to the public
- Combination of Kim, staff, and volunteers would supervise goats from 6a-9p
- Goats clear roughly 150-300 ft² per day
- Site like Milton is about 1 acre and would be cleared in about 5 days
- Goats clear invasive species and overgrown natural areas in lieu of herbicides
- Offset costs with "Name a goat" or other special programming opportunities
- Estimated cost of \$2,500 for Milton
- Clearing would need to be done semi-annually to have long long-lasting impact
- Concerns and considerations are:
 - Communication to neighbors and public at large
 - Containment and monitoring of goats
 - Encouraging people to keep their dogs away
 - Educating the public on why it is beneficial to reduce herbicide use and remove invasive

