

Special Board Meeting

Glen Arbor Township
Grant Application
Emergency Services Members
Glen Arbor Park Commission
January 31, 2017 Minutes
(Electronically Recorded)

Township Supervisor, Peter Van Nort, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Glen Arbor Township Hall. All board members were present. Also present were Ron Calsbeek, Paul Walters, Kim Guilbeau, and Rick Schanhals, all are from the Park Commission.

Presentation by Ron Calsbeek: Grant request by the Glen Arbor Township Park Commission from the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

There were 47 applicants for the grant. The grant is to help communities find ways to increase healthy physical activity for people of all ages. The Park Commission's plan fits right into the grant requirements. There is \$140,000.00 to distribute under the grants. Some applicants are asking for as little as \$5,000. However not everyone will be funded so it important that application is prepared well to increase the likelihood that it will be funded.

It is important that the Township Board realize this is the first phase of a much larger plan for the park. This would be a good kick off to show the public how the park can be improved in significant ways.

In 2014 there was a survey sent out with the tax letters. A third of the tax payers responded, which showed the distribution of areas of interest by the public for the park. Many of these areas of interest are priorities in this request for proposal.

We have one small recreational park in Glen Arbor which increases the importance of this request. The pressure on this park has been increasing dramatically. The pressure has been increasing because visitors to this area, and also the bike trail, which passes right near the park. The park has become a staging area for cyclists, and also the increased interest in fitness. Last year a group of people paid for the beach volleyball set up. Pickle ball is growing rapidly around the world and especially in this community. Tennis lessons for children are also on the rise. As a result there would be things made possible through this grant.

A few years ago the township built the garden park, the restroom facilities, and set a standard of quality in this community. It is a beautiful little park. We would like the recreation park to match that quality, in its beauty and architectural theme. We feel keeping a park well maintained is a statement about a community.

Another concern is that the children's play area is not accessible. It is not accessible to grandparents who cannot walk on sand. And it is not accessible to people who are in wheel chairs or crutches, as the whole thing is built on loose sand.

This proposal specifically wants us to make children's play facilities more usable. If we receive the grant, this would be one of the top priorities.

We would be improving both athletic opportunities as well as general opportunities for general family interaction, which is another important requirement in the grant. We would do that by building picnic areas.

Ron Calsbeek showed the Township Board a rendering of the park concept and explained what was planned.

The Park Commission feels with the grant funding and seed money from the township that the improvements would be possible.

The Park Commission would like to receive \$60,000.00 from the township. That combined with the \$20,000.00 from the Health Department grant the Park Commission could complete phase 1 by June. The remaining \$20,000.00 would come from fund raising. The total for the park first phase would be \$100,000. The estimated amount for the total renovation is \$350,000.00

Supervisor Van Nort asked what the \$100,000 would go towards in the renovation. Calsbeek stated it would be utilized to move the play area and make it ADA accessible. Also the pickle ball courts would be created. Walkways, green space and irrigation would also be completed. The pavilion would be moved. There may be a large pine tree removed. The picnic area would also be developed.

Kim Guilbeau stated that the Health Department would be most interested in completing their part of the project by June. The Health Department would like the Park Commission to bring in Walk Michigan and Come Out and Play. This is so they can come in with programs and teach us how to have these in our park. I believe they are really trying to promote the programs the most and would like the project all done by the summer so they can implement those. The Health Department puts an emphasis on use by all age groups.

Gretzema stated that \$60,000 is a large contribution; this is close to 10% of the Townships Fund balance. Everyone believes this is a great project, however where is the fundraising effort? I believe there needs to be an active plan for fundraising.

The Park Commission plans on starting the fundraising this spring. The Park Commission believes they will also receive private donations. If the fundraising exceeds the goal, the monies will be returned to the Township. The Township realizes it is necessary to supply the seed money to get the program started.

Supervisor Van Nort stated that if the Park Commission is not awarded the \$20,000 grant that the contribution by the Township will be re-assessed.

Gretzema made the motion to support the proposal outlined for \$60,000 with the contingency that a fundraising program be activated as soon as possible. This is termed Phase I and that the Township's commitment is also contingent on the minimum of \$20,000 in contributions. If the contribution amount is less the Townships contribution will be less proportionally, support by Lewis. Motion carried.

The next item is Emergency Services, 5 year terms. Supervisor Van Nort stated when he joined the ESAC Board, John Soderholm asked if he would become the Chairman when Andy DuPont's term ended, after completing 5 years. Supervisor Van Nort agreed, however as he is now the Township Supervisor. After all the discussions, Ron Calsbeek has agreed to be a Glen Arbor representative on the Emergency Services Advisory Board and as he becomes comfortable he is willing to move into the position of Chairman. Bill Witler has agreed to be the current Chairman as long as someone else does the agenda and the presentations to the Glen

Arbor Board and the Empire Board. Roy Pentilla has agreed to do the agenda and make the presentation to the boards. Janice McCurties has also agreed to become a representative of the Emergency Services Advisory Board for Glen Arbor. **Motion to appoint Ron Calsbeek and Janice McCurties to the Emergency Services Advisory Board, support by Gretzema. Motion carried.**

Motion to appoint Bill Witler as Chairman to the Emergency Services Advisory Board, support by Peppler. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by the call of the chair at 10:57 am

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Nash
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT