

Glen Arbor Township Park Commission (PARC)
Minutes of the meeting
March 5, 2020

Chairperson Ciolek called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Present: Calsbeek, Ciolek, Munson, Schanhals
Guest: Laureto, Township Clerk

Calsbeek moved that commissioners not present be included by telephone and that their verbal votes be accepted.

The motion passed unanimously. Crouch and Walters were enlisted by telephone.

Ciolek moved that the Glen Arbor Park Commission (PARC) recommend to the Glen Arbor Township Board that park board members be appointed rather than elected; that appointed terms be staggered so as to prevent total turnover in any given year; that the appointments will be made as soon as is legally possible to ensure overlap with the current commissioners.

Rationale: The current commission is likely to experience a total or nearly total turnover at the end of their elected terms in November 2020. Each commissioner has his or her own reason for wishing to end service on the commission, but no one is doing so out of anger, frustration or dissatisfaction. In fact, several current commissioners have indicated a desire to continue to be involved but on a less structured basis.

The fact that such an occurrence is possible points to the need for staggered terms so that a similar total turnover is unlikely to happen in the future.

Nearly all park boards in communities throughout the state are appointed boards and not elected commissions. In important ways, the PARC has functioned as a board rather than an independent elected commission. While it had the authority to levy millages and establish its own fiscal and budgetary procedures, it has never done that. When a millage was needed to improve park facilities, the township board carried out that procedure and allocated the money to the PARC. This recommendation, therefore, would simply make official by law and policy what has been practiced since the inception of the PARC in 1973.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting yes: Calsbeek, Ciolek, Crouch, Munson, Schanhals, Walters

Voting no: none

The motion passed.

Laureto reviewed the requirements for putting the motion to change from an elected commission to an appointed board on the August ballot. In order to do that, petitions must be signed by 8% (72) of Glen Arbor Township eligible voters. It was agreed that a goal of 100 signatures would be a reasonable way to assure that at least 72 signers/signatures will be accepted for ballot purposes. Laureto will make petitions available for commissioners to circulate as soon as possible.

Schanhals suggested that a Google Sheet be used to describe in detail the various activities and timelines associated with Park Commissioners' responsibilities. Schanhals will create the document. Individual commissioners will add content.

Laureto discussed the PARC budget. Increased financial pressures on the township will require that the PARC budget, especially in the area of capital improvements, be reduced.

Adjourned 12:20

Ron Calsbeek,
Acting Secretary