

## **Glen Arbor Township**

### **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES - Thursday, September 15, 2022 - APPROVED, Oct 12, 2022**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Glen Arbor Parks & Recreation Board was called to order at 1:00 pm by director, John McIlvried. Ron Calsbeek, President, was absent. The other directors that were present include: Rick Shanbals, Treasurer, Kim Volk, Secretary, and Annabel Moore. Pam Laureto, Township Clerk, was also present.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone in attendance stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Public Comments**

No members of the public were present so no public comments were made.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the PARB's meetings held on July 21, 2022.

#### **Five-year Master Plan**

**Survey Results:** Tyler Sprague of Johnson-Hill joined this portion of the meeting by telephone. A copy of the results of the public survey were emailed to PARB members the day prior to this meeting. It was noted that we received 535 responses to the survey; 91% of the responses came from township taxpayers. The PARB asked Tyler to follow up with the Glen Lake School to attempt to get additional survey data from students at the school as over 50% of the survey respondents were from respondents in the over 60 years old category. The possibility of getting data from students was discussed with the school superintendent during a focus group session last week.

Since the board members did not have enough time to digest the survey results prior to this meeting, any significant discussion was postponed until the next meeting. Tyler Sprague said Johnson-Hill would be working on data interpretation and recommendations based on the survey results and should have that information to PARB members next week. They will also share a CSV file of the raw survey data containing all individual survey responses with the PARB.

**Focus Groups:** Tyler Spague provided a brief update on the focus group session held with Scott Tucker and Tom Ulrich of Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. He will share his notes from this session and others in the coming week. It was agreed to make one more attempt to schedule focus group meetings with the Gateways Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Planning Commission, and Leelanau School, but if it is not possible to have these meetings prior to October 12, 2022, we should move on.

**Schedule for the Remainder of the Year:** The next public meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 12. The PARB will also hold a special meeting that day at 4:00 pm. Tyler

Sprague will forward an updated schedule to the PARB shortly; the current plan calls for the township board to approve a new 5-year Parks & Rec master plan on January 17, 2023.

Rick Shanahals suggested that perhaps an article could be produced for the Leelanau Enterprise discussing the survey data and its implications for the future. All agreed that it is important to publicize the October 12th meeting so we are sure to have a good representation of the public present. Annabel Moore offered to get signs posted in the park, post office, and at other businesses around town.

### **President's Report**

Ron Calsbeek sent a written report to the PARB in advance of this meeting. John McIlvried noted the highlights in that report. The PARB discussed and agreed that it would take advantage of the work that Maha, a data analysis firm, offered to do with the data gleaned from the public survey on a pro bono basis. This is a generous offer that was made because the owners of Maha are related to Ron Calsbeek and enjoy Glen Arbor's parks and recreation areas. However, to address any real or perceived conflicts-of-interest, the work between Maha and PARB should be overseen as part of the rest of the work on the new 5-year Plan, with Kim Volk serving as point person and that the Maha analysis would be in addition to any additional analysis provided by Johnson-Hill.

Rick Shanahals will work with Ron Calsbeek to set a date in mid-October to remove windscreens and nets from the tennis/pickleball courts. Pam Laureto reported that work on staining the pavilion has been started.

### **Clerk's Report**

Pam Laureto informed the PARB that John DePuey was appointed to the GA Township Board, replacing John Peppler. She also reported that she was going to contact Cedar Valley Pest Control to determine whether they would be a good replacement for the township's current provider.

### **Pickleball Tournament**

Rick Shanahals gave a brief report on the upcoming Pickleball Tournament, indicating he did not yet have a good handle on the number of players that have registered so far, as there were duplicate names, and others who have registered but that indicated they aren't going to play after all. He expects to sort it out in the next day or two. The weather forecast for the weekend includes a possibility of rain, if so, then we will cancel the tournament. Since people do not pay until the day of the tournament, there will be no money to refund. John McIlvried and Annabel Moore offered their help on Saturday morning and Annabel Moore will work with Pam Laureto to get signs posted on the courts notifying potential players that the courts will not be available on Saturday and Sunday due to the tournament.

Rick also raised the idea of holding a *Glen Arbor Games* event in the park next summer, possibly in July, where families/teams could compete using all of the park's facilities (shooting free throws, playing pickleball, hitting targets with a tennis ball/racquet, playing corn hole, pingpong, etc.). The idea was met with lots of enthusiasm and is something the PARB will consider more thoughtfully in the coming year.

### **Holiday Decorations in the Park**

Kim Volk raised the idea of stringing holiday lights in the park this year during November/December as the township has some extra lights that the PARB could use if it finds the volunteers to put them up and take them down. The Board was supportive of this and will plan on doing that perhaps with some other holiday activities, like caroling.

**Park Donations/QR Code and Park Ambassador Formation**

Pam Laureto reported that the township is able to accept donations and someone recently made a \$110 donation to the park - having overpaid another bill, the resident decided it was easier to make a donation than get a refund. Pam also mentioned that some township board members are concerned that asking for donations at the park could be perceived “as nickel and dining” by people (particularly taxpayers). The board discussed this briefly noting that might be true of taxpayers but visitors might not have that same concern. Ultimately, it was agreed that these two items, park donations and formation of an ambassador program, should be thought about in context of a new five-year plan.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Volk, Secretary