

**Glen Arbor Township**  
**PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES (Approved, Jan 12, 2023)**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2022**  
**Glen Arbor Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Call to Order**

Ron Calsbeek, president, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. In addition to President Calsbeek, the following Parks & Rec Board members were present: Kim Volk, Secretary, Rick Schanhals, Treasurer, John McIlv Reid, and Annabel Moore. Pam Laureto, Township Clerk, and Tom Lauretto, Township Supervisor were also present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone in attendance stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for this special meeting to consider making an application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Sparks Grant was approved.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public were in attendance so no public comments were made.

**Sparks Grant Application**

At this time, Mark Robinson and Tyler Sprague of Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio joined the meeting by telephone.

Pam Laureto informed all in attendance that the Township Board approved the PARB's recommendation to retain Johnson Hill to help it apply for a Sparks Grant during the first round funding, understanding the grant application is due December 19, 2022 and that Johnson Hill's fee is \$750.

The PARB then discussed potential items that are needed to improve/enhance the Township Park, for which funding is currently not available. It agreed to seek a grant to cover the costs for replacing Tennis Courts 3 & 4 with new tennis courts, although with elongated surfaces to accommodate pickleball play when the courts are not being used for tennis. Ideally the grant would cover the following:

- Removal of the current asphalt surfaces, screens, fencing, nets, posts, etc.
- A new, elongated asphalt surface, so when the courts are not being used for tennis, they could be used for pickleball; painting, and striping the new courts, new posts, new nets, and new windscreens. A new fence should also be installed.
- In addition, a new sidewalk connection will be needed as well as new landscaping and the possible removal of a couple trees to accommodate the elongated courts.

During discussion, it was noted that these tennis courts (3 & 4) were not replaced when the park was redone in 2018, due to funding limitations. The courts are approximately 15-20 years old and they have developed large cracks, which have been repaired several times, with the repairs also cracking. In addition, the park has seen increased usage during the past few years due to more visitors in the area and more summer residents spending longer amounts of time in the area in response to covid. The Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore estimated that close to 2 million people visited the park in the past two years, many of which make use of the facilities in

the Glen Arbor Township Park before or after visiting the dunes, which places significant demands on the park that generally services a year-round population of about 750 people.

The PARB considered asking for grant money to winterize an existing restroom or build a new winterized restroom and/or to fund the costs of repainting the basketball and pickleball courts (\$21k). These courts opened June 30, 2018 and after 5 years, the surfaces are showing wear and need care. However, it was decided that the only things to ask for in the first round of funding was rebuilding the tennis courts and replacing the other items associated with doing that noted earlier. The PARB can handle repainting the basketball and pickleball courts in its annual operating budget and it needs to give more consideration to where to locate a winter restroom and what the costs will be to build *and* maintain it, before pursuing grant money in that regard.

Pam Laureto reported that she was able to sign up and is registered to use the State of Michigan Grants Website; she is in the process of determining how to add Johnson Hill as an authorized agent/representative for Glen Arbor Township.

Kim Volk also asked Johnson Hill to send an invoice for their \$750 fee to assist with this grant application. Pam Laureto requested this be received before December 20, 2022.

The PARB did not schedule another meeting for 2022 believing it could work with Johnson Hill and Pam Laureto to finalize the grant application via email. If, however, it turns out another meeting is necessary, one will be called.

#### **PARB Member Resignation**

Pam Laureto informed the board that the township had received an application from a resident to join the Park Board and she thought the Township Board could act on this application at its December 20th meeting, if necessary. Rick Shanals offered to resign as a PARB member, effective immediately. The Board thanked Rick for all his work on behalf of the Township Park's development and maintenance, his service on the PARB and the commission that predated the Board.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Volk, Secretary