

**Glen Arbor Township
PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
March 9, 2023 - 1:00 pm
Glen Arbor Town Hall Meeting Room**

MEETING MINUTES - Approved 4-5-23

Call to Order

President John McIlvried called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. The following directors were present: John McIlvried, Kim Volk, Secretary, Ron Calsbeek, and Susan Betzing. Pam Laureto, Township Clerk, was also present.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the following addition: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. *Motion carried.*

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the PARB's February 9, 2023 meeting. *Motion carried.*

Public Comments

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

President's Report

John McIlvried took this time to recognize Ron Calsbeek and thank him for his service to the community as serving as a member of the Park & Rec Board for the past 10-12 years. Ron's term as a board member ends at the end of March 2023. Other PARB members expressed their gratitude for all Ron has done for the township park and noted that he will be missed. The board also expressed its hope that he will continue to support the park as a volunteer in the years to come.

John McIlvried reported on the Myles-Kimberly Park Board meeting that he and Ron Calsbeek attended recently. During the meeting he and Ron were able to speak during the public comments portion of the meeting. The MK Park Board was discussing its master plan and intends to recommend to the County Park Board and County Commissioners that six new pickleball courts be built at Myles Kimberly. John stayed for most of the meeting and was able to provide additional information later and he also expressed the GA Park & Recreation Board's willingness to collaborate as may be appropriate.

Clerk's Report

Pam informed the PARB that it is likely the Township Board will approve the 2023/24 budget (\$67,700) it submitted earlier in the year, less the \$7,000 which was earmarked for the park manager/groundskeeper. The reason is that the Township is seriously considering hiring a part-time maintenance person to care for all of the Township's properties and if this is approved,

the person hired would assume the duties that we had intended be performed by a park manager/groundskeeper.

She also reported that the Township received \$1,025 from pickleball players to cover some of the costs to clean the floor in the Leelanau School gym. This was a result of the personal letter that Susan Betzing sent to pickle ball players and the Township appreciates the support as it will cover about one third of the cost..

Pam also said the Township is working with a certified electrician on getting new lights for the Township gym. It looks like we are able to get LED lights with covers to protect them from basketballs, but they are dimmable and programmable with 8 different kinds of light qualities. The initial quote is \$8000.

Bob Merritt submitted an application to join the PARB and his interview is scheduled for March 14; assuming that goes well the Township Board will act on his application at its March meeting. The PARB members that know him thought he would be a good addition to the board.

Five-year Park Plan: Operations & Maintenance

Susan Betzig reported on the work she has been doing to investigate a means for visitors to make donations to the Township Park similar to what the Friends of Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail has set-up. The idea is that there could be metal cylinder type depositories where people could voluntarily put a cash donation. Susan was looking for feedback from the Board as to whether she should pursue this further (i.e. get cost estimates for building and installing the cylinders). During discussion, Pam Laureto said she discussed this with the Township Board and Staff and that they wanted to be sure anything the PARB did in this regard would not generate more work or be too burdensome on the staff (collecting money, etc.). Pam also reported that she contacted the Township's bank to see if they were set up to accept donations via QR codes since that was something the PARB has been considering as well. The bank said that using QR codes would not be possible but suggested that we look at doing something with NCR or another company and Pam will pursue getting information on those avenues as well.

Susan distributed a summary of the responses received to the email survey of regular tennis and pickleball players who reside in GA Township. The survey was designed to get feedback from them on lessons, tournaments, and a reservation system. Pam also informed the board that the Township Board does not want the Township to contract with instructors to offer tennis and/or pickleball lessons. After learning that and reviewing the survey comments about lessons, the Board decided it will not allow the courts in the Township Park to be reserved for group lessons. Individuals may have a private lesson on a court at the Township Park if a court is available.

With respect to Tournaments, the survey feedback was positive and most participants thought the costs to play should cover the cost of the tournament and generate some additional funds for the maintenance of the park. Pam noted this is currently what has been happening. None of the PARB members is willing to plan the tournaments, although all are willing to help. Ron thought Rick would be interested in running them and suggested that we stick to the schedule used in previous years. The Tennis Tournament would be held on the weekend prior to July 4th and the Pickleball Tournament would be held the weekend after Labor Day.

Susan also reported that there is a lot of interest in developing a reservation system to reserve pickleball and tennis courts. She has been investigating these and believes the costs to have one in place would not exceed \$50 a month or about \$300 for a season. The PARB is in favor of developing a reservation system, although there was some discussion on whether the system, when in place, should be available to all or just to Glen Arbor residents/taxpayers. The PARB asked Susan to proceed on developing a recommendation for a reservation system and once that is finalized, the PARB will revisit the question about whether it should be used by all or just residents/taxpayers.

Five-year Plan: Recreation

Kim Volk reported on the work that has been done to develop a broader recreation offering for the Township. A Recreation Committee has been formed with the following members: Kim Volk, Annabel Moore, Diane Hamilton, Michelle Aucello, and Julie Misner. The committee had one meeting to date, and while a number of recreational offerings were discussed (card games, movie nights, dances, lectures, exercise classes, etc.), the committee wanted to keep things simple to start. It sent its recommendations to the Township Supervisor and Clerk to see if they were doable before spending a lot of time on the details, but the committee would like to hold two events in 2023: a community potluck supper at the Town Hall and a fall festival. Pam Laureto said there doesn't seem to be any red flags particularly if the Township is not selling or serving alcohol. People could bring their own beverages but if the Township was selling or serving alcohol, it'd have to apply for a one-day liquor license, get an insurance rider, and have qualified bartenders. Costs for these events would have to fit in the existing budget or would need to be covered through ticket sales.

Five-year Plan: Collaboration

John McIlv Reid reported previously on the opportunity to collaborate with the Myles-Kimberly Park Board. He also reported that through Kim's contacts we have a meeting scheduled with the Glen Arbor Art Center on March 29 and are in the process of finalizing a meeting time with the Chamber of Commerce's two new co-presidents. Others might include the Glen Lake Schools, the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, and the Leelanau School.

Sparks Grants

To date, the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has not provided any feedback on the grant application Glen Arbor submitted for the first round of funding. Nor have they announced when the second round of grant applications are due. The PARB and the Township Board agreed it will submit a grant application for the second round of funding and Pam Laureto has asked Johnson Hill for a proposal on what it would cost for them to help in that regard. Ideally, we'll get some feedback on our first grant application before the second round of applications are due.

Other

Ron Calsbeek mentioned that the Glen Lake Schools Foundation Board is planning a gala to raise money for the Glen Lake Schools on May 6 at the Homestead. The gala will feature a Kentucky Derby Theme, dinner and drinks. The funds raised are to help disadvantaged students.

Next Meeting - May 11

Kim Volk asked if there were things the PARB should be planning to do to open the park before its next meeting on May 11, but since this is really weather dependent, we have to wait and see.

Pam said the benches, trash cans, etc. are scheduled to be put in place the week before Memorial Day.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Volk, Secretary