

**Glen Arbor Township
PARK & RECREATION BOARD (PARB) MEETING
Wednesday - April 5, 2023 - 1:00 pm
Township Office**

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL: Approved May 11, 2023

Call to Order & Introduction

John McIlvried called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and introduced new board member Bob Merritt. The following board members were present: John McIlvried, president; Kim Volk, secretary; Susan Betzig and Bob Merritt. Annabel Moore, treasurer, was absent. Pam Laureto, Township Clerk, was also present.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. *Motion carried.*

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Comment

No public comments were submitted from in advance of the meeting and no members of the public were present at the meeting.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023 PARB meeting as presented. *Motion carried.*

Operations & Maintenance Update

Susan Betzig updated the Board on the work she did to identify a reservation system for the Township to use for pickleball court reservations. She is recommending we use the same system used by Suttons Bay. The PARB is supportive of this recommendation but before implementing the system, it asked Pam Laureto to seek legal advice on limiting the use of the reservation system to Glen Arbor Township residents/taxpayers. If permissible, the courts could be reserved by residents/taxpayers for an hour or hour and half per resident/taxpayer during a 3 hours time slot in the late afternoon, a few days a week. The courts would remain available to the public mornings and any other time outside the taxpayer/resident block. The PARB also encouraged Susan to form a Pickleball Committee with the idea that someone from the committee would help manage the reservation system as well as develop the rules for reserving courts. Pam Laureto will create a recreation email address for the PARB: Recreation@glenarbortownship.com. This can be used for other recreational activities as needed.

Susan also updated the Board on the work done by Pam to develop a QR Code that can be used by people to make payments for use of the Lake Michigan boat launch and for visitors to make donations for the upkeep of the Township Park. The Township Board approved the PARB recommendation to increase a season pass and daily fee to use the boat launch and the new fees will be \$10 per day (it had been \$5 for many years) and \$100 for a season pass (it had been \$50 for many years). The Township Board kept the commercial fee the same (\$200) since

there are only three commercial users, and as these users venture out in the early morning, they have been very helpful in keeping the boat launch cleaned up after big waves/storms, etc.

New signage will be needed at the boat launch and in the park. While the boat launch signage is fairly straightforward given it is a fee based system, having a QR code should make it easier for people to pay the fees and for the Township staff to collect them. The cash box option will remain at the boat launch as long as it also is used. QR Code Signage in the Township Park may need to be a little more clever in that it should prompt visitors to the park with a hint to make a donation if they enjoy using the park's facilities and want them to be maintained as well as they have been.

Lastly, Susan discussed the need to set some maintenance standards for the park. To that end, she, Bob Merritt, and Tom Laureto will walk the park to begin this process with a goal of having a recommendation for the PARB to act on at its May meeting. Ideally, the PARB can also act on the QR Code signage and pickleball reservations system at this meeting as well.

Recreation Update

Kim Volk briefly updated the Board on plans for the Community Potluck to take place in the Town Hall on Thursday, May 25. The Recreation Committee will meet next on April 10 to finalize plans, identify a means to promote the event to the community, decide which other community groups should be invited, etc. Pam Laureto reminded everyone that any money for this event would need to come from the PARB maintenance budget or rely on donations.

Collaboration Update

John McIlvried updated the Board on the meeting he and Kim Volk had with Sarah Kime, executive director, and Pam Lysaght, president, of the Glen Arbor Arts Center (GAAC) in late March. They identified a few areas of possible collaboration. GAAC already uses the town hall for its Plein Air Weekend Paint Sale the first weekend each August and it will also host pop-up classical music concerts in the park again this year, in late June. GAAC would also be interested in working with the Township and others (Chamber, Friend of Sleeping Bear, the National Park, etc.) to bring back the Dune Climb Concert. And it would be interested in seeing the Township develop some ordinances about displaying public art throughout the town. The PARB seemed supportive of these collaborations, though no formal votes were asked for nor taken.

Pickleball & Tennis Tournaments

John McIlvried informed the PARB about his communications with Rick Schanhals about his willingness to manage pickleball and tennis tournaments again this summer. Rick was less interested in helping with a tennis tournament since the number of players have declined in recent years. He is willing to help with a pickleball tournament but wanted to touch base with Ron Calsbeek first and also suggested the PARB consider hosting the tournament earlier in the season. The PARB believes the weekend after Labor Day is still a good weekend for the pickleball tournament and would not like to tie up the courts for a day earlier in the summer, unless it is possible to hold it the weekend after Memorial Day (early June). John McIlvried will convey this information to Rick and report back to the PARB in May.

Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of 2023

The board reviewed its remaining meeting schedule and did not make any changes at this time.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kim Volk, Secretary

April 6, 2023