

**Glen Arbor Township
PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
July 13, 2023 - 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Glen Arbor Township Meeting Room**

MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED 9/13/23

Call to Order

President John McIlvried called the meeting of the Glen Arbor Township's Park & Recreation Board (PARB) to order at 1:03 pm. The following Board members were present: John McIlvried, Susan Betzig, Bob Merritt, Annabel Moore, and Kim Volk. Pam Laureto, Township Clerk was not present.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with a couple of additions under the "other" category. These additions will be noted later in the minutes. *Motion carried.*

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Comment

An email from Mr. Eric Church was forwarded to members of the PARB from Ron Calsbeek. Mr. Church suggested that the Open Play times be expanded and limited to players that were at the intermediate level or above. The PARB noted the suggestion but did not find it actionable.

John McIlvried informed the PARB of some other public comments he had received since the last board meeting. The majority of these comments had to do with people complaining that pickleball players do not adhere to the one hour play rule. Another public comment suggested a white board be installed to help manage play, where people sign up with their name and time.

Bob Merritt shared some positive comments about the music in the park program on July 3.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 11, 2023 PARB meeting were approved as presented.

President's Report

John McIlvried noted that he had been out of town for much of the past month but he noted the biggest issue at the moment seems to be the number of pickleball players vying for use of the courts. The PARB suggested investigating what it would cost to line the two older tennis courts for pickleball play and agreed to discuss this further during the Operations Report section of the agenda.

John McIlvried also reported that Rick Shanahals has committed to organizing the September 9, 2023 Pickleball Tournament.

Treasurer's Report

Annabel Moore, Treasurer, said the current budget/financials were distributed to the PARB in advance of the meeting by Pam Laureto and we look to be on budget at this time. She also suggested that members of the PARB take turns attending Township Board meetings and others thought this was a good idea. Kim Volk offered to send the dates of Township Board meetings to the PARB so board members can sign up for the meetings they can attend.

Clerk's Report

Since Pam Laureto was unable to attend this meeting, she sent a written report in advance of the meeting. In the report it was noted that Brian Clark, the township's new maintenance person, is working at the park 2-3 days per week and is doing a good job. One of the outdoor light fixtures needed to be replaced and Tom Laureto replaced it. The new QR signs have been installed and the ant problem has been treated twice and the treatments seem to be working.

With help from Johnson Hil, a new Sparks grant application has been submitted by the deadline and we are waiting for a response from the State of Michigan.

The PARB recommends that the public restrooms in the park and at the GA Garden are opened at 8:00 am and remain open until 9:00 pm every day. This was supposed to have been done but it does not appear the auto programming has been adjusted to accommodate the 8am start. Township staff is asked to follow-up and make the change.

Five-year Plan Projects

Recreation

Kim Volk reported that the Recreation Committee met on Monday, July 10 to follow-up on the recreation sign-up sheets collected during the May Community Potluck and to plan the Fall Festival scheduled for October 20 & 21. The Recreation Committee will put the people that signed up for various activities in touch with each other for their follow-up if they wish to pursue something with one another. The items that received the most interest are movie nights, game nights, and card groups and in September, the Recreation Committee will consider next steps in hosting a monthly or quarterly event of some sort in these areas. The Recreation Committee will work with those who indicated an interest in movies, games, cards to gather additional information prior to its September meeting.

Regarding the Fall Festival, the Recreation Committee decided to hold a square or line dance on Friday night, September 20 from 7pm-10pm in the Township Gym; this will be a ticketed event with any costs incurred covered by the ticket sales. A tailgate in the circle behind the town hall is being planned for Saturday, Oct 21, two hours prior to the start of the Michigan/Michigan State football game. The committee hopes to stream the game in the gym for those who want to stay to watch it after the tailgate - but some testing needs to be done before those plans are finalized. Since the GL School is planning to hold a Pumpkin Fest on October 7 at the school, the Recreation Committee decided not to do something similar as part of Fall Fest.

Collaborations

John McIlvired reported on the need to meet with both the GL Schools and the National Park Service, although these meetings will not be scheduled until later this summer or early in the fall. One potential collaboration to involve the PARB, Chamber of Commerce, Glen Arbor Art Center, and the National Park Service surfaced during previous discussions with the Chamber

and GAAC, and that is to reinstate the Dune Climb Concert for next summer. John McIlvried and Kim Volk will follow up with the various organizations in this regard.

Operations

Susan Betzig presented a recommendation to replace some of the current signage at the pickleball courts with a new sign intended to clarify the rules for “Open Play.” During discussion, it became clear that there was still confusion about the meaning of “open play” and “round robin” and Susan agreed to consult with national pickleball organizations on terms to be used on the signs. However, the PARB was in agreement that the hour limit should be replaced with a game, meaning that people can complete one game before having to relinquish the court to other players (if people are waiting). The PARB also thought the rack Susan proposed was something the township should purchase but agreed to take a field trip to the courts to see where it might be installed and how it would work with the current baskets that are there. The PARB understood the purchase of new signs and the rack will need to be approved by the Township Board but it is not yet ready to make that recommendation. Once the language is clarified and the rack placement has been determined, the PARB wants to solicit feedback from the regular local pickleball players before giving a final recommendation to the Township Board. Part of this recommendation will also relate to lining the two older tennis courts for pickleball. The PARB will also solicit feedback from regular pickleball players on the idea of lining the old tennis courts for pickleball play.

Susan Betzig expressed frustration that the new QR Signs are not in the locations that the PARB previously approved for recommended placement and that the language on the signs is different from what the PARB suggested. Most of the board agreed that even though the language on the signs is different than originally proposed, it's fine and some of the PARB members thought it was an improvement. However, all PARB members would like to know why the locations for the signs are not where they were originally intended. The PARB is also interested in tracking the number and amount of donations that come through the QR codes and assumes this will be part of the ongoing monthly financial reporting.

Other

A question was asked about what role PARB members have in enforcing the park's rules and all agreed that if any of us see anything happening that shouldn't be happening, we should speak up (as should any citizen)..

Kim Volk asked if anyone knew what is going on with the bike trail between town and the Homestead and no one did so the PARB agreed to ask the Township for information on who oversees the trail, what decisions have already been made, what decisions are yet to be made, and when the work on this extender is supposed to start and finish.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Volk, Secretary

