

**Glen Arbor Township
PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
Thursday, November 16, 2023
Township Meeting Room**

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Call to Order

The meeting of the Glen Arbor Township's Park & Recreation Board (PARB) was called to order at 1:00 pm by John McIlvried, President. The following PARB members were also present: Susan Betzig, Annabel Moore, Treasurer, and Kim Volk, Secretary. Bob Merritt, PARB member and Pam Laureto, Township Clerk were absent.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made 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 members were in attendance and no public comments were received in advance of the meeting.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2023 PARB meeting as presented. *Motion carried.*

President's Report

John McIlvried raised a number of issues for PARB discussion:

1) Park Winterizing & Clean-up

The PARB acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the community members that helped take down the tennis nets and windscreens earlier this month: Bob Merritt, Susan Betzig, Ron Calsbeek, Tim Sutherland, and Kim Miles

The PARB supports the Township's decision that the park is "officially" open May 1 and "officially" closes November 1 each year. However, the PARB recommends that two of the tennis nets and all of the pickleball nets remain up throughout the year. This has been the custom and practice for several years without causing damage to the nets. However, the windscreens should be taken down for the winter as they have been significantly damaged when left up. The PARB also recommends that a couple of plastic snow shovels be left at the courts for use by players when needed. Since the courts have just been resurfaced, the PARB is concerned people may bring their own metal snow shovels and mar the courts when removing snow for play.

2) Oak Leaf Hydrangeas

John relayed information from Pam Laureto about the possible removal of these plants near the pickleball courts. After meeting with a landscaper, the township decided that instead of removing the hydrangeas, it will severely cut them back this fall if time and

weather permit or if not they will be cut back in the spring. If they were to be removed, the steep drop off between the sidewalk and court would be exposed and that could pose a safety hazard. It is hoped that the cut-back will solve the problem; if it doesn't, removal can be considered at a later time.

3) Restroom Opening Times

Currently the public restrooms are opened at 9am; the PARB has recommended that the opening time be changed to 8am. Tom Laureto has worked on this and thought he had the programming fixed to accommodate the 8am opening time but so far it hasn't worked. The township wants to try one more thing to solve the problem before engaging an electrician. At this point since the restrooms are closed for the season, the subject is moot. However, the PARB recommends that the township work on this in the spring so that when the restrooms officially open on May 1, they will be open at 8:00 am and close by 9:00 pm each day.

4) Indoor Pickleball

The PARB recommends the lighting in the gym be replaced as soon as possible. This expense was budgeted, the township is in agreement, but to date, the PARB doesn't know what the hold-up is and/or when or whether or not the work will be done. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the PARB that the gym lighting be replaced as soon as possible and it would like to know when the work will be scheduled before its next meeting, January 11, 2024. *Motion carried.*

After issues with scheduling courts for indoor pickleball arose over the past year; the PARB and Township decided to remove references to indoor pickleball from the township website. This may not be the ideal solution to address issues (non-resident/non-tax-payer requests to access indoor courts, code for town hall, Leelanau School, accessing equipment, etc.) but it may be the simplest unless we want to change how the gym is accessed and how indoor player requests are vetted.

Clerk's Report

Pam Laureto was not at the meeting as she was recovering from recent surgery. The PARB would like to see a financial report on the use of QR Codes since they were introduced this year. Ideally, the report will include the costs the Township incurred with the bank for set-up and ongoing maintenance as well as any revenues generated.

Treasurer's Report

Annabel Moore did not have a formal financial report at this meeting. The PARB asked that it receive a written report in advance of its January meeting that includes income/balance statements and budget performance for 2023/2024. Annabel agreed and will work with Pam Laureto to produce the requested reports.

Five-year Park Plan Priorities

1) Recreation Committee

Kim Volk sent a copy of the Recreation Committee's report on the October square dance and tailgate party to the PARB in advance of the meeting. Both events were successful and the costs to put them on were covered by fees charged to attend with a

small profit (\$65). The Rec Committee will likely come up with another event of some sort for the January/February time frame.

2) Operations & Maintenance

Susan Betzig led a discussion about the need to find a way to refurbish the old tennis courts now that Sparks Grant money is not available for this. The PARB acknowledged that the work is still needed and we should review the Sparks Grant application as a starting point to determine whether the work outlined there is still the approach we recommend taking with the old courts.

The PARB also acknowledged it needs to better understand the park millage that will be expiring shortly as some community members and park users have suggested it be renewed so that the old tennis courts could be rebuilt or replaced with pickleball courts. Others have suggested we look for private donors to fund the work.

Susan and Annabel agreed to work together with Pam Laureto to bring information on the millage, the township's reserves and budget and Sparks Grant recommendations to the PARB for further discussion at its next meeting in January.

3) Collaborations

The PARB noted that it met with the Glen Arbor Arts Center and the Chamber of Commerce during the past year and John McIlvried noted a meeting with the Sleeping Bear National Park staff should be scheduled in the coming year.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.
Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kim Volk, Secretary
November 17, 2021**