

**Glen Arbor Township  
PARK & RECREATION BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, March 14, 2024  
Township Gym**

**MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Glen Arbor Township's Park & Recreation Board (PARB) was called to order at 1:03 pm by John McIlvried, President. The following PARB members were present: Susan Betzig, Bob Merritt, John McIlvried, and Kim Volk. Pam Laureto, Township Clerk, was also present. Annabel Moore, PARB Treasurer, was 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**

Ms. Tracey Bosman, a Glen Arbor resident, joined the meeting in person and after introducing herself said she was just there to listen, although she wanted to thank the PARB members for their work on behalf of the community.

The PARB also received an email request from Ms. Tracy Howard who owns a home on the corner of Bow Road and McFarlane. Ms. Howard and a business partner own a new company that sells pickleball equipment and apparel and wrote to the PARB to gauge its interest in allowing their new company, DillyCo, to sponsor a pickleball tournament in Glen Arbor. John McIlvried and Kim Volk responded to Ms. Howard's email indicating the PARB would discuss her request at today's meeting. During discussion, PARB members noted that since the pickleball courts are so busy so much of the season that there is not a strong sentiment for closing the courts to regular play among GA residents/taxpayers. However, it was also noted that if the tournament was designed in such a way to be a fundraiser for the park, it might be worth considering. Pam Laureto, reminded the board of existing policy to not allow individuals or companies to conduct profit-making ventures in the park. She also said that if the PARB wanted to contract with an outside company to run a pickleball or tennis tournament for fundraising purposes, the township would have to issue an RFP and ask any interested companies/individuals to submit proposals for the Township's consideration. After discussion, the PARB decided not to pursue the matter further at this time.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the January 11, 2024 Park & Recreation Board were approved as presented.

**President's Report**

John McIlvried noted that the windsock at the park is working again and the Township will replace it and the pole it's attached to as necessary going forward. John also shared an email he received from a resident looking to make a donation to the park as a memorial to her now deceased aunt (an avid tennis player while she was alive). The PARB discussed this and suggested that a cash donation to the Township Park could best be handled by contacting Pam

Laureto directly. Other donations to the park have been handled in this manner. John McIlvried will follow up with the inquiring resident.

### **Clerk's Report**

Pam Laureto wanted to discuss four matters: access to indoor pickleball courts; follow-up on the work identified to replace the old tennis courts and enable their use for pickleball when not used for tennis; the 2024-25 Budget and the future of the PARB.

**Access to Indoor Pickleball:** Too many people are asking to have their own personal code to play pickleball at a time convenient for them rather than coming to play during the times designated for open play. The Township is not able to accommodate these requests, however the Clerk will ask the Township Board to approve another day/time for indoor play in the Township Gym. Currently indoor pickleball is available for open play on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays from 10am-12 Noon and from 1pm-3pm on Tuesday and Thursday. If the Township Board approves, Wednesdays between 10am -12 Noon will be added. The PARB agreed individuals should not have personal codes to play outside the times allotted. In addition, the PARB suggested that there should be no indoor pickleball in the Township Gym during the summer months (June, July, and August). Pam will follow-up with Diane Calsbeek to make sure this policy and the SignUp Genius app are in sync.

**Replacing Old Tennis Courts:** Pam Laureto informed the PARB of her follow-up conversations with Johnson-Hill to learn what other DNR Grants might be available to do the work to replace the old tennis courts outlined in the Township's Sparks Grant Application, since that application was not approved for funding. Johnson Hill Identified three other DNR Grants: Passport Grants, Trust Fund Grants, and Land & Water Grants, applications for which are due by April 1 of every year. Of these, the best option for Glen Arbor is a Land & Water Grant; while it requires a 50% match by the Township, it also has a higher cap so the necessary funding would be available to cover the costs of the work the PARB identified to be done (approximately \$300K-\$400K). Passport Grants have a cap of \$150K and Trust Fund Grants are earmarked for natural resource activities like hiking trails, kayak launches, etc. Given the April 1 deadline and the need to have identified the requisite 50% match, the Township is not pursuing a DNR Grant this year. The PARB suggested that the Township contact Johnson Hill to see if there are other less expensive alternatives to refurbishing or replacing the old tennis courts that don't require the courts expansion, new fencing, walkways, landscaping etc. Once the Township has an updated cost for the work, it can determine the best means of getting the matching funds (reserves/budget, fundraising, millage renewal, etc.).

**Budget:** Pam Laureto shared the budget information she received from Annabel Moore on behalf of the Park Board, made a couple adjustments and reviewed the overall budget for the park with the Board. During this discussion, the board recommended proceeding to get a permanent sign for pickleball rules/play and purchasing a new battery powered blower.

**Future of PARB:** Pam explained that the Township recently decided to sunset the Cemetery Board and is planning to do something with the PARB based on recommendations from the attorneys at the Michigan Townships Association. The Township has already taken over the maintenance of the park; a five-year plan for the park was developed and approved and is in process so the timing makes sense to the PARB. The Township Board will consider taking this action at its next meeting, March 19. Pam asked if members of the PARB would like to continue in a volunteer capacity acting on an ad hoc basis when needed. Kim Volk agreed to continue to

work on Recreation/Event activities and Bob Merritt offered to organize work sessions at the park when necessary, installing and taking down wind screens, spring and fall clean-up sessions, etc. The spring work session will be scheduled for a Saturday morning in late April or early May.

**Five-Year Plan Priorities**

**Operations & Maintenance:** Any issues were already discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Recreation:** There will be another Contra/Square/Line Dance in the Township Gym on April 20 and the Community Potluck will be held on May 30th, the Thursday after Memorial Day.

**Collaboration:** John McIlvred noted he had been approached by some Empire residents to share information about the pickleball racquet holders, new sign, new rules instituted in Glen Arbor as they were interested in doing something similar at the Empire courts.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Kim Volk, Secretary