UPPER NEWTON PARK SYNTHETIC TURF UPDATE
Executive Director Dave Harris presented a slideshow update to the Upper Newton Park Synthetic Turf project. Harris reviewed the process beginning with the existing athletic field conditions and needs, recommendations that were researched and presented, how the turf project came to fruition along with the financial aspect of the project. Director Harris then reviewed and answered several questions that have been posed in the last several weeks.

Following Director Harris’ presentation, several members from the public spoke regarding their concerns with the synthetic turf project at Upper Newton Park. Environmental, financial, lack of notice and the need for additional discussion were several topics. Some neighbors of Newton Park would have liked more direct notice of this project.

Many supporters of the turf project spoke as well at the Workshop Meeting. A representative of Glenbard High School District 87, Glen Ellyn Bulldogs Lacrosse program and Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles Football also spoke of the need and endorsement for this project and how the demand for field accessibility has increased over time as well as the benefits this project will bring to the community.

Other members of the public discussed the greater need for the public to become active in their communities and take the time to willingly participate and be aware of the projects and discussions that are taking place within the community.

After a lengthy public discussion, the Board voiced their opinions and discussed how they arrived at their decision to pursue the synthetic turf project at Upper Newton Park.

OATH OF OFFICE
The newly elected Commissioners, Kathy Cornell, Gary Mayo, and Chris Wilson were given their Oath of Office and began their new terms on the Glen Ellyn Park Board of Commissioners.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
The Glen Ellyn Park Board of Commissioners held their election of officers. Commissioner Nephew was elected as the new Park Board President, Commissioner Creech as Vice President and Commissioner Mayo as Treasurer. Other appointments included Dave Harris as Executive Director and the WDSRA (Western DuPage Special Recreation Association) representative, Executive Assistant Kimberly Dikker as Board Secretary and Ancel Glink as Legal Counsel.
2014 AUDIT REPORT/PRESENTATION
Jamie Wilkey of Lauterbach & Amen presented the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Management letter. She also stated the District received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for last year’s audited financial statements. Ms. Wilkey then reviewed the report in detail and the Board had a brief discussion of the report.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY PROJECT/TRAILS & TRIVIA PROGRAM
Glen Ellyn Park District Naturalist Renae Frigo discussed a recent Problem Based Learning (PBL) project that took place in the fall of 2014 with students at Ben Franklin School in Glen Ellyn regarding the declining Monarch butterfly populations. As a result of the recommendations presented from the students, the Village of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn Park District and the Village of Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission (E.C.) collaborated in creating a community-wide project to save the monarch butterfly. Frigo then presented a slideshow discussing the decline of the monarch butterfly population and the strategies that will help their cause. Frigo stated that a Monarch summit was organized involving several community stakeholders and many ideas emerged to aid in the plight of the Monarch. Informational meetings were held at the Glen Ellyn Public Library and Ben Franklin students hosted a fundraiser selling milkweed seeds which in turn will go towards the purchase of more milkweed seeds that will be planted within Glen Ellyn. Milkweed seeds are essential to the life of the Monarch Butterfly and will aid to increase their population. Demonstrative gardens will be planted within the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Park District as well as other agencies cross-promoting their efforts. Naturalist Frigo also discussed the marketing efforts of the Glen Ellyn Park District in creating awareness of the Monarch Butterfly including the new Trails & Trivia program being implemented to connect families to nature and involving the public in conservation stewardship and citizen science.