Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
March 18, 2008
Regular Meeting Minutes
185 Spring Avenue

Call to Order
President Taylor called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Commissioners
Upon roll call those answering present were Commissioners Schoen, Jourdan, Dallman and President Taylor. Absent: Commissioners Aubrey, Hess and Minogue

Staff members present were Superintendent of Recreation Esposito, Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Woods, Superintendent of Parks Scarmardo, Executive Assistant Sesto, Communications & Marketing Supervisor Talenco. Attorney Hoppa was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance
President Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda
None

Consent Agenda
Commissioner Dallman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jourdan, to approve the Consent Agenda. Items on the Consent Agenda for approval were: February 19, 2008 Regular Meeting and March 4, 2008 Workshop Meeting Minutes; Treasurer’s Report, Voucher List of Bills Totaling $391,655.81.
Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Dallman, Jourdan, Schoen and President Taylor
Nay: None Motion Carried

Public Participation
Ms. Melissa Creech, 697 St. Charles Road, addressed the Board regarding the construction of two soccer fields in Ackerman Park and the removal of 344 trees. Ms. Creech felt there were other locations the Park District should look into for soccer fields and also felt the Park District should have a study done on current facilities to see if they are meeting the need. Ms. Creech asked that the Board reconsider the placement of soccer fields in Ackerman Park and to consider backing out of the intergovernmental agreement with the Village for the construction of the fields.

President Taylor commented that the Village of Glen Ellyn approached the Board and Park District with the need to address storm water management on the north side of town, specifically the area north of five corners. The Park District’s participation in the agreement was to allow the Village to construct their storm water detention in Ackerman Park. As an offshoot the Board decided it would be advantageous to create soccer fields in that area since it was going to be used as storm water detention. The lower field will flood during a significant rain event. It is a cooperative agreement between the Park District and the Village of Glen Ellyn for storm water management that has been discussed for five years.

Ackerman Park is the Park District’s predominant soccer facility for all soccer programs. All of the other parks are also being programmed for activities such as baseball, girls softball, and football. The Park
The Park District would like to contain and keep as many practices and games as possible, for the 2000 children participating in the program, at Ackerman Park. There is always a need for more fields and the intergovernmental agreement is a great opportunity for the Park District to keep the soccer program at Ackerman Park and service the Village so that they can do storm water management.

Mr. Thomas Waters, 740 Grand Avenue, commented that he was not aware of the project and wanted to express his dissatisfaction with the lack of notice to the public by the Park District and the Village. While he understood the need for soccer fields and water retention, he asked the Board to make a survey of the larger trees that could be saved in the area, even around the soccer fields, so that it is not clear cut.

President Taylor explained that the area was not going to be clear cut. Not all trees between St. Charles Road and the parking lot in Ackerman Park were being removed. There will be a 250' area from the curb at St. Charles into the woods that will remain intact with trees. Removal would begin after the 250' buffer, working its way northward. The Park District has looked at trees near the soccer fields that will be constructed and discussed leaving trees as close as 10' to the soccer fields in tact.

Mr. Dan Williams, 924 Lenox Road, asked if the trees to the left of the field would be removed and if there were plans to light the fields.

President Taylor commented there would be a 25' to 30' tree buffer on the western most edge of the soccer fields and that there were no plans to light the fields.

Mr. Ed Guzik, 916 Lenox Road, commented that the main concern he and his wife had was the close proximity of whatever sports activity would go in there, the eventuality of lighting and people parking on Lenox Road.

President Taylor commented that the parking for the people who will be using the fields is north of the fields, which is the current parking lot. The Park District also has an agreement with Parkview Church to use their parking lot. There would be no access from Lenox Road to the fields, which will be approximately 200' east of the street.

Mr. David Creech, 697 St. Charles Road, commented that the 344 trees being removed for the soccer fields did not include any trees that may be removed for path access. Everyone understands there is a need for soccer fields but he felt there needed to be a usage study to make sure the loss of trees is justified by the demand for fields. In documents he received it looked like there was not an existing water retention problem. The Village plans to sell the water retention land next to Walgreens at five corners and that creates the water retention problem.

President Taylor commented that as far as how the Village decided Ackerman was where and how they wanted to handle their storm water would have to be answered by the Village.

Mr. Creech remarked that the Village had LandTech Architects do an evaluation of the soccer fields and their own consultant had issues with the fields.

Superintendent Scarmardo explained that LandTech Architect’s was asked at the initial stage of the project to review the project and provide comments. Everything mentioned in the consultant’s report was taken care of such as under drains and a path being constructed along the roadway to get to the fields.
Ms. Marsha Aufmuth, 920 Lenox Road, asked what the Park District was going to do with the houses on Lenox Road they have purchased and the ones they hoped to purchase.

President Taylor explained that part of the Park District’s Mission Statement is to create open space areas. The properties along Lenox Road are surrounded by properties that the Park District currently owns and the plan is for it to remain open space.

Mr. Brad Rosley, 674 Plum Tree, thanked the Board for their volunteerism and explained that he wanted to make the Board aware of a policy he did not feel fit with the purpose of what the Park District is trying to provide to the community.

Regarding the youth baseball program, Mr. Rosley asked if the Park District intended to enforce, what he believed to be an outdated rule, prohibiting children from playing baseball anywhere else if they have signed up for the Park District’s baseball program. A team of Glen Ellyn residents was formed to play in a newly established West Suburban Baseball League. Several parents expressed having an interest in their child being a substitute on that team if it didn’t conflict with their Park District team’s schedule. On hearing about that people on the Park District’s baseball board told parents that if their child were to step foot on another baseball diamond they would be terminated from the Park District’s little league baseball program.

The Park District’s baseball program has a rule that states no player of league grade 3 to 8, playing on a Glen Ellyn youth baseball house team, shall play on any non Glen Ellyn youth baseball team. As far as he knew the Park District did not have that rule for any other sport. He was aware the Park District lets youth baseball committee self manage their league but he did not think children should be excluded from playing outside of a Park District program. He asked if the Board planned on forcing the termination of children from Park District’s programs if they in another program.

President Taylor explained that as a Board, staff brings the by-laws of all the sports that are under the auspices of the Glen Ellyn Park District to them for review. He asked Recreation Supervisor Dan Kroger to look into any issues that may exist with the baseball board and thanked Mr. Rosley for his comments.

Ms. Virginia Dallman, 340 Cumnor Avenue, explained that she was at the meeting as a project for her American Government class. She asked if the Board would be willing to reconsider their decision regarding Board member’s children not being allowed to work for the Park District.

Superintendent Woods explained that the Park District has a nepotism policy that does not allow children of Commissioners and Department Heads to work for the Park District. One of the largest drawbacks of allowing Commissioner’s children to work is the idea of supervision and disciplinary action. It would put the employee who is directly supervising those children in a very difficult position.

Commissioner Schoen commented that it is not only children of Commissioners but any family member. The Nepotism Policy has been discussed by the Board and staff many times and the concern is just as Superintendent Woods stated.

Mr. Dennis Curtis, 343 Spring Avenue, commented that there are a lot of people who are uncomfortable with the baseball rule. Their children want to play in other baseball programs and he asked how and when the issue would be resolved.
Commissioner Dallman explained that when issues are brought before the Board, they ask staff to look into it and the Board then discusses it at a meeting. He felt the Board would be discussing it at their April 22 meeting.

President Taylor commented that staff would let Mr. Curtis know when the Board would be discussing the baseball issue.

Unfinished Business
None

New Business
Approve Safety Manual
Executive Assistant Sesto explained that the Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency program requires the Park District to have a Safety Manual approved by the Board. Staff put together a Safety Manual, consisting of existing safety policies, and presented it for Board approval.

President Taylor asked if heat exposure is addressed in the manual as well as MSDS.

Superintendent Scarmardo explained staff is provided sun screen and Gatorade. MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) binders are available every facility including Johnson Center.

Commissioner Dallman moved, seconded by Commissioner Schoen, to approve the Safety Manual.  
Roll Call:    Aye: Commissioners Dallman, Schoen, Jourdan and President Taylor
Nay: None     Motion Carried

Ordinance 08-01 Petition to Disconnect
Commissioner Dallman moved, seconded by Commissioner Schoen, to approve Ordinance 08-01, Petition to Disconnect.
Roll Call:    Aye: Commissioners Dallman, Schoen, Jourdan and President Taylor
Nay: None     Motion Carried

Ordinance 08-03 Declaring Personal Property as Surplus and Authorizing Sale
Commissioner Schoen moved, seconded by Commissioner Jourdan, to approve Ordinance 08-03 Declaring Personal Property as Surplus as Authorizing its Sale. Commissioner Schoen commented that the Board had discussed this issue previously.
Roll Call:    Aye: Commissioners Schoen, Jourdan, Dallman, and President Taylor
Nay: None     Motion Carried

Western DuPage Special Recreation Association - March Executive Summary
The executive summary is provided to WDSRA member park district boards to keep them up to date on association business.

Matters from Staff
Superintendent Scarmardo reported Eric Wassell has been hired as the Park District’s Fleet Manager. Mr. Wassell had worked for the Park District previously but most recently had worked for the Naperville Park District.

Superintendent Esposito reported WGN airing the Cathy and Judy Show from the Lake Ellyn Boathouse
went very well. Cathy and Judy commented that it was the most well attended off-site broadcast yet.

Superintendent Woods reported the part-time IT person will start work on March 24. As the Board may recall the position is a job share with the Bloomingdale, Wood Dale, and Addison Park Districts. The individual will work at the Glen Ellyn Park District on Tuesdays.

**Matters from Commissioners**
Commissioner Dallman reported the Glen Ellyn Youth Center will be holding movie night on Duchon Field in early May.

Commissioner Jourdan was happy to have Eric Wassell back with the Park District. He felt the recent WDSRA dinner/auction was a great event. Commissioner Jourdan congratulated staff on receiving the Platinum Award from Ellis Lifeguard Association.

Commissioner Schoen also felt WDSRA had a great dinner/auction event.

President Taylor thanked the students from Glenbard West for attending the meeting and involving themselves in the process. He hoped it had been a worthwhile and learning experience.

**Adjourn**
There being no further business, at 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Schoen moved, seconded by Commissioner Dallman, to adjourn the Regular Meeting. _Motion Carried_

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanine Sesto
Board Secretary