

**Glen Ellyn Park District  
Youth Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Spring Avenue Recreation Center  
Monday, July 23, 2018  
6:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Mike Jackert – House Soccer

Mary Beth Bletsas – Field Hockey

Pete Danielewicz – Travel Soccer

Kurt Mika – Rugby

Mark Tennyson – Golden Eagles Football

Brett Hepner – Glen Ellyn Baseball

Judi Cipollari – Golden Eagles Cheerleading

Jon Ciero – Glen Ellyn Girls Softball

Rob Weber – Park Board President and committee liaison

Ben Stortz - Park Board Commissioner and committee liaison

Member absent:

Aaron Bare – Glen Ellyn Bulldogs Lacrosse

**Staff Present:**

Dave Harris – Executive Director

Kathleen Esposito – Superintendent of Recreation

Clint Babicz – Assistant Superintendent of Athletics

Brad Thomas – Recreation Supervisor

Christine Hartnett – Recreation Supervisor

**Committee members and staff provided brief introductions**

**Youth Sports Advisory Committee Purpose and Goals**

Executive Director Harris thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the purpose and goals of the committee. As one of four advisory committees to the Park Board of Commissioners it will allow for stakeholders of the athletics programs to collaborate and discuss ideas and issues of interest for the benefit of all. It will also allow for input and feedback to Commissioners and staff regarding the district's athletics programs.

Executive Director Harris also noted that during his tenure, the district's philosophy has changed to prioritize athletic facility and infrastructure upkeep and improvements, additional staff support and increased scheduling of maintenance staff, especially on the weekends.

### **Athletic Programs Presentation**

Assistant Superintendent Babicz presented an overview of each of the district's athletics programs including ages served, game and practice locations used and current participant numbers. Also highlighted were other athletics programs that the district offers including Youth Basketball, Gators Swim Team, Tennis, Paddle Tennis, Cyclones Volleyball, Grasshoppers Gymnastics and Lightning Running Club.

Assistant Superintendent Babicz also presented an overview of facility and park improvements since 2009 throughout the district including those at Village Green Park, Newton Park, Ackerman Park and the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center. The presentation continued with an overview of district maintenance and support improvements that Executive Director Harris referred to at the opening of the meeting.

### **Ackerman Park Improvement Plan Presentation**

Executive Director Harris provided a presentation of the Ackerman Park Improvement Plan highlighting the process beginning with a Master Plan for the park that was approved by the Park Board of Commissioners in 2014 to the current planning stages which included involvement of a planning committee, many of which are also members of the Youth Sports Advisory Committee. As a result of the Master Plan, a number of improvements have already been implemented including removal of two underutilized softball fields that were converted to green space, replacement and realignment of athletic field lighting on lower Ackerman, construction of a connection to the Great Western Trail and current parking lot improvements in front of the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center.

Executive Director Harris then presented the conditions and challenges within the park that led to the Committee recommendations that have been presented to the Park Board for review.

### **Ideas for Discussion**

Staff presented several ideas for discussion, with others evolving during the course of conversation.

- **Program Advisory Policy:** Staff reviewed the district's policy regarding the structure of the youth sports committees and how they fit within the overall structure of the Park District.
- **Recognition Display Case at ASFC:** All in attendance were in favor of a display case at the ASFC to highlight and promote the athletics programs and to provide a space for recognition of their successes. Staff will research further.
- **Weather Detection Options:** A handout with the district's current Severe Storm Policy led to discussion regarding possible need for an alternative to the current procedures for consistency amongst all programs. Suggestions included subscribing to a weather service, use of different apps and a lightning detection system like what is used at Village Links.
- **Concussion Protocol:** A handout with the NFHS Suggestions for Management of

Concussions was provided. The question was asked whether it was required for all sports and if it should be. Football currently requires baseline testing for the 104lb. (12U) and heavier divisions, but there is currently no requirement for other sports, but it could be made available for those interested. Currently, players pulled from practices/games with possible symptoms need a doctor's release prior to returning to play. Staff to check with GBW regarding their protocols that are in place for review and possible incorporation into our practices.

- Sponsorships: A handout that the district's Marketing Supervisor put together for 2018 was provided as a template for programs to review.
- Website Design Upgrades: Staff reviewed that the purpose of the program websites is to provide accurate information and reminded programs to keep them current. Discussion then focused on various apps that programs use for communication including Teamsnap, Team App, Constant Contact, Mailchimp, and Shutterfly and if one would meet the needs of all programs/teams for consistency.

### **Comments**

Additional topics brought up included:

- Background Checks: Concerns were brought up regarding providing social security numbers and the possibility of a volunteer's identity being compromised. Staff was asked how that can be eliminated and what the costs were for the district to put a system in place where the volunteers can go online, input their information and have the report issued directly to the district.
- CPR/First Aid/AED's: There was discussion regarding whether to require volunteers/tournament staff to be CPR/First Aid certified and what appropriate guidelines might be. Also discussed was whether AED's should be available at outdoor facilities. Staff will review and prepare information for the next meeting.
- Accidents/Incidents: The question of whether accident/incident forms could be made available for electronic submission was asked as well as when injury forms should be completed and submitted. Staff responded that if there was any doubt, complete an accident form. Staff will also review and prepare guidelines.

Staff concluded with thanking everyone for their participation and expressed appreciation for their time and efforts to provide quality athletics programs for the community.

Staff will contact the committee with the next meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.