

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Youth Sports Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Unapproved
Spring Avenue Recreation Center
Thursday, August 26, 2021
7:30 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Mary Beth Bletsas – Field Hockey
Debby Cernich – Golden Eagles Cheerleading
Andy Humble – Glen Ellyn Baseball
Kurt Mika – Rugby
Mike Semprevivo – Glen Ellyn Girls Softball
Craig Turner – Glen Ellyn Bulldogs Lacrosse
Ben Stortz - Park Board Commissioner and committee liaison
Rob Weber – Park Board Commissioner and committee liaison

Committee Members Absent:

Mike Jackert – House Soccer
Blaire Huerta – Travel Soccer
Rob Johnson – Golden Eagles Football
Paul Bischoff – Park Board Commissioner and committee liaison

Staff Present:

Dave Harris – Executive Director
Clint Babicz – Assistant Superintendent of Athletics
Brad Thomas – Manager of Athletics and Racquet Sports
Christine Hartnett – Manager of Recreation Facilities and Athletics

Staff Absent:

Chad Shingler – Manager of Aquatics and Cultural Arts

Assistant Superintendent Babicz thanked everyone for attending and provided an overview of the committee and its purpose for new members. Formed in 2018 to allow stakeholders of the athletics programs to collaborate and discuss ideas and issues for the benefit of all, the committee also allows input and feedback to Commissioners and Staff regarding the District's Athletics programs.

II. Committee members and staff provided brief introductions

III. Old Business – Updates

Outdoor AED's

Assistant Superintendent Babicz provided an update regarding the installation of AED's in our parks. In the first meeting of the Youth Sports Advisory Committee in 2018, the committee discussed whether AED's should be available at outdoor facilities. After research and review, the recommendation was made to proceed with the purchase and installation of four AED's units and cabinets for placement in Ackerman, Newton and Village Green Parks. Funding was provided in the 2020 Park District budget and the AED units and cabinets were purchased in the Fall of 2020. Installation of the cabinets was completed in Fall 2020 and the programming and installation of the four AED's was completed in Spring 2021. When opened, the cabinets emit an audible alarm and place a call to 911 for emergency personnel to be dispatched. The cabinets allow for two-way communication with DU-COMM (DuPage Public Safety Communications) to describe the nature of the emergency. Signage is located immediately above or next to the cabinets with instructions for use as well as the location and address of the unit. The units are in operation from April through mid-November and then removed in the winter months. Committee members thanked Commissioners and Staff for installing the AED's and while the hope is that they are never used, it is nice to know that they are available if needed.

Lightning Detection System

Assistant Superintendent Babicz provided an update regarding Staff research of lightning detection/prediction systems as new technologies become available. Previously discussed in earlier meetings, it was noted that there is no one-size fits all solution and that efforts to inform coaches, staff, parents and participants regarding weather conditions is ongoing. Staff presented an overview of a newer system from Perry Weather Systems which includes a cloud-based web interface and mobile app combined with on-site weather alerting capabilities. Staff will continue to monitor new developments in the space but reminded everyone that if lightning/thunder are spotted, programs and participants need to immediately seek shelter and wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last visible lightning strike or sound of thunder before resuming play.

IV. Items for Discussion

COVID-19 Update

Assistant Superintendent Babicz provided a summary of the August 10th update to the State of Illinois All-Sports Policy. Included in the update is the requirement that all sports activities taking place indoors would require face coverings regardless of vaccination status. This mandate applies to participants, coaches, staff and spectators. For outdoor athletic activities it is highly recommended that individuals wear face coverings but it is not required at this time. Additional updates will be provided should state guidelines change.

Formation of Youth Sports Disciplinary Committee

Assistant Superintendent Babicz noted that in the past year, there have been a number of incidents which have resulted in the need for disciplinary actions to be administered for coaches, parents and players. These have been addressed on an individual basis as they occur, but Staff would like to formalize the process and procedure to be consistent across all

programs. Currently in the planning stage, the goal would be to put together a Disciplinary Committee to adjudicate issues fairly and consistently while providing a structure for both staff and volunteers. The basis of the Disciplinary Committee is envisioned to consist of three members; (1) Park District Staff member, (1) Co-Chair/Designee of the sport in which the incident occurred, and (1) member who is the Co-Chair/Designee in an unrelated sport. Situations to address include, but are not limited to ejections, behavior, and sportsmanship. During discussion, committee members agreed that a more formalized process would be helpful. Commissioner Weber noted that guidelines should be flexible and adaptable in order to keep from boxing the committee into a corner as it is difficult to plan for every scenario that may occur. Baseball Co-Chair Humble and Softball Co-Chair Semprevivo offered to assist Staff with drafting the committee structure and guidelines.

Intergovernmental Agreements with School Districts 41, 87 and 89

An overview of the current Intergovernmental Agreements with School Districts 41, 87 and 89 was presented to the committee by Executive Director Harris and Assistant Superintendent Babicz for informational purposes.

- D41 – In exchange for contributing nearly \$800,000 towards construction costs of gymnasiums at Ben Franklin and Churchill Elementary Schools and mowing all five (5) District 41 properties, the Park District receives use of gymnasiums and field space at the schools through 2038.

Over the past year, the Park District has been unable to use D41 assets as a result of the pandemic while continuing to fulfill the Park District's obligations of the agreement. Requests for school usage for the 2021-2022 school year have been made and approval for use is expected.

- D87 – Multiple Intergovernmental Agreements were consolidated into one Master Agreement for the Cooperative Use of School District and Park District facilities. In reviewing availability and expected usage by each party, both parties recognized that usage would be unequal, with School District needs greatly exceeding the ability of the School District to reciprocate. As a result, both parties agreed to include annual payment obligations to the Park District. That payment obligation is \$68,000 per year through the 2023-2024 school year with a payment escalator in future years.

While unable to use school facilities during the first year of the pandemic, communication between both agencies remained positive. The Park District remained flexible and assisted where able to accommodate the change in schedules for high school athletics. As of Spring 2021, the Park District was able to use outside facilities at Glenbard West and Glenbard South and is able to begin using indoor facilities this school year.

- D89 – The Park District is granted use of facilities in exchange for maintenance and mowing of Glen Crest and Parkview Elementary Schools. While the Park District was unable to utilize indoor space in Summer 2020 for summer camps, usage of both indoor and outdoor facilities has resumed as of Spring 2021.

Even with the ongoing pandemic, the Park District continued to meet its' obligations of the Intergovernmental Agreements while providing additional resources where needed and available.

Fall Field Conditions/Scheduling

Assistant Superintendent Babicz noted that it is the end of the summer and that all of the seasonal staff that assist throughout the summer have left and the District is operating with eight (8) Parks Staff to maintain parks, fields and facilities including mowing, field preparations and improvements, facility maintenance including closing Sunset Pool and the Maryknoll Splash Pad, repairs to playgrounds, et al. Athletics fields are lined and dragged as needed and set-up for games, but may not be worked on every day. Staff appreciates the time and efforts that the volunteers put into the programs and if something is noticed, please communicate and it will be addressed as soon as possible.

Parking Reminder

With Fall sports programs underway, Staff reminded the committee that the parks are busy and to exercise caution and drive at reasonable speeds, drop-off and pick-up participants in appropriate locations, and park in marked spaces. Additionally, for those activities at Newton Park, parking on the cul-de-sacs is prohibited and parents should park in the parking lots or use the Stahelin lot if Newton parking lots are full. In addition, there is no drop-off or pick-up along Fairview Avenue.

V. Park/Facilities Improvements

Newton Park

Executive Director Harris provided an overview of upcoming Newton Park Improvements noting that the Park District was the recipient of an OSLAD grant to assist with funding. Planned improvements include replacement of the playground and skate park, baseball field improvements, and installation of a lacrosse wall. Rugby Representative Mika asked if consideration could be given to purchase and install Rugby Goalposts on Lower Newton.

Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center

Executive Director Harris noted that the District and HGA have come to a termination agreement of HGA's lease for use of space at the Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center and the Park District will resume operation of the space in the fall. Plans are to continue to utilize the cages for softball and baseball programs, provide space for fitness programming and personal training, and offer additional sports programming including private lessons and instructional classes. Staff is currently reviewing the space and assessing potential improvements with a goal for beginning use this winter.

VI. Comments

Brief program updates were provided by Committee Members for each sport, along with Staff.

Commissioner Weber thanked everyone for their attendance and shared appreciation for

everyone's efforts.

Commissioner Stortz thanked everyone for their time and noted the many hours that the volunteers put in to help the programs be successful.

Staff concluded with thanking everyone for their participation and expressed appreciation for their time and efforts.

Staff will contact the committee with the next meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.