

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Workshop Meeting Highlights February 15, 2022



Glen Ellyn Park Community Awards – Park District Volunteer of the Year

Assistant Superintendent Babicz On March 1st stated the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce will present the Glen Ellyn Community Awards. Held annually, this event honors those individuals who go above and beyond to make Glen Ellyn such a vibrant community to live, work and play. As part of the event, the District presents its “Volunteer of the Year” to be recognized along with other winners in categories such as Citizen of the Year, Educator of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and Business of the Year amongst others.

The importance of volunteers to the Glen Ellyn Park District cannot be overstated. They are the lifeblood of many of the District’s programs, activities and events. After consideration of many qualified and worthy candidates, long-time resident, Michael Semprevivo, has been selected and named the Glen Ellyn Park District “Volunteer of the Year.”

Mike currently serves as the Co-Chair for Glen Ellyn Girls Softball, coaches a Phillies Travel Softball team, runs clinics and lessons for the baseball and softball programs, and works with parks staff to prep and maintain fields. A fixture at the Ackerman Park softball fields, Mike can always be found with a rake, handing out equipment or checking fields when he is not coaching his players. It is rare to find an individual with as much passion and as much dedication as Mike has for the girls’ softball program and the Glen Ellyn Park District.

This comes as no surprise as his volunteerism has spanned multiple years over multiple programs. Prior to his current involvement with the softball program, Mike served on the Youth Baseball Committee. In that capacity he helped with field preparations and repairs, assisting the program and the parks staff in any way that he was able.

We are truly fortunate to have a community member such as Mike who freely gives his time, efforts, energy and dedication to the Glen Ellyn community and Park District.

Several Board members and Harris also complimented Semprevivo for his volunteerism.

Laker – Midwest Soccer Update

Manager Thomas who oversees the travel soccer program presented an update. The Glen Ellyn Lakers Travel Soccer program is comprised of boys and girls teams at the U8-U14 levels and the Midwest FC program serves boys and girls at the U15-U19 levels. Based out of Ackerman Park, the Glen Ellyn Lakers program began in 1978, just one year after the start of the District’s house soccer program.

Since its inception in 2018, the Midwest FC program has been run cooperatively between the Glen Ellyn and Wheaton Park Districts. This program utilizes Ackerman Park and Glenbard West in Glen Ellyn as well as Graf Park, Seven Gables Park, and Community Park in Wheaton.

For the 2021-2022 season, the Glen Ellyn Lakers program currently consists of 26 teams with 326 players and the Midwest FC program consists of 7 teams with 107 players.

Both programs participate in local leagues and tournaments, with Glen Ellyn Lakers and Midwest FC teams also participating in state-level tournaments through the Illinois Youth Soccer Association. These are high-profile and highly competitive tournaments for the state of Illinois. Having success in these events helps to further develop the program's reputation and status in the soccer community. This past fall, both the Lakers 2011 Boys Premier team and the Midwest FC 2006/2007 Girls Elite team finished in second place in the Presidents Cup tournament. Midwest FC boys' teams will compete in these tournaments during the upcoming Spring season.

During league play in Fall 2021, there were 30 teams between Lakers and Midwest FC that participated with 16 of those teams placing in the top three of their respective divisions. It was the most competitive the program has been in the last several years.

This success is not possible without high-quality coaching and training. Future Pros staff, led by Ruben Stivan, provides all training and coaching for the travel soccer programs. In addition to training the travel teams, Future Pros staff also conducts year-round programming and summer camps, along with free clinics for our House Soccer program each Spring and Fall season. As a result of Future Pros involvement, there has been a marked improvement in player development and enrollment in our travel soccer programs. Most recently, mid-season tryouts for Lakers were held in November 2021 and approximately 70 new players were accepted to the program. In 2020, a similar number of players were added to the program, primarily consisting of players who previously participated in House Soccer. This has proven to be a beneficial relationship between House and Travel soccer and staff is appreciative of Future Pros efforts to help improve both programs.

Looking forward, in Spring 2022, the Midwest FC program will host a High School Boys tournament from April 30-May 1. Due to IHSA regulations, players cannot play travel soccer for their respective schools simultaneously. While Midwest FC girls teams compete in the Fall, the boys teams compete during the Spring and, as a result, are not eligible to participate in the Lakers Fall Classic each year. This new event will allow those teams the opportunity to participate and enjoy the "home" tournament experience.

The Lakers Fall Classic tournament returns to Ackerman Park and nearby facilities the weekend of September 23-25, 2022. Approximately 150 teams are expected to participate in U8-U19 divisions.

Staff continues to look for opportunities to improve the travel soccer program and is excited to see the results of these changes on the field. The support of the Park Board of Commissioners is appreciated, and staff is thankful for this opportunity to provide an update on the program.

Commissioners followed with questions and comments as did staff as well.

Newton Park Asphalt Bid

Project Manager Troia presented information regarding the Newton Park asphalt bid. Ahead of the Skate Park Equipment renovation, the asphalt surface needs repair. Last resurfaced in 2002 it has developed cracks and is due for replacement.

On January 24th, staff publicly noticed invitations for bid, requesting contractors to provide proposals for asphalt improvements at Newton Park Skate Park. The scope of work focused on mill and overlay of the existing asphalt, with selected areas color coated.

The bid opening for the project was conducted on February 9th, at which time (5) sealed bids were received, opened, and read aloud. Overall, the bids were competitive and are comparable to project estimates.

Evans & Son Blacktop Inc. submitted the lowest lump sum bid of \$34,028.11. The submitted bid was vetted and found to be complete. This contractor recently completed the asphalt improvements at Maryknoll Park in an effective manner, coupled with good communication throughout the project. Following Troia's update, the Park Board approved bid of Evans and Son for \$34,028.11.

Skate Park Renovation Plans

Parks Project Manager Troia provided an update regarding plans to renovate the skate park. The skate park at Newton Park continues to be a popular destination throughout the year. Well-suited for novice to advanced skaters, our skate park is completely free to use. Especially during the pandemic, the Newton Skate Park become another escape to outdoor recreation.

The existing skate park is 80 feet x 160 feet and includes ramps, platforms, and other obstacles. Located on the southern edge of the Park. Last renovated in 2002, although staff has maintained and replaced the surface, however, the wood understructure is rotting rendering the skate equipment past its useful life. Additionally, it is an opportunity to reconsider the equipment and layout as skating trends have evolved in the last 20 years.

Staff has engaged a professional skate park designer, Jeremy Jones, American Ramp Company to assist in the master plan design. The firm designs and installs skate parks throughout the United States. Jones, then described the various design elements, highlighting the park would be usable by skaters, in-line skating, scooters, and bikes along with patrons of all ages and abilities. Board comments included whether the fence around the perimeter is necessary. After both Jones and Troia commented that while fencing in the 90's was more common, that most parks constructed today do not include a fence. The Board consensus was to remove the fence. Other inquiries were regarding safety, signage and that the renovation should provide a similar or improved experience.

Three levels of equipment improvements were presented. The first two phases were within budget while the third phase would exceed the total project estimate. While no decision is required this evening, the Board supported the direction to make the skate park as enjoyable and challenging as possible. In the coming weeks, a community engagement meeting is planned. Additionally, other elements of the Park improvement project will be bid out. Following, staff will present a final recommendation on the skate park elements.