

**Glen Ellyn Park District Board of Commissioners
&
Village of Glen Ellyn Board of Trustees
Special Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
185 Spring Avenue**

I. Call to Order

Park Board Secretary Dikker called the meeting to order.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Senak led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Roll Call of Commissioners

Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Cornell, Weber, Ward, Durham, and President Stortz. Commissioner Crickmore and Nephew were absent.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Cornell, Weber, Ward, Durham, and President Stortz.
Nay: None*

Motion Carried.

Staff members present were Executive Director Dave Thommes, Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia and Board Secretary & Directors' Assistant Dikker.

III. Roll Call of Trustees

Upon roll call, those answering present were Trustee Kalinich, Thompson, Gould, Simon, and President Senak. Trustees Fasules and Christiansen were absent.

*Roll Call: Aye: Trustees Kalinich, Thompson, Gould, Simon, and President Senak.
Nay: None*

Motion Carried.

Staff members present were Village Manager Mark Franz and Director of Public Works Dave Buckley.

IV. Public Participation

Several members of the public were in attendance including Lee Marks, Board member of the Glen Ellyn Historical Society and representing Glen Ellyn speed skating, Robert Margetts of the Historic Preservation committee, Dawn Smith, Executive Director of the Alliance of Downtown Glen Ellyn and former Executive Director of the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce, and Diana Martinez, Director of the McAninch Arts Cener at the College of DuPage. Public comments will be reflected in the minutes below.

IV. New Business

A. Discussion of Community Event Park at the U.S. Bank site with the Glen Ellyn Board of Commissioners and the Glen Ellyn Village Board Members

Park Board President Ben Stortz welcomed everyone to the Joint Meeting to discuss and further refine the design concept for the Downtown Community Event Park. Director of Planning and Natural Resources Nate Troia with the Glen Ellyn Park District provided an overview and timeline of the Downtown Community Event Park from fruition highlighting the various concepts that were shared with the public and the outcome of those surveys. Troia then presented the updated design concept that was based on input from the Village of Glen Ellyn Trustees at their Board meeting on October 9, 2023, and from guidance and input through other community stakeholders.

Troia previewed the updated design concept allowing all to view in 3D simulation. Updates to the previous design included moving the stage to the SE corner of the U.S. Bank site lot and adding a more prominent stage component. Restrooms and the storage building were moved to the North end of the park near the Prairie Path while the shade structure was placed along the West side of the Park along Forest Avenue. Troia led the Boards through several simulations of park activity including passive park activities, a small concert gathering, a large concert gathering as well as a winter scene including ice skating taking place within the Community Park. Troia discussed the topography, the activities provided within the grounds, the potential activities that could occur and provided insight from various angles of ingress and egress from the park into the neighboring community.

Commissioners Ward and Durham discussed the topography of the site with the new location of the stage and its possible limitations. President Senak discussed the importance of potential economic development this park may bring to the community.

Several members of the public shared their sentiments, including Lee Marks who was there on behalf of the skating community and shared his feelings for the need for an ice-skating element to be brought to the community. He liked that this opportunity could be available for Glen Ellyn and appreciated this concept and bringing a “town square” to Glen Ellyn as well. Robert Margetts of the Historic Preservation Committee posed questions to the Board on various elements of the plan and Dawn Smith relayed she preferred the relocation of the stage to the SE corner as well as separating the bathrooms from the stage area. Diana Martinez shared her insight into the stage setting as well.

Both Boards discussed the shaded and sheltered picnic area located on the west side of the park along Forest Avenue in depth. Troia shared that as an outcome of the public surveys, community members expressed desire for shaded areas within the park. Many Board members preferred the tree grove from the first concept as opposed to a large shade structure and requested possibly adding shade sales or smaller concepts of shade structures and including more of the tree grove within that picnic area. Trustee Gould expressed she would like to see more emphasis on green space and less emphasis on permanent structures to have a more

flexible use of space. Trustee Kalinich stated she was flexible on the shade structure component and thought the tree grove would be more economical.

Many of the Board members liked the size of the event space and the ability to utilize Forest Avenue and potentially the parking lot for larger events. They discussed the various entrances into the Park from off Duane, Forest and from the potential future train pedestrian underpass. Director of Public Works Buckley stated that one should be mindful of traffic along Duane especially as local businesses such as Leonard's Funeral Home utilize that thoroughfare. Buckley also said the park should have the ability to secure certain areas should alcohol be served at certain events.

The Boards discussed the restrooms and storage/possible concession building in detail and would like to see that area moved to the Northeast corner of the park where the kid's area was proposed. Board members discussed potential economic opportunities for businesses located near the park and encompassing access via pathways in the future. Trustee Thompson shared that Trustee Fasules, who could not be present, would like to ensure that there is an area for kids and Director of Planning Troia shared the elements that could compose a play area that fostered imagination and play with natural elements.

Lastly the Boards discussed the Stage area, specifically the difficulty with the topography of the area as the area slopes from South to North. Commissioners Ward and Durham expressed that they preferred the first draft design concept as the ideal of an amphitheater/auditorium effect of looking down to a stage seems more natural as opposed to viewing a stage on an upward slope. They would be interested in hearing more insight directly from the design team. The Boards discussed the height of the stage and possible changes that could be made to potentially make the stage into a more flexible and usable element within the park.

Director Troia ended the discussion reviewing the financials. Troia stated Phase 1 costs are similar to that of the first shared design concept and Phase 2 was comparable. Trustee Simon would like to look into bringing the total cost of the project down and Village Manager Franz relayed that once a concept has been agreed upon value engineering can be utilized for project costs. Park District staff shared various funding opportunities and grants possibly available in the upcoming months and Commissioner Cornell shared her insight into speaking with local legislators as well.

Both Boards further discussed the proposed concept and both municipality staff members shared the need to move forward with a collaborative design as it will take time to go through the Architectural design phase and the Planning Commission. Following discussion, neither Board made a motion to approve the design and collectively agreed to hold another meeting in which the Design team could be present to share an updated design based off input from the evenings meeting. The Park Board and the Village Board of Trustees stated they would hold another Special Meeting with plans for action on November 15th at 7:00 p.m.

V. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Durham moved, seconded by Commissioner Cornell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Durham, Cornell, Weber, Ward, and President Stortz
Nay: None*

Motion Carried

There being no further business, Trustee Kalinich moved, seconded by Trustee Thompson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. respectively.

*Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Kalinich, Thompson, Simon, Gould and President Senak
Nay: None*

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary
Glen Ellyn Park District