

**Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation Meeting**  
**April 3, 2024 Minutes**  
**185 Spring Avenue**  
**7:00pm**

**Agenda**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation was held at the Spring Avenue Recreation Center and convened at 7:04 p.m.

**II. Roll Call:**

Present:

Jonathan Huard, Lisa Hepner, Kathy Cornell, Tom Melms

Not Present:

N/A

Also in attendance:

Susan Smentek, Nathan Troia. Nick Cinquegrani, Stacey Lim and Dave Thommes attended via electronic means.

**III. Changes to the Agenda**

Jonathan Huard prompted a discussion to change the dates of future meetings to Tuesdays. Board members agreed to have an informal check-in post the May 9, 2024 event at Two Hound Red in lieu of a scheduled meeting. The August and October meetings were changed to August 27 and October 8, respectively. The December meeting will remain as scheduled on December 4, 2024, as there is a Park board meeting on December 10, 2024.

**IV. Approval Meeting Minutes**

Jonathan Huard motioned to approve the minutes from February 7, 2024. Motioned was seconded by Tom Melms. The motion was approved unanimously.

**V. Unfinished Business**

A. Financial Update - Susan Smentek reported the following:

- \$352.74 was spent to purchase table covers from 4Imprint to be used at community events.
- A \$300 donation was received from Johnston & DuBois Fund, in support of purchasing a wireless mic system for the Theatre program.

B. Scholarship - Susan Smentek reported the following:

- 2023 data - \$58K in funding, 71 families served, 68 recreational

programs, 115 athletic programs, 25 pool passes, 7 Ackerman memberships. (\$71K value in funding if you count the value of pool passes & Ackerman memberships\*)

- 2024 to date- provided scholarships for 30 rec programs and 22 athletic programs, 1 pool pass and 4 Ackerman memberships. We expended approx. \$6,000 in scholarship funds (\$8k value if you count the value of pool passes and Ackerman memberships\*)  
\*pool passes and Ackerman memberships do not add to our cost
- Kimberly Dikker has returned to the Park District and has been tracking the number of scholarship requests which will provide a more accurate picture for 2024.

#### C. Improvement

- Nate Troia reported an update on the Downtown Park Fundraising and grant opportunities. In addition, he provided photo renderings of the approved design which include the bandshell, event lawn and picnic grove. There will also be an ice rink during the winter. The community has been very supportive and accepting of the project.
- Tourism Grant Update – Discover Dupage grants should be announced toward the end of March per Beth Marchetti.
- Community project funding grant Sean Casten's office, opening after house appropriation's guidance
- It was suggested that the park district approach Congresswoman Ramirez to inquire about grant opportunities.
- A grant proposal was submitted to Illinois tourism attraction requesting \$500,000. A response should arrive in the following weeks.
- Other ways to seek donations, mass email, seeking list of donors, private donors, soliciting sponsorship of pavillion not forever. Nate provided ways that individual donors could be added to structures at the site in ways that preserve the beauty of the site. He provided examples from the Morton Arboretum and how they have displayed donors throughout their facility.
- Following construction, there will be ongoing costs which include staff, maintenance and future furnishings. These expenses will be addressed in later fundraising campaigns.

#### D. Preservation

- Nate Troia discussed ongoing needs to diversify tree population throughout the Park District properties and Renovation at Churchill Woods. There are plans to improve ponds, boardwalks and build a future nature center at this site in the future. An adjacent home has been purchased next to the park. The house will be demolished and a loop for buses will be constructed. There is a need to fundraise for this project. Anticipated start date is in 2025.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Pop Up Events**

- May 4 Touch-A-Truck – We have table covers, ordering Foam boards for display. It was discussed to purchase a retractable banner for events which would be sturdier to withstand the elements. Susan Smentek provided examples of stickers and/or chip clips as a giveaway. Board members who've volunteered just show up, Susan will be there to set up our booth.

### **B. Fundraising Events**

- May 9 event – RSVPS, Foam Boards, sponsors? QR greater giving or a roll-up sign, 10 rsvps/spread the word to contacts for this event.
- October 19 event – Stetler photo booth, Student volunteer, Maeve Brannegan provided the first donation for a raffle item. It is a basket from Bev's Hallmark with an approximate \$65 value. Maeve solicited the donation as part of her English Honors social action project.
- Future items to be discussed are ticket pricing, tent, liquor (beer and wine and whether the event will be open bar
- Work soliciting auction items for this event will occur after May 9, 2024
- Susan Smentek will reach out to Javi's to secure them for catering for the event.

### **C. CRM software**

- Susan Smentek met with a Bloomerang representative, and they will set up a custom demo. This is a unified giving platform that would replace Greater Giving. Includes Donor relationship tracking, email, events, volunteer scheduling, payment processing, reporting, analytics, donor scoring, add on packages as needed. Thinking ahead to the Downtown Park campaign, this type of software would be more useful than auction-event geared Greater Giving platform.

## **VII. Other Matters**

Jonathan Huard will follow up to secure tickets from a sports team/golf package for the raffle. He has provided contact information for local realtors to solicit sponsorships for events.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

Jonathan Huard moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.