

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025
185 Spring Avenue**

I. Call to Order

President Stortz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Crickmore, Ward, Durham, Nephew, and President Stortz. Commissioner Weber participated via Zoom and Commissioner Cornell arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Nephew, and voted unanimously by the Park Board of Commissioners who were physically present at the Spring Avenue location, to allow Commissioner Weber to vote via Zoom for tonight's meeting.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Crickmore, Ward, Weber, Nephew, Durham and
 President Stortz
 Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Staff members present were Executive Director Dave Thommes, Executive Deputy Director Cinquegrani, Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia, Board Secretary & Directors' Assistant Dikker, Superintendent of Athletics Babicz, and Director of Recreation & Facilities Lim who participated remotely.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

President Stortz led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Changes to the Agenda

None.

V. Recognition – BGYFL Super Bowl Champions

President Stortz and the Park Board of Commissioners congratulated and recognized the Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles 11U D2 Gold football team for their achievement in winning the BGYFL Super Bowl Championship this season.

Stortz commended Head Coach Mike Fazzio, along with Assistant Coaches Rob Johnson, Kelly Dissler and J.J. Chaudoir for their leadership and journey in completing a flawless 12-0 record culminating in a 19-7 victory over Oswego at Benedictine University.

The Park Board praised the hard work and dedication of the players and expressed its gratitude to the volunteers, parents and families for their support, energy and commitment to the success of the program. The Park Board all shared their congratulations and following a group photo was taken with the Park Board of Commissioners, Executive Director Thommes, and Superintendent of Athletics Clint Babicz.

VI. Public Participation

None.

VII. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Nephew moved, seconded by Commissioner Crickmore, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Voucher List of Bills totaling \$1,240,391.71 and minutes from the December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Nephew, Crickmore, Ward, Weber, Durham, and President Stortz

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

VIII. WDSRA Annual Report – Dan Leahy

Executive Director of the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA), Dan Leahy, provided the annual update for the Glen Ellyn Park District and Park Board of Commissioners. Leahy discussed the partnership with the Glen Ellyn Park District involving the Rec/Roll program at Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center, the programming and special events and their support of the WDSRA foundation. Leahy also thanked the District for their Lakers partnership event which is a wonderful collaboration of positive teamwork.

Leahy provided an update to the year in review discussing their building restoration and their business interruption they experienced stating that their programs were never interrupted, and staff is happy to be back in their offices and will be hosting an open house in February of 2025.

Leahy shared that Glen Ellyn hosts 6-8% of WDSRA's registrations and provided that they have now also implemented a new financial software. Leahy reviewed the Foundations achievements sharing that approximately \$900,000 in donations were received last year and the scholarship endowment has achieved a \$600,000 balance. Leahy thanked the District for their partnership and stated 2026 will mark the 50th anniversary of WDSRA. Commissioner Nephew asked for information that one can pass on to a potential participant and President Stortz closed thanking Dan Leahy and WDSRA for the difference they make in one's life.

IX. New Business

A. Social Equity Policy

Executive Director Thommes shared that the District established its first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee in 2024 with the purpose of integrating diversity, equity, and

inclusion into its communications, policies and initiatives. Thommes introduced a few members of the committee that were present including Koshie Mills, Anastasia Aubie, and Tyler Fata. Thommes said one of the committee's initial priorities was to draft and secure Board approval for a Social Equity Policy.

Commissioner Crickmore moved, seconded by Commissioner Nephew to approve the policy and discussion then ensued. Commissioner Crickmore congratulated staff and the committee while Koshie Mills shared some of the goals and events that were held. Commissioner Weber asked if Park District counsel has reviewed the policy which Thommes shared that this policy is very similar to current policies in place in neighboring Districts. Commissioner Weber would like to see a legal review of the Policy prior to approving sharing that many of these current DEI policies are now being challenged in the courts. After further discussion amongst the Board, the motion was tabled pending legal review and will be pushed to the February 11th Board meeting as an agenda item.

B. Refund Policy

Executive Director Thommes shared that the District is updating and revising several policy manuals. One policy that staff would like to address is the Refund Policy. Director of Recreation and Facilities Lim shared that currently our refund policy allows participants to request a refund at any time, providing flexibility that many find beneficial, but that policy comes at a cost to the District and to the community. Lim shared that the District incurred \$775,000 in refunds in 2024 and explained that when a patron cancels a class often it is too late to enroll someone from the waitlist as many have already found other programs to partake in especially in the case of summer camps where they often serve as daycare during the summer. Lim stated that modifying the policy would help the District better serve the community, ensure fairness for all and allow the District to not lose significant registration fees. Lim shared that often cancellations are not refunded, and the money is placed back into the patron's account.

Director Lim then reviewed the new policy with the Park Board. The Park Board expressed their concerns and felt more marketing and a concise marketing plan is needed before implementing the new policy. Commissioner Weber inquired why the variance in timelines of cancellation exist amongst the programs to which Director Lim and staff discussed. Commissioner Durham felt more consistency within the Refund Policy would be better for the community. The Park Board also felt a written policy that educates staff should be in place within the policy manual along with the details of the refund policy as it pertains to each program. While the Park Board agrees that the Refund Policy definitely needs to be updated to improve the customers experience with registration and to lessen the cost to the District, they would like staff to revise the policy to educate staff, to streamline the cancellation process and to create a marketing/communication plan that will be rolled out to the public. The Park Board would also like to see in more detail the specific areas of cancellation and cost breakdown of those areas.

Director Thommes stated that staff will review and revise the policy and bring it before the Board at the next meeting on February 11, 2025.

C. Sale of Surplus Property – Ordinance 25-01

Director Troia shared that per our ERF, Equipment Replacement Fund, staff are recommending selling and replacing unit 424 our 2013 Ford F-250 SD 4x4 Super Cab Truck. This vehicle has served the District well for the past 11 years and has served as our facility maintenance truck and one that delivers our Party Wagons. Troia shared that this truck will be traded in at a price of \$4,600 to offset the cost of the new 2025 F-250 Regular Cab (4x4 Pickup w/8ft. utility box) that will better serve the District and was budgeted in the District’s 2025 operating budget.

Per standard procedures an “Ordinance Declaring Surplus Personal Property and Authorizing Conveyance or Sale Thereof” needs to be brought before the Park Board on equipment of this value.

Following, Commissioner Durham moved, seconded by Commissioner Cornell, to approve the trade in of Unit 424, the 2013 Ford F-250 SD 4x4 Super Cab Truck to Bob Ridings Fleet sales in the amount of \$4,600 to offset the cost of the new replacement vehicle and Ordinance 25-01, Sale of Surplus Property of the Glen Ellyn Park District.

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

Motion Carried.

D. Purchase of 2025 Budgeted Maintenance Vehicle

Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia stated that the Vehicle & Equipment program was established within the Asset Replacement Fund to accumulate reserves in order to have future funds available for the replacement of vehicles and equipment. The ERF has designated truck 424, the 2013 Ford F-250 SD 4x4 Super Cab to be replaced from the fleet in 2025. Troia shared that this vehicle would be traded in for \$4,600.00 to offset the cost of the new vehicle, a 2025 F-250 Regular Cab 4x4 Pickup w/8ft. utility box. This truck would better serve the District throughout the year and is priced through a Joint Purchasing State Bid of \$64,528.00 which is under the budgeted cost of the item (\$65,000).

The Park Board discussed briefly and following Commissioner Durham moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford F-250 (Regular Cab 4 x 4, Pickup w/8ft. utility box) from Bob Ridings Fleet Sales of Taylorville, Illinois for a price of \$64,528.00 before the offset of the trade in vehicle.

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

Motion Carried.

X. Unfinished Business

A. 2023-2025 Project Update(s)

Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia provided an update on the Ackerman pickleball courts project stating that they were brought before Plan Commission in December of 2024 and were approved and will be forwarded to the Village Board meeting in February. In attendance there was a resident who resides on the south side of St. Charles Rd. who is concerned about the noise. While the Plan Commission did not see any conflicts with the building statutes, they will place this as an agenda item at the Village Board meeting and not on the Consent Agenda. The District will conduct a noise study which is occurring currently and will bring that before the Village Board. Lenox Road Garden Plots will be brought before the Plan Commission in February and Commissioner Nephew stated she would like to attend. Troia also share that the new sign for Lake Foxcroft Park has been installed, and the District is in the process of getting the building permit for the Lake Foxcroft Park project and once received the project will be put out to bid. Lastly, Troia shared that the temporary theatre project is near completion. He stated that all of the work has been done in-house, and the project turned out tremendously. A tour of the project would be provided following the meeting. Commissioner Cornell inquired about the ice at Lake Ellyn which Director Troia shared was at approximately 5". Troia was hopeful that the District would be able to open Lake Ellyn to skating in the near future. He shared the warm weather that is to occur this weekend might delay the progress, but cold temperatures are forecasted for the week ahead. Troia shared that the District has now included additional information and education on the rainout line as to ice and skating within the District.

XI. Staff Reports

- A. Finance Report (For information only)
- B. Staff Reports

Executive Director Dave Thommes shared that staff met with Wintrust to discuss their partnership and provided information on sponsorship for the Downtown Park. Thommes also shared that staff will be reviewing all District Manuals over the next two years and will be bringing many updates to the Board. Lastly Thommes shared that the IAPD Legislative breakfast will be held March 7th should any Commissioner wish to attend.

Director of Recreation and Facilities Lim inquired if President Stortz and Commissioner Weber would be able to attend the upcoming Ackerman Advisory Meeting.

XII. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Crickmore attended the staff Holiday luncheon, commended staff, and appreciated the effort put forth. Crickmore also used the walking track at Ackerman and relayed the facility was busy with many playing pickleball. Crickmore commended staff's effort in dealing with the ice and snow in the District. Commissioner Nephew attended the Solstice Walk at Lake Ellyn and enjoyed the surroundings and also thanked Go Green of Glen Ellyn. Commissioner Cornell inquired about the status of the OSLAD grant for Village Green which Director Troia shared, unfortunately the District did not receive and is attempting to get some feedback regarding its application. Lastly, President Stortz praised staff on the new stretching area at Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center and recommended letting members know of the back gymnastics entrance that is available to alleviate congestion at the front. Stortz also shared that it is great to see Newton ice rink active as well as the sledding hill at Newton Park.

XIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Nephew to adjourn the January 14, 2025, Regular Meeting at 8:19 p.m.

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

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary & Directors' Assistant