

MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2026 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and roll was called.

Committee members present:

Michael Covey, President
Nicole Reifman, Vice President
Jackie Guzman, Treasurer
Megan Cummins, Commissioner
Gary Hazan, Commissioner

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director and Secretary
Kyle Kuhs, Director of Parks and Planning

Members of the Public in attendance who signed in or spoke: None

Matters from the Public: None

Board Update on West Park Project Parking: Executive Director Sheppard and Director Kuhs provided an update on the parking related to the West Park capital project. Staff and Village have met regarding recent resident concerns about the approved parking plan at West Park, specifically the new off-street parking area planned along Cherry Tree Lane. Staff explained that the project, which includes 14 angled parking spaces, was developed after years of community feedback, discussions with the Village, and public safety concerns related to congestion, drop-offs, and limited parking near the park and West School. Board members noted that parking and traffic challenges in the area are longstanding issues, particularly during baseball season and school hours. Residents expressed concerns about increased traffic, drivers turning around in private driveways, and overall neighborhood disruption. Staff shared that potential modifications are being explored with Village engineers, including evaluating straight versus angled parking, widening spaces, and creating designated drop-off areas to improve traffic flow and safety. Board members generally agreed that while the concerns are understandable, the improvements are intended to benefit the broader community and improve safety overall, recognizing that no perfect solution exists. The Board also discussed extending fencing along the property line adjacent to the school and park area for additional safety and community comfort. Consensus was reached to move forward with the fencing improvements, which are planned to be completed in coordination with the school district and within the project budget.

Friends Park Visioning Exercise: Michelle Kelly from Upland Design led a visioning exercise with Board members about the future of Friends Park. The Board reviewed an initial visioning presentation. Board and staff noted that while the playground was last renovated 14 years ago, the park remains one of the community's most heavily used and valued parks, serving residents of all ages. The discussion focused on creating a

refreshed, inclusive, and engaging destination park while improving the overall use of space and updating aging playground surfacing and amenities. Design concepts presented included a variety of playground structures for different age groups, enhanced accessibility and sensory play features, shaded seating areas, hammocks, fitness and movement elements, games, pollinator gardens, gathering spaces, and opportunities for quiet or reflective areas. The Board participated in an interactive feedback exercise using concept boards and sticky-note comments to help guide the next phase of community engagement and conceptual design development.

Discussion on Capital Projects Fund 65 Vehicle Purchases: Board and staff discussed upcoming Fund 65 capital vehicle purchases, including a new Bobcat L65 loader, an F-250 truck, and a Ford Transit passenger van. Staff reported that the Bobcat loader, previously approved as part of the capital budget for \$85,000, is available for purchase under budget through a Sourcwell cooperative purchasing contract. The Board also reviewed plans to purchase the F-250 truck and Transit van, both previously approved in the 2026 capital budget to support operational needs, including camp and after-school programming transportation. Staff explained that due to ongoing challenges with traditional competitive bidding and lengthy vehicle delivery timelines, the District is requesting authorization to waive the formal competitive bidding process and instead purchase vehicles directly from dealerships with available inventory, while remaining within approved budget limits. Board members supported the approach but discussed adding safeguards to ensure vehicles are not purchased above MSRP and recommended obtaining pricing from multiple dealerships to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and secure competitive pricing.

Approval for Staff and Commissioners Attendance at NRPA Conference: The Board reviewed a request for approval of staff and commissioner attendance at the upcoming NRPA Annual Conference. The conference provides valuable educational sessions, networking opportunities with peers from across the country, and access to a large exhibit hall. The District has once again been named a National Gold Medal finalist, with the award announcement scheduled to take place during the conference. Traditionally, department heads attend the event but due to the Gold Medal staff is recommending including Erin, Erika, and Shannon due to their contributions to the Gold Medal application process. Shannon was also recently recognized as an NRPA “30 Under 30” recipient and will receive recognition during the conference. Attendance remains within the approved budget. Commissioners were also reminded that funding is budgeted should any board members wish to attend, but formal board approval is required by law. The Board expressed support for the opportunity and agreed the item could be placed on the consent agenda for approval.

Reschedule Parks Maintenance Facility Tour with board members when they are available. It was too dark to safely view.

Other Business: None

Executive Session: NA

Adjourn: Commissioner Reifman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Commissioner Guzman seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa M. Sheppard", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary