APPROVED

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026 GLENCOE BEACH AND LAKEFRONT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING - GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT THE TAKIFF CENTER, COMMUNITY HALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Reifman, and the roll was called.

Members in Attendance: Nicole Reifman (Chair), Eileen Sirkin, Samantha Dobrusin (6:05 pm), Delta Rae Schonhoft (6:13 pm), Larry Smith, Andre Lerman, Steve Varick, Lowell Cantor, Anna Guelzim

Absent: Daiva Calkite, Rada Cheremoshnyuk, Jennifer Rapoport, Rob Green, Julia Lissner

Staff in Attendance: Executive Director Lisa Sheppard, Deputy Director/Director of Recreation and Facilities Bobby Collins, Kyle Kuhs, Director of Parks and Planning, Assistant Director of Recreation and Facilities Adam Wohl, Beach and Ice Rink Facility Manager Shannon Stevens, Intern Danni Farris

Public in Attendance: Cindy Crane, Karina Wang, Susan Varick, Cowell Cantor, Jeff Shapack, Maggie Shapack, Zach Ohana, Sophia Schaer, Michael Covey

Approval of Minutes: Member Varick moved to approve the November 17, 2025, Lakefront Advisory Group Meeting minutes. Member Smith seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote. No further discussion ensued.

History of the Lakefront Advisory Committee: Director Collins reported that the Glencoe Beach and Lakefront Park Advisory Board was established by the Park District Board of Commissioners in 2011 to serve as a community advisory group on beach and lakefront matters. The committee is comprised of volunteer residents and stakeholders who serve staggered four-year terms and generally meet two to three times per year.

The committee provides community feedback, insight, and recommendations regarding beach and lakefront policies, projects, initiatives, and long-range planning efforts. Members serve as a liaison between the Park District and the community by identifying opportunities and challenges and sharing community perspectives.

Director Collins noted that the committee serves in an advisory capacity only and does not have decision-making authority, voting power, or responsibility for operations, staffing, budgeting, or policy enforcement. Final decisions remain the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners.

2026 Beach Season Update: Manager Stevens reported that the beach is fully staffed for the 2026 season, with more than 60 seasonal employees supporting operations, aquatics, sailing camps, and guest services. Hiring and recruitment efforts were successful, resulting in a strong applicant pool and a high number of returning staff members.

Staff completed preseason training, including the transition from American Red Cross certification to the StarGuard Elite aquatic safety program. The new program is intended to enhance safety standards, accountability, and ongoing staff development.

Manager Stevens noted that, despite challenging weather conditions and lower early-season attendance, season pass sales and daily admissions remain consistent with prior years. Additional updates for the season included boat storage and lockers.

Manager Stevens also reported that the Beach Safe educational outreach program reached approximately 700 students through local schools and community organizations, providing water safety and beach awareness education.

Village Parking and Ramp Update: Assistant Director Wohl provided an update on parking and ramp safety implemented by the Village. Changes included enhanced wayfinding signage, increased parking enforcement, higher parking fines, additional stop signs, vehicle warning signs, convex mirrors, and marked pedestrian crossings.

Advisory members shared resident feedback regarding traffic congestion during camp drop-off and pick-up periods, trailer and boat access procedures, and confusion related to new parking signage and overflow parking locations.

Staff discussed ongoing communication efforts, including signage, email notifications, and QR codes, and encouraged advisory members to continue gathering community feedback throughout the summer. Discussion focused on balancing beach access, visitor safety, traffic management, and clear communication as patrons adjust to the new parking and operational procedures.

Referendum Project Update: Director Kuhs provided an update on the Glencoe Beach referendum improvement projects. Over the past year, the Park District has worked with the community, Advisory Board, and Board of Commissioners to finalize designs for the planned improvements, including beach house renovations, a new playground and water play area, replacement sun shelters and trellis structures, and upgraded boat storage and lockers.

Construction is scheduled to begin after the 2026 beach and boating seasons, with completion targeted before the following summer. Director Kuhs noted that final design decisions were guided by community feedback and survey results. Planned beach house improvements include a new multipurpose room, updated reception area, improved restroom facilities, and preservation of the historic exterior.

Boat storage improvements will include rebuilt lockers, modular storage units, and more efficient rack systems intended to improve durability, organization, accessibility, and future capacity. The playground will be consolidated into one footprint to create more continuous beach space and will include shaded play areas, water features, landscaping, and improved sightlines.

Advisory members provided additional feedback regarding boat storage accessibility, sail storage logistics, shade opportunities, and overall functionality as the project moves toward construction.

Post-Season Boater Access Plan:

Staff presented the postseason beach and boater access plan in advance of construction beginning immediately following the 2026 beach season. Staff reported that public access to portions of the lakefront will be restricted after Labor Day as construction fencing is installed and demolition activities begin.

Staff also reviewed plans for continued boating access, noting that the boathouse will operate on a reduced schedule through October 11. Boat, kayak, paddleboard, and sailboat removals will be coordinated through an appointment-based process during staffed hours to maintain safety within the construction area. Boaters were encouraged to remove vessels prior to the start of construction if they do not anticipate using them after Labor Day.

Advisory members asked questions regarding access routes, vessel removal procedures, construction fencing, and accommodations for various watercraft. Staff indicated that additional communication and scheduling information will be provided throughout the summer and emphasized a commitment to maintaining flexibility as construction progresses.

Matters from the Public: **Sophia Schaer (Resident and North Beach Boater)**
Sophia requested improved amenities for North Beach users, specifically a way to access the stairs after rinsing off at the existing hose without having to walk back through the sand. She also asked about the possibility of adding outdoor showers and

utility improvements such as a hose and electrical outlet near the South Beach boat storage area. Additionally, she raised concerns about winter boat storage capacity during construction and suggested discussing whether unused boat storage spaces should continue to be reserved for boaters who rarely use them. Staff noted that a new hardscape walkway is planned at North Beach to address the sandy access issue and indicated that future discussions regarding storage utilization could be brought before the Advisory Board.

Jeff Shapack (Resident)
Jeff expressed concerns about pedestrian and vehicle safety along the beach access ramp and urged the Park District to use the upcoming construction period as an opportunity to improve access controls. While acknowledging recent additions such as stop signs, caution signs, mirrors, and crosswalk markings, he argued that these are passive measures and advocated for more active controls, including gates, fencing, and barrier arms at the Hazel and Park Avenue entrances. He also raised concerns about after-hours access to the beach, suggesting that the lack of physical barriers places an unfair burden on nearby residents and public safety personnel. Staff responded that such improvements were not included in the approved referendum project scope but noted that parking, ramp access, and related safety concerns would be studied by a forthcoming Village-Park District task force.

Maggie Shapack (Resident)
Maggie echoed concerns about after-hours beach access, noting that the beach remains accessible even when officially closed and that nearby residents often feel responsible for monitoring activity. She questioned whether the new outdoor rinse stations would be secured after hours and suggested studying how other North Shore communities manage beach closures and access restrictions. Staff clarified that the outdoor showers are simply timed rinse stations and reiterated that the beach functions as a public park outside of beach operating hours, while acknowledging that access and closure policies could be considered by the Advisory Board and future task force discussions.

Additional Comment Jeff Shapack (Resident)
Jeff raised concerns about potential vehicle safety risks at the base of the access ramp near the South Beach, questioning whether additional protective measures such as bollards should be considered to prevent vehicles from entering beach areas. Staff responded that such features are not part of the referendum project but could be evaluated separately if deemed necessary.

Closing Public Comment

Member Lerman concluded by expressing appreciation for the existence of the Beach Advisory Committee and the opportunity for open public discussion, describing the beach as one of Glencoe's most valuable community assets and thanking staff and committee members for their work.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: Member Lerman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Member Varick seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Bobby Collins
Deputy Director/Director of Recreation and Facilities