



**GLENVIEW PARK DISTRICT
PARK BOARD MEETING**

Convened at Park Center
2400 Chestnut Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025

**Regular Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2021**

1. Roll Call

President William M. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the roll was called.

Commissioners present: David M. Dillon, Angie G. Katsamakakis, Daniel B. Peterson, Jennifer G. Roberts, Joseph A. Sullivan, David S. Tosh, William M. Casey.

Commissioners absent: None

Official Staff present: Executive Director/ Secretary Michael D. McCarty, Superintendent of Park & Facility Services James Warnstedt, Superintendent of Special Facilities Lori Lovell, Deputy Executive Director Katie Skibbe, Superintendent of Leisure Services Todd Price and Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary Joanne Capaccio.

Official Staff absent: Treasurer William D. Moore

2. Consideration to allow Commissioners to participate in the February 25, 2021 Park Board Meeting by electronic means

No Commissioner attended remotely.

3. A Moment of Silence was observed

President Bill Casey encouraged everyone to reflect on the graces we are given and all the persons who help us make Glenview a better place.

4. Meeting Minutes

a. Accepted January 12, 2021 Finance and Administrative Operations/Marketing Committee meeting minutes

b. Approved the January 21, 2021 Regular Board meeting minutes

Commissioner Dillon moved seconded by Commissioner Peterson to accept the January 12, 2021 Finance and Administrative Operations/Marketing Committee meeting minutes and approve the January 21, 2021 Regular Board meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Katsamakakis, Peterson, Roberts, Sullivan, Tosh, Dillon, Casey. Nays: None. Motion Carried. (Copy of minutes filed herewith.)

5. Presentations/Recognitions

a. Presented the 2020 IAPD/IPRA/Glenview Park District Community Service Award to Long-Serving Friends of Wagner Farm Board Members and Dedicated Volunteers: Lloyd Bettis; Karen Diener, and Peter Brown

President Casey noted that each year the Park District presents the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Community Service Awards to honor volunteers and or organizations that make a huge impact in their community. This year those awards go to long-serving Friends of Wagner Farm Board members and dedicated volunteers: Lloyd Bettis; Karen Diener, and Peter Brown. He noted that the Board of Park Commissioners is pleased to award Karen Denier, Peter Brown and Lloyd Bettis with the 2020 Community Service Award in recognition of their dedicated volunteer service in support of Wagner Farm and 18 years serving on the Friends of Wagner Farm Board. He acknowledged that dedicated since the beginning, Karen Diener, Lloyd Bettis, and Peter Brown have a combined 54 years of volunteer work serving the Friends of Wagner Farm. Officially recognized by the Park District in 2003 by former Executive Director Tom Richardson, all are founding members of the group, which was originally called the Wagner Farm Heritage Association. Each saw an opportunity to help develop the vision and policies for the site, pledging their time and talents to assure Illinois' family farm heritage was preserved and recognized. Moving then from policy formation to fund raising, these three continued their dedication to support the 18 acres at the corner of Wagner and Lake. The award-winning Heritage Center, the Outreach Trailer, 4H Animal Shelter, Farmhouse Restoration, Garden Plot Irrigation System and Silo Exhibit are a short list of the projects that have benefited from their leadership.

Since its inception, Karen Diener has served as the Friends of Wagner Farm secretary and is currently Vice President. She also helped reinvigorate the Glenview's Farmer's Market when it moved back to its current location. She is the mother of a former 4H member, and is a certified teamster.

Peter Brown has served as the Friends of Wagner Farm Treasurer since the start. He has a doctorate in plant Biology from Washington University and spent his professional career at Kraft Foods and Modelez International in Research and Development.

Lloyd Bettis was raised on an Iowa family farm. His involvement with Wagner Farm started with his role as Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee once the farm was purchased by the Park District. He was graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Journalism and from the University of Chicago with an MBA in accounting and finance.

Together they have devoted hundreds of hours, and they aren't done yet. President Casey expressed his pleasure, on behalf of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and the Glenview Park District to honor Karen Diener, Peter Brown, and Lloyd Bettis with this recognition and the 2020 Community Service Award and congratulated each.

Peter Brown thanked the Glenview Park District for all they gave the Friends of Wagner Farm (FOWF) over the years and was honored to receive this award tonight. He mentioned two others who he wanted to acknowledge: Joe Baughman, who was the initial President of Friends of Wagner Farm and the heart and soul of the group. He noted how Joe mentored most of the Board members along the way and is still very active with FOWF. He also thanked Todd Price for his ideas and dreams that helped FOWF bring those to fruition.

Karen Diener thanked everyone tonight and also thanked the District for saving the Farm and investing in it. She noted it has been one of her greatest joys to be part of the Farm's continuance and it has been very meaningful to her family.

Lloyd Bettis was not able to attend the meeting.

b. Recognized the following Glenview Park District's 2020 IAPD/IPRA Conference Awards

- i) Community Impact Award: Todd Price, Superintendent of Leisure Services
Executive Director Mike McCarty noted the District was presented a number of awards at the recent IPRA/IAPD Annual Conference in January. But the most significant was the one given to Todd Price. We honor and recognize Todd Price tonight for receiving the Community Impact Award. This award recognizes individuals whose industry leadership impacts countless people in their community. The award was announced at the IPRA/IAPD Annual Conference and we are so proud of the work and commitment to community that Todd has had for his 20 years of service. We also wish Todd the best as he embarks on new career journey with The Farm Foundation. Mike noted how bittersweet it is to recognize Todd tonight and to also wish him good luck. He explained that he used the word iconic in describing Todd in his note to staff regarding Todd's new endeavor, and acknowledged there are not many employees you meet in your career that leave an iconic impact on their coworkers, organization and community as Todd has. McCarty thanked and congratulated Todd again and wished him all the best and expressed how much he would be missed.

President Bill Casey then presented Todd Price with a Presidential Proclamation which he read in its entirety. (Proclamation filed herewith).

President Casey noted that both Todd and him have been with the District for 20 years and 18 years respectively and realized he is running out of people to ask how things are going now that Todd is leaving. President Casey noted Todd's dedication to the community has always been outstanding. He remembers back when he and Todd would bring their daughters to the Park District's Daddy/Daughters Dances. He also acknowledged how Wagner Farm, under Todd's guidance, is known nationwide and remembers when Todd brought a trailer onto the Washington DC Mall. President Casey expressed to Todd that the Glenview Park District was very fortunate to have him for 20 years and for helping us get started after passing the District Referendum to secure the Wagner Farm parcel. He thanked Todd for all he has done and noted his legacy will last a very long time.

Commissioner Dave Dillon congratulated Todd on his new role and quipped that Todd likened his new job in baseball terms: this is like going from the minor leagues to the major leagues! But all jokes aside, Commissioner Dillon wanted Todd to know what an impact he had made on the community. Whatever Todd has done has always been in the interest of the District and community. He congratulated Todd and thanked him.

Commissioner Angie Katsamakidis remembers when she first ran for Park Commissioner one of the first people she went to was Todd Price. His welcoming

manner made her feel like she was in the right place. She also noted being a parishioner of the Church across from Wagner Farm, she was glad Todd was the liaison between the two entities and was also such a good mediator. Commissioner Katsamakidis thanked Todd for the great experiences he provided and for being such a great ambassador for the Park District.

Commissioner Dan Peterson amusingly pointed out that if the Park District was the minor leagues, as Todd had referred to according to Commissioner Dillon, then we were actually Todd's farm team and he loved being on his farm team! Commissioner Peterson admirably acknowledged how well Todd stepped into the Leisure Services broad role and how well he did was one of the best things he has seen during his years as a Board member. He feels how Todd took on that role is a model and example for other staff and will also be a huge part of his legacy that he leaves behind along with all his accomplishments at Wagner Farm. Commissioner Peterson is confident Todd's next leap will be equally successful. He congratulated and thanked Todd for all he has done.

Commissioner Jen Roberts noted she actually worked for Todd at one time. So, she wanted to speak to Todd's legacy for mentoring. She noted the Park District is a first job for many young people in our community. And when she worked at Wagner Farm, she was most impressed with Todd's leadership with the youth that worked there by helping them grow as employees and always making them feel part of the team. She also pointed to the many families that work together at the farm as she and her daughter once had. Todd always made everyone feel comfortable and helped them to grow and succeed in their roles. Commissioner Roberts saw many kids in 4-H and as summer staff go on into teaching and other professions. She credits what they learned at the farm on how to be an employee and team member and to take on challenges that now helps them in their professions and everyday lives. She thanked Todd for that legacy he is leaving for our kids and noted what a pleasure it was to work for Todd and to have him be a wonderful mentor to her daughter. She noted Todd's legacy reaches far, but the impact he has had on our children is the most long lasting and she thanked him for all he has done.

Commissioner Dave Tosh acknowledged being a teacher at Springman School, he knew Todd's daughter long before he knew Todd. He pointed to her determination in playing sports and how that trait follows right back to Todd. Commissioner Tosh noted what a wonderful family Todd has and that he will surely be missed, but so glad he came our way.

Commissioner Joe Sullivan acknowledged as being the newest member of the Board, he thanked Todd for all his help when he came on the Board and for all he's taught him during the Board Committees they served on. He also thanked Todd for the legacy of what he's accomplished at Wagner Farm and noted that he's left a mark on our District that will never be forgotten.

Todd Price then spoke to the Board. With good-humored banter, he lightheartedly disagreed with Commissioner Dillon's amusing analogy and affirmed he never called the Park District the minor leagues. But, he did acknowledge that when you love something, it is not a job. He thanked his wife Laura for allowing him to chase the

passion he needed in his job and life. He explained how they moved across the country to different museums and farms and was struck with the opportunity at Wagner Farm with it being in an urban setting. After being given the Master Plan in his first interview for Farm Director, he now marvels at how the Park District Boards took on the hard projects and said we could do this, as evident with securing The Grove. He noted going to Referendum to acquire Wagner Farm was not easy, and the Board and staff fought hard to get it, but we ended up giving the community something we can all cherish. Todd explained that along the way, the Vision we all shared on how great this District could be was also shared with the 4H kids. He started his career as a teacher so it meant so much to him to spend time with the 4H Club. Todd acknowledged his time at the District has been a blessing but 20 years went by fast. He thanked Executive Director Mike McCarty for the opportunity to be a part of his Leadership Team, and has enjoyed his time here. He noted he would not be able to take a position on the national stage if it were not for the lessons he learned at the Park District and from his district friends and he thanked everyone for that.

4H Club members Kelly, a club officer, and Maddie, President of the 4H Club presented Todd Price with a plaque they made for him to show their appreciation. Kelly noted all the opportunities Todd has given them and they wanted to thank him for that.

Jim Weides thanked Todd Price for letting his two sons work at the farm when they were youngster and for giving them that experience. He noted, he asked his sons for some dirt on Todd, so he could roast him tonight, but had no luck. So, he again wanted to thank him and also on behalf of his boys and his wife and wished him well.

In order to recognize all Awardees at once, Executive Director Mike McCarty acknowledged the other 2020 IAPD/IPRA Conference Awards before photos were taken.

- ii) Overall Winner of the Outstanding Parks & Facility Award: The Glenview Community Ice Center Renovation
Director McCarty explained that the Glenview Community Ice Center was recognized as the overall winner in the outstanding parks & facility award in January. It is a state-of-the-art facility embracing sustainable design and a forward-thinking approach to the architectural design, thus reinventing the identity of the facility in the community. The new community ice center adds more than 35,000 square feet and now has 2.5 sheets of ice, which means more capacity to meet the skating demands and have Glenview skaters, skating in Glenview. With 2 NHL Rinks, 1 Studio Rink and a dryland training area, we have been able to improve all aspects of our programming and skating schedules, thinking about all ice disciplines and levels of skating.

Mike recognized and congratulated Superintendent Lori Lovell, Ice Center General Manager Brian Montgomery and former Ice Center Manager Jim Weides for all their work on this project and recognized the Board's Leadership in getting this project completed.

- iii) Outstanding Facility Award (Division II): The Grove Interpretive Center Renovation
Director McCarty acknowledged Superintendent Jim Warnstedt and The Grove Director Lorin Ottlinger for being key to the success of this project.

McCarty noted the Grove Interpretive Center renovation project was supported through the 2018 voter referendum, an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities grant, and several donations. The goals of this project were to upgrade failing infrastructure, to improve visitor flow through the building and to tell the remarkable story of pioneer naturalist, Robert Kennicott, through interpretive exhibits. Plans included replacing the outdated HVAC, alarm, and filtration systems and installing a fire-suppression system. The exhibit space was expanded by 50%, and a more open, welcoming reception and retail area was created. The highlights of the project are the new exhibits and live animal habitats that incorporate the fascinating life and accomplishments of Robert Kennicott. Large, informative exhibit panels lead visitors through Robert's early years as a boy at The Grove, his days as a scientist at the Smithsonian Institution and Chicago Academy of Sciences, and his time exploring the Yukon. The new exhibits have also been recognized by the Illinois Association of Museums with their Award of Excellence. McCarty congratulated Superintendent Warnstedt, Director Ottlinger, the Park Board and the entire Community and Park District.

- iv) Outstanding Program Award (Division II): Wagner Farm Feeding Glenview
Director McCarty noted that when COVID hit, Farm Director Jonathan Kuester and his team along with Todd Price's leadership came up with a solution to the problem of those in need within the community.

Last summer, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Historic Wagner Farm returned to its roots as a full-time working farm. This new initiative, called Feeding Glenview, shifted the farm's mission from providing public programming to food production. By the end of the program the Glenview Farmers Market at Historic Wagner Farm saw close to 20,000 people without incident. The Farm donated more than 600 dozen eggs and 1,600 lbs. of fruits and vegetables to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. It produced enough fruits and vegetables to fill 31 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) baskets a week for 16 weeks and more than 5,300 lbs. of beef, pork, lamb, chicken and turkey were sold through local markets. McCarty congratulated Jonathan and the entire Wagner Farm team.

6. Officers' Reports

a. President

President Casey went over the procedures for the public to address the Board. He explained that a Park Board meeting is a meeting held in public, not a public meeting. The Park Board invites both oral and written communications from its residents on topics related to Park District business that is within the jurisdiction of the Park Board during "Public Comments" on the agenda and also provides other opportunities for public comment outside of Park Board meetings. And, while the Park Board values the opportunity to hear and consider public comments, it does not normally respond to audience comments at its meetings. A question or request may be accepted and answered

at a later meeting, and if so, the individual or organization initiating the question or request will be notified of the date and time of the meeting.

b. Treasurer

The District's financial reports were included in the board packet; therefore, a verbal report was not given and the Board had no questions related to the monthly finances.

c. Attorney

No Report

d. Secretary/Executive Director

i) Update: COVID-19 Financials

Deputy Executive Director Katie Skibbe gave an update to the Board on the District's financials as they relate to the impacts from COVID-19. She reported that in February, the Tier 3 Mitigations were removed and the District entered into Phase 4 COVID restrictions which allowed rentals, increase class sizes and resumed sports activities. January operating revenues increased 31% from December with the largest increases in programs, instruction and facility rentals. Monthly operating expenses increased 1% from December. Overall programs and instructions generated over \$340,000; a \$100,000 increase from December spread across Recreation, Tennis and Ice. Skibbe explained that the District continues to mitigate revenue losses by reducing expenses and since the start of the Pandemic, salary and wages have been reduced 32% from budget, contractual and professional services by 38% and training/engagement by 80%. Since March, the District has lost an estimated \$8M in revenue which has been offset by a decrease in expenses of \$8.5M with the majority seen in salary/wages. With removal of the Tier 3 Mitigations, we continue to slowly bring back part-time staff while continuing to operate with less full-time staff. Last year at this time we had 110 full-time staff and 357 part-time staff, and at the end of this month, we will have 97 full-time and 200 part-time.

Commissioner Angie Katsamakakis asked Deputy Director Skibbe that with the deadline to pay property taxes being extended to May, did she feel that would have any effect on the Park District. Skibbe noted that similar to the last deadline extension from July to October, it had no effect on the District mainly because most homeowners pay their taxes out of their escrow accounts and the District also has adequate cash flow to cover those that might delay their payments.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Approved Accounts Payable

Commissioner Sullivan moved seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve payroll and accounts payable for the month of January, 2021, in the amount of \$2,228,203.68. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Peterson, Roberts, Sullivan, Tosh, Dillon, Katsamakakis, Casey. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

9. Approved Consent Agenda Items

President Casey asked if any Commissioner wanted to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. There were no requests to remove an item.

Commissioner Dillon moved seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the Consent Agenda items. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Roberts, Sullivan, Tosh, Dillon, Katsamakidis, Peterson, Casey. Nays: None. Motion Carried. (Copy of supporting information filed herewith and explained below).

- a. **Approved Ordinance 2021-02: Liquidation of Personal Property**—This is a house keeping item to sell unneeded Park District equipment.

10. Committees Reports and Recommendations

a. Youth Sports Task Force

- i) Update: Glenview Youth Baseball (GYB)/Blaze

Superintendent Todd Price reported that due to inclement weather, the February 16, 2021 Youth Sports Task Force (YSTF) meeting was cancelled. The agenda that District staff was planning to share with the Commissioners included a draft of the updated by-laws from Glenview Youth Baseball. However, since then, conversations have occurred with representatives from both GYB and Blaze. Efforts will be taken to reschedule the YSTF meeting in the coming months.

Task Force Member, Commissioner Dave Dillon, noted the Blaze organization has been around for 20 years and has now asked for a separation from Glenview Youth Baseball. He feels the Blaze does not want to separate from GYB but there have been internal issues and a lack of communication to resolve those issues. He thinks this may be elevated to the Park Board to decide what happens with the two organizations. Commissioner Dillon hopes to bring in both organizations, hear what they have to say and what their plans are. There have been some issues with GYB expanding their programs. He noted that we would all like to get this resolved so the youth of our community can continue to enjoy baseball. Commissioner Dillon would hope to start focusing on community baseball and not travel baseball since travel is only 25% of the baseball program.

Commissioner Joe Sullivan noted that Glenview Youth Baseball, which includes The Blaze, has one of the highest resident participation among all our programs at 90% Park District residents. This is a community base problem with the group that houses our house leagues, travel and elite travel teams. Commissioner Sullivan finds it crazy that this group that has coexisted for many years may not continue. He hopes all those involved who come to the next Youth Sports Task Force meeting focus on what this means to the kids and not to the adults who are having difficulties getting along.

President Casey noted that the Park District Board wants the most participation in our Recognized Organizations to be residents.

Commissioner Dillon noted that over 90% of those in the travel program are Park District residents.

Commissioner Sullivan agreed that this travel team is mainly Park District residents and not like most for-profit travel teams and that's why we need to focus on getting this resolved.

- ii) Committee Update
No Report

11. Matters from Commissioners

Commissioner Dave Tosh referred to a letter the District received from a Glencoe resident who had so many nice things to say about the staff at the Park District and the excellent customer service he receives when visiting Park Center. Commissioner Tosh was happy to read this and noted along with our programs, customer service is also a very important part of our organization.

Commissioner Jen Roberts wanted to recognize Todd Price's wife Laura who was present in the room. She acknowledged that Todd's whole family was part of Wagner Farm. She also noted that Todd's job was not typical 9-5, and that he was always available whenever he was needed at the farm no matter what time of the day. That kind of dedication and commitment is not easy and she wanted to recognize and thank Laura for all her support for the community, for showing up at the many events over the years and for helping to continue the family feeling at Wagner Farm.

Commissioner Dave Dillon was happy to see the many awards the District received.

President Bill Casey wanted the Park Services crews to know how much the Board appreciates all their hard work during this harsh winter in removing all the snow and plowing at all hours of the night; they're doing a great job!

12. Correspondence

Letter of Appreciation

Executive Director Mike McCarty read the last paragraph of the letter Commissioner Tosh had referenced about great customer service from L. Hall Healy Jr.:

Seventeenth century poet, John Milton, said: "Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world." I very much have that kind of gratitude when it comes to what the people at the park center give us. Thank you and them from the bottom of my heart. Sincerely, Hall Healy

13. Adjourned to Executive Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 et seq. on Personnel Matters(c1) and Pending Litigation(c11)

Commissioner Dillon moved seconded by Commissioner Peterson to adjourn and move to Executive Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 et seq. at 7:57 p.m. to discuss (c1) Personnel Matters and (c11) Pending Litigation. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Sullivan, Tosh, Dillon, Katsamakias, Peterson, Roberts, Casey. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Peterson moved seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to return to Open Session at 8:20 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dillon, Katsamakias, Peterson, Roberts, Sullivan, Tosh, Casey. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

14. Action on items that were discussed in Executive Session, if any

None

15. Adjourned

Commissioner Peterson moved seconded by Commissioner Katsamakis to adjourn the Open Session at 8:21 p.m. On Voice Vote, all present voted Aye. Motion Carried.

ATTEST:

William M. Casey, President

Michael D. McCarty, Secretary

Approved this 18th day of March, 2021