

**Minutes
Special Village Board Workshop
Glen Ellyn Village Board of Trustees
Monday, January 23, 2012**

Time of Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Pfefferman; Trustees Cooper, Hartweg, Ladesic, Henninger, McGinley and Friedberg; Village Clerk Connors, Village Attorney Tappendorf.
Staff present: Village Manager Franz, Assistant to the Village Manager Schrader, Planning and Development Director Hulseberg, Police Chief Norton, and Village Planner Stegall.

1. Call to Order

President Pfefferman called the Board Workshop to order at 6:32 p.m. with a roll call. Trustees Hartweg, Cooper, Henninger, Ladesic, Friedberg, and McGinley responded "Here."

2. District 87 Variation Requests

a).President Pfefferman welcomed everyone and thanked the Plan Commission for their diligence during the eleven meetings concerning the District 87 variation requests. He also thanked the members of the school district and Our Field Our Town for their cooperation during the proceedings.

b).Village Attorney Julie Tappendorf gave a background of the process explaining that the zoning variation application that was before the Plan Commission was the proper body to decide the variations. The Plan Commission's findings of fact were used to make a recommendation to the Village Board. The Village Board adopted a schedule to consider the Plan Commission's recommendations. The Village Board's meetings are not public hearings. The Village Board has all the transcripts from the public hearings and it is not necessary to redo those hearings. This evening the Village Board will hear comments, but there will be time limits of three minutes for each speaker in addition to presentations from the school district and Our Field Our Town. The referendum that will appear on the March 20 Village ballot only concerns the lights and not all the other variation requests. There were comments in the press that some Village Board members had made up their mind, but that is not the case.

c).Village Manager Mark Franz announced that if individuals wanted to speak, the sign-up sheets were in the hall outside the Board Room. If anyone did not sign up initially, but wanted to make comments later in the meeting, they could add their names to one of the lists

at the Clerk's table during the meeting. At the proper time, people would be called to speak in groups of three with a three minute time limit per person.

Planning and Development Director Staci Hulseberg presented background beginning with the first variation requests for Memorial Field in 2010. The field is bounded by Crescent, Park Boulevard, Park Row and the Union Pacific railroad tracks. The field is zoned CR Conservation Recreation District. It is surrounded by R2 zoning on the north and east, CR, R4 and R2 on the south and C5B on the west. School District 87, which is located to the north, has applied for nine variations. Director Hulseberg detailed each variation requested, reported the Plan Commission's vote on the variations, and the conditions under which the recommendations were made.

Based on the positive recommendation with conditions of the Plan Commission, Village staff has prepared an ordinance approving the variations.

d).Ms. Jane Thorsen, Principal of Glenbard West High School, spoke giving a short history of Memorial Field. The school district bought the land from the Glen Ellyn Park District in 2000. In September 2010, artificial turf and other improvements were made and in 2011 the district requested the variations now being considered for additional improvements for 2012.

Patrick Brosman, architect for District 87, explained the inclusion of softball use and the concept that the bleachers are proposed to be set back 7' from the property line due to the sidewalk. He presented a rendering of the proposed gate and fencing; a site map indicating that the batting cages would be located where the basketball area is now; and explained that the permanent bleachers would be the same as the temporary ones are now. He held that the proposed lighting would draw on new technology so that light spillage would be controlled. He suggested that comparable areas were Nike Park in Naperville or College of DuPage.

The school district representatives stressed the hardship findings presented to the Plan Commission and suggested that the advisory referendum would render unreliable results. The school district felt that the improvements to Memorial Field would keep students on campus and encourage extracurricular activities. They reported on the number of students impacted and the school district agreed to abide by the Plan Commission conditions.

e).Jim Ozog, 485 Montclair, an attorney who has been representing Our Field Our Town, and a Glen Ellyn resident who lives on Montclair, spoke on behalf of the OFOT organization. He thanked the Village Board and Plan Commission for their time. He had three points he wanted to make: 1. He supported the Plan Commission's conditions outlined in their recommendations; 2. Descriptions can be better; 3. Wait for the results of the advisory referendum before making a decision. Noise created during the games will be loud and they will change the character of the neighborhood. The field can be used without lights in the summer, but the final decision will be made by the District 87 superintendent and no one knows who that will be at this time. Mr. Ozog discussed the Plan Commission's conditions.

He expressed a lack of Plan Commission hardship findings. In his opinion, District 87 did not show any title 9 complaints and no rights were being denied. The district only wanted to maximize the field's use. It also felt that the area fell into the definition of a sports court. He asked that the Village Board address the Village Ordinance concerning this. He asked the Village Board to wait for referendum results. He understood that it was too late to amend the referendum question, but thought the voters of Glen Ellyn would know what the question meant.

Don Piedad, a member of Our Field Our Town, spoke giving the reasons he moved to Glen Ellyn and his observations regarding the situation. He commented that he became aware of the school district's request in January 2011. He went on to say that OFOT held meetings that began with just a few residents, but as the organization continued to grow, the referendum was conceived. It was his understanding that some athletes were told to remove the OFOT signs that were in yards. He felt that registered voters who signed the petitions should be heard in advance of the Village Board vote.

f).The Village Board discussed sport courts. The definition as it has been applied was only to residential property and unless it is appealed, the ordinance as applied stands. It was explained that if the field was a sports court, the school district would have to apply for another variation. The Village Board asked questions of various presenters and Village staff. The questions touched on safety concerns, parking, traffic, driver distraction, pedestrian crossing, roadway parking, road and sidewalk improvements, third-part use of the lights, and whether the school district could function with the 9 p.m. shut off time for the lights. The school district would prefer a 9:30p.m. hard shut off time, but indicated they would respect the 9 p.m. time. There was a general discussion regarding light spillage, but it was suggested that Nike Park in Naperville would not give a real feel for spillage at this time because of the snow on the ground.

At 9:00 p.m., President Pfefferman called for a short recess.

At 9:08 p.m., the meeting resumed with all Village Board members present as before.

g).Public comment was received by the Village Board. Speaking times were limited to three minutes per person; three people were called at a time to speak. Speakers were alternated between those for, those opposed, and those who were undecided. The following people spoke in opposition to the variations as requested:

Rinda Allison, 537 Hillside

Gina Meyers, 477 Montclair

Mary Ellen Walksler, 941 Crescent

Thomas Kaprouski, 744 Willis

Kirk Burger, 755 Willis

Rick Sims, 663 Crescent

Adrienne Gregory, 578 Lee

Kathy Cornell, 678 Forest

Mary Beth Speer, 524 Longfellow

The following people spoke in favor of the variations as requested:

Alex Gorski, 376 N. Park

Alex Lekalz, 445 Bryant

Bob Gorski, 376 N. Park

Sally Goggin, 228 Merton

Joyce Hetzel, 234 Sunset

Paul Murphy, 656 Highview

Steve Gorwood, 222 Bryant

Eleanor Salimones, 626 Newton signed up to speak as undecided regarding the variations as requested, but did not speak.

President Pfefferman thanked all who participated by attending both the Plan Commission meetings and this evening's meeting whether or not they chose to speak.

h).The Village Board stressed that they listen to everyone's comments and outlined the criteria they needed in order to make the decision. There was general discussion among Village Board members concerning information they learned regarding the variation requests thus far. Attorney Tappendorf explained that in Illinois, changes in zoning cannot be done by referendum.

The Village's lighting engineer and consultant, James Darnell, answered questions from the Village Board regarding technical issues related to the proposed lights. He has seen Nike Park in Naperville, and reported that although it is a bright spot, there is no light spillage.

President Pfefferman gave an explanation of the preliminary agenda for the rescheduled Village Board meeting which will be held next Monday, January 30, 2012. A vote on all the requested variations concerning Memorial Field is scheduled. Members of the public can speak at next Monday's meeting using the same format as this evening.

3. Adjournment

At 10:40 p.m., Trustee Ladesic moved and Trustee Cooper seconded a motion to adjourn to Executive Session in Room 301 for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, and setting the price for sale or lease of property, adjourning thereafter without returning to open session. All voted "Aye." Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Suzanne R. Connors,
Village Clerk