



Minutes
 Village of Glen Ellyn
 Recreation Commission
 Regular Meeting
 June 27, 2025
 7:00 AM
 Village Links/Reserve 22

Board or Commission: Recreation
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: June 27, 2025
Called to Order: 7:01 a.m.
Adjourned: 7:54 a.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Carol Scott	Chairperson	Present
Nancy Carter	Commissioner	Absent
Tony Coconate	Commissioner	Absent
Scott Coldiron	Commissioner	Present
James Ozog	Commissioner	Present
Rick Quoss	Commissioner	Present
Tom Slowinski	Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
Noel Allen	General Manager / Staff Liaison	
Mike Campbell	Director of Golf	
Andrew Cross	Golf Course Superintendent	
Jon Satinover	Food & Beverage Director	
Public		
Tom Manak		

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The June 27, 2025 meeting of the Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:01 a.m. at the Village Links of Glen Ellyn; 485 Winchell Way; Glen Ellyn, Illinois by Chairperson Scott.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT – Tom Manak, a Glen Ellyn resident and frequent golfer at Village Links, shared concerns regarding the pace of play. He noted that he typically plays between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and recently, the pace has been excessively slow—often taking between 4 hours and 20 minutes to 4 hours and 30

minutes. He observed that during backups, such as at Hole 14, Holes 15 and 16 are often empty, and he rarely sees a course ranger addressing the issue.

In response, Noel acknowledged the concern and stated that the team would review pace-of-play data. He added that rangers are not driving around on carts, they are generally dispatched when an issue is reported or identified, so they may not be visible unless they are actively managing a problem on the course.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 30, 2025

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 30, 2025 MEETING as amended

MOTION BY: Commissioner Slowinski

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ozog

RESULT: Unanimous

D. STANDING REPORTS

1. Financial – *Noel Allen* – Manager Allen provided a financial overview for the month of May. Revenues were up 3%, driven by increases in green fees and driving range fees, while the total number of rounds played remained flat. Operating expenses rose by 8%, with administrative expenses up 10%. Grounds expenses were down by \$23,000, while golf services expenses increased by \$28,000 due to the purchase of range balls and junior golf kits. Reserve 22 expenses were up \$12,000, primarily due to increased labor costs and cost of goods.

The Village made the first annual payment to the Park District, totaling \$30,000, for the maintenance of Panfish Park. Year-to-date revenues are now flat year-to-date, which is positive considering the golf season began 17 days later than last year.

Most capital expenditures for the year have been executed. A replacement HVAC system for Reserve 22 is currently being installed following a failure, with installation scheduled for Wednesday. In addition, IT upgrades are scheduled to replace wireless access points and install new security cameras—improvements expected to significantly enhance system performance.

A \$100,000 commitment to the Park District’s Master Plan at Panfish Park also remains and is expected to be paid this year. Overall, the Village Links is in a stronger financial position this month, adding \$180,000 to reserves in May compared to \$175,000 the previous year.

In response to a question from Chairperson Scott about payments to the Park District and employees for stormwater related responsibilities, Noel clarified that the \$30,000 payment is for mowing and general maintenance, while the \$100,000 is a one-time contribution for overall park improvements. Andrew added that if any issues are observed in the park, they should be reported so staff can follow up with the Park District. He also noted ongoing collaboration with the Park District on trail improvement

projects.

2. Manager's Report

A. Golf – Mike Campbell – Director Campbell provided an update on golf operations. The team recently held a VIP membership sales contest among staff, resulting in 68 new VIP members—an increase over last year. So far this season, eight golf outings have been held, most of them in May and one in April.

The Spring Scramble event saw lower participation compared to last year, largely due to inclement weather. However, it's worth noting that even in less-than-ideal conditions, players still showed up to play.

The Pro Shop has shown positive growth, with sales up \$8,000 compared to the same time last year. Merchandise mostly includes shirts, shoes, and balls.

Staffing is now complete and the team is fully geared up for the season.

Members of the Recreation Commission suggested introducing a senior scramble event, noting that it can be challenging for older players to compete with younger participants. Director Campbell acknowledged the feedback and said it would be taken into consideration for next year's planning.

Chairperson Scott added that other courses, such as Glen Oak, offer senior women's tees, and emphasized that senior women face similar challenges as senior men when competing against younger players. She also noted that many tees have been rated by the handicap association. Manager Allen responded that while this idea has been suggested before, it has not yet been widely adopted at other courses.

Commissioner Ozog adds, the beverage cart staff is not the same as last year, and often times does not see the beverage cart until Hole #18. Manager Allen adds he will look into that.

B. Reserve 22 – *Jon Satinover* – Satinover provided several updates. Unfortunately, our new Sous Chef candidate worked only one day and did not return. An offer was made to another highly qualified candidate, and we are awaiting his response. We are continuing to explore options and are in active discussions with the Chef, who is managing well despite the staffing gap. We remain hopeful this position will be filled soon.

Mother's Day was a success, with 322 guests attending. The recent restaurant refresh has also received positive reviews. We held our first banquet team brainstorming meeting in May, with a second meeting just completed. These meetings will continue monthly moving forward. Banquet bookings remain strong through May but may be softening for the year.

The restaurant is also showing early signs of softening. While we're not making immediate changes, we are closely monitoring the situation. Last month's poor weather impacted business, and June is shaping up to be a lighter month as well. In response, we are slowing spending for the next few weeks and will reassess after that. Contractual service expenses are currently up \$11,000 over last year.

Our Order & Go program, which allows golfers to order ahead for pickup post-round, has seen limited usage to date. Startup costs for the program were \$1,800. We are also reviewing a \$9,000 charge for workers' compensation and will investigate further.

To address slower sales, we're considering various promotional strategies, particularly focusing on liquor discounts, which have been effective in the past. We avoid offering food discounts, as high volumes may impact the kitchen's ability to deliver quality. If the patio is full, there's no need for promotions, but if traffic slows, we're prepared to launch promotions. We are considering offering a Happy Hour from 4:00–6:00 PM. The RC responded positively to the idea, noting there's no better outdoor spot in town.

Finally, Trevor is working on a quote to replace the indoor TVs, estimated around \$5,000. We would plan to self-install before fall.

C. Grounds – Andrew Cross - Cross provided several updates, noting that May is typically a very active month for the Grounds team as plant growth accelerates. This May plant growth was slower than normal due to the cooler weather. Despite this, progress continued in other areas. Drinking fountains were installed, and seasonal flowers were planted throughout the course.

A major milestone was reached at the end of May with the completion of the bunker project. Over the past year and a half, 3,000 tons of sand has been added to the bunkers. Encouragingly, following the recent heavy rainfall, the newly completed bunkers showed no signs of washouts.

Commissioner Coldiron inquired about the status of the Tagmarshal. Allen responded that the system is still experiencing issues, particularly following the rollout of their 4.0 software update. While there has been some progress, the system is not yet functioning as expected. A meeting is scheduled with Tagmarshal on July 2 to address the ongoing concerns.

Allen noted that last year, a refund was received due to the persistent issues, but emphasized that the goal this time is simply to get the system working properly. If the problems cannot be resolved, the next step would be to explore an exit from the four-year contract. However, because Tagmarshal operates as a leasing company, terminating the agreement could be challenging. Nonetheless, Allen remains hopeful that the outstanding issues can be resolved in the near future. Allen asked the RC to report any issues they encounter with the carts, including the specific cart number, so that staff can investigate and address the problem.

Cross added that the team explored options for displaying American flags for the Fourth of July weekend and other patriotic holidays and worked with their vendor to create a custom flag design. These flags will be displayed from July 3 through July 6. The team is also considering ordering additional flags to offer for sale.

3. Trustee Liaison – Steve Thompson – No report

E. OLD BUSINESS – MASTER PLAN UPDATE – Manager Allen reported that there are no significant updates at this time. The project remains in a holding phase where one of three key financial steps must occur before moving forward: the retirement or near-retirement of existing debt, the accumulation of additional savings to reduce borrowing, and decisions on what elements to prioritize within the estimated \$14 million scope of the project. Allen emphasized that, because the facility does not receive tax support, all funding must come from golf course revenue.

He noted that he and Andrew will be visiting Orchard Valley to review work being done by architect Greg Martin, and will also visit Cantigny to observe their progress.

Commissioner Ozog asked why the financial model isn't expected to change. Allen responded that there are currently no indications from the Village that any changes are under consideration, nor is he seeking any at this time. He added that there is approximately \$2 million in cash reserves, and his goal is to contribute an additional \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually to further strengthen that reserve.

F. NEW BUSINESS – Manager Allen shared that the golf cart models under consideration are available outside for the Recreation Commission to view and test. He emphasized that no decisions will be made today. The purpose of this preview is to allow commissioners to evaluate the three vendors' carts—focusing on factors such as interior space, seat comfort, and overall driving experience.

Two of the carts are gas-powered, and Allen encouraged commissioners to keep that in mind while driving them. He noted that the E-Z-GO cart is expected to feel and sound similar to the Club Car model currently in use. He also asked commissioners not to judge the carts solely on the seat comfort, as upgraded seating options are available. Instead, he urged them to consider the cart's drivability, interior space, and functionality in everyday use.

Allen mentioned that a quote has been received from Yamaha for upgraded seats; while the upfront cost is higher, the trade-in value is expected to be more favorable. He welcomed feedback at any time and noted that a formal proposal will be brought to the RC at the August meeting. The goal is to present a recommendation to the Village Board in time for cart orders to be placed by September.

G. NEXT MEETING - July 25, 2025

H. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ozog motioned and Commissioner Coldiron seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 a.m.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Noel Allen, Staff Liaison