

Park District Board approves boating on Lake Glenview

BY ALEXANDRA KUKULKA

Pioneer Press

With a 6-1 vote, the Glenview Park District Board of Commissioners on Feb. 23 approved boating on Lake Glenview, despite some resident concern.

Non-motorized boating on the 45-acre, man-made lake, located in Gallery Park behind Park Center and Attea Middle School, will be allowed from May 1 to Oct. 1, according to the policy approved by the board. But boating will begin on Memorial Day this year because Park District officials have to get approval from the Village Board to allow boating, said Elsa Fischer, superintendent of leisure services.

Park District staff researched boating on Lake Glenview for a year and a half, “and we are finally at a time where it could be implemented,” Fischer said. The 2017 boating season “will be a trial period for this activity,” and adjustments can be made moving



ALEXANDRA KUKULKA/PIONEER PRESS

The Glenview Park District Board of Commissioners on Feb. 23 approved boating on Lake Glenview, shown here behind Attea Middle School.

forward, she said.

Nature photographer Carol Freeman, one of seven residents who addressed the park board, said that she previously asked Park District officials to consider

shortening the boating period to Memorial Day to Labor Day to protect migrating birds. Fischer said that Park District staff has found that the proposed boating period will not affect the nesting

and migration patterns of the birds.

But to protect the wildlife around Lake Glenview, the Park District will enforce the following rules: there will only be one entrance and exit point for boats, the islands and the south part of the lake will be off limits to boaters, and boat permits will be required, which will allow staff to contact people who are abusing the rules, she said.

“Although this activity will not be supervised, staff will be checking on boating activities on Lake Glenview at various, unannounced times. Boating privileges will be revoked for those who do not follow the rules,” Fischer said.

Commissioner Angie Katsamakos voted against boating because of safety concerns. She said she disagrees with the policy that children under 13 years old have to be accompanied by an adult who is 18 years old or older.

“I feel that we have to implement a minimal age requirement

to be in a boat. Our rule is too lenient. You could have a 7-year-old with an 18-year-old, and that 18-year-old not paying attention to that 7-year-old,” Katsamakos said.

Resident Jessica Judge said that she “doesn’t see the significance in having boats on the lake,” because nearby communities have lakes where boating is allowed, like the Skokie Lagoons in Winnetka. The Park District has a liability to protect the environment and a liability to keep people on the lake safe, she said.

Resident Richard Baylander said he supports boating on Lake Glenview and believes people will respect the environment while on the lake.

“I honestly believe that boating and birding can coexist,” he said.

Commissioner William Casey said that he supports boating because “boaters are environmentalists.”

akukulka@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @Akukulka11