

# Glenview task force recommends \$17 million parks referendum to expand ice center



The Glenview Park District Citizen Task Force recommended a \$17 million referendum measure to pay for three construction projects, including renovating and expanding the current Glenview Ice Center. (Alexandra Kukulka / Pioneer Press)

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Pioneer Press

NOVEMBER 30, 2017, 2:18 PM

The Glenview Park District Citizen Task Force made a final recommendation to the Glenview Park District Board of Commissioners Finance Committee Nov. 28 for a \$17 million referendum measure that would help pay for park district construction projects.

Glenview Park District officials previously recommended a \$24 million referendum measure, which would cost residents about \$50 a year on a \$500,000 home. But after reviewing resident feedback from mail and phone surveys and community meetings, the committee voted to recommend a \$17 million referendum.

The 28-member group was created to make a recommendation to the park board on whether voters should be asked to pay for a new ice center or renovations and expansions at the current Glenview Ice Center. Improvements at The Grove and Sleepy Hollow Park and purchasing open space are also part of the planned projects.

After reviewing resident feedback, the task force decided that the park district should renovate and expand the current Glenview Ice Center and remove a proposed indoor track and adventure play area from the facility plans. The task force cited resident responses stating that the \$24 million referendum proposal was too high and that the indoor track and adventure play area were too extravagant.

The task force also recommended removing the Sleepy Hollow Park project, which would have eased flooding in the park, from the referendum because community support was low. But the task force recommended building restrooms at the park, which the park district will pay for with other funds, officials said.

Community support was high for the proposed improvements at The Grove so the proposed referendum would cover the costs of all the improvements, officials said. The task force decided to keep \$1 million of the referendum funds to purchase open space after discussing the importance of expanding parks and trails in Glenview.

The total cost to complete all three projects is approximately \$33.1 million, said Katie Skibbe, park district deputy executive director. Officials plan to fund the projects with the proposed \$17 million referendum, \$10 million in alternate revenue source bonds and \$6.1 million in current district fund balances and potential community donations, she said.

The Glenview Stars submitted a letter to park district officials with a pledge to pay \$1 million over 10 years toward the cost of renovating and expanding the current ice center, said Park District Spokeswoman Jena Johnson. The Glenview Park District Board of Commissioners have to vote on the pledge at a future meeting, she said.

At a previous finance committee meeting, the commissioners were presented with nine finance options for paying for the referendum measure, officials said. The commissioners have narrowed the choice down to two options, but have not yet voted on an option.

In one option, residents would pay an additional \$35.69 a year on a \$500,000 home, Johnson said. But taxes would decrease in 2024 when a tax increment financing district ends within the park district boundaries, she said.

In the second option, the amount of overall interest paid is \$3 million less than the first option, taxpayers would pay \$34.62 a year on a \$500,00 home but taxes would not decrease in 2024 when the TIF ends, Johnson said.

The proposed referendum measure would be paid off in 20 years under both options, officials said.

The finance committee did not vote on the proposed referendum Nov. 28. The committee has to make a recommendation to the full park board at its Dec. 21 meeting for the referendum to be placed on the March ballot, said Michael McCarty, park district executive director.