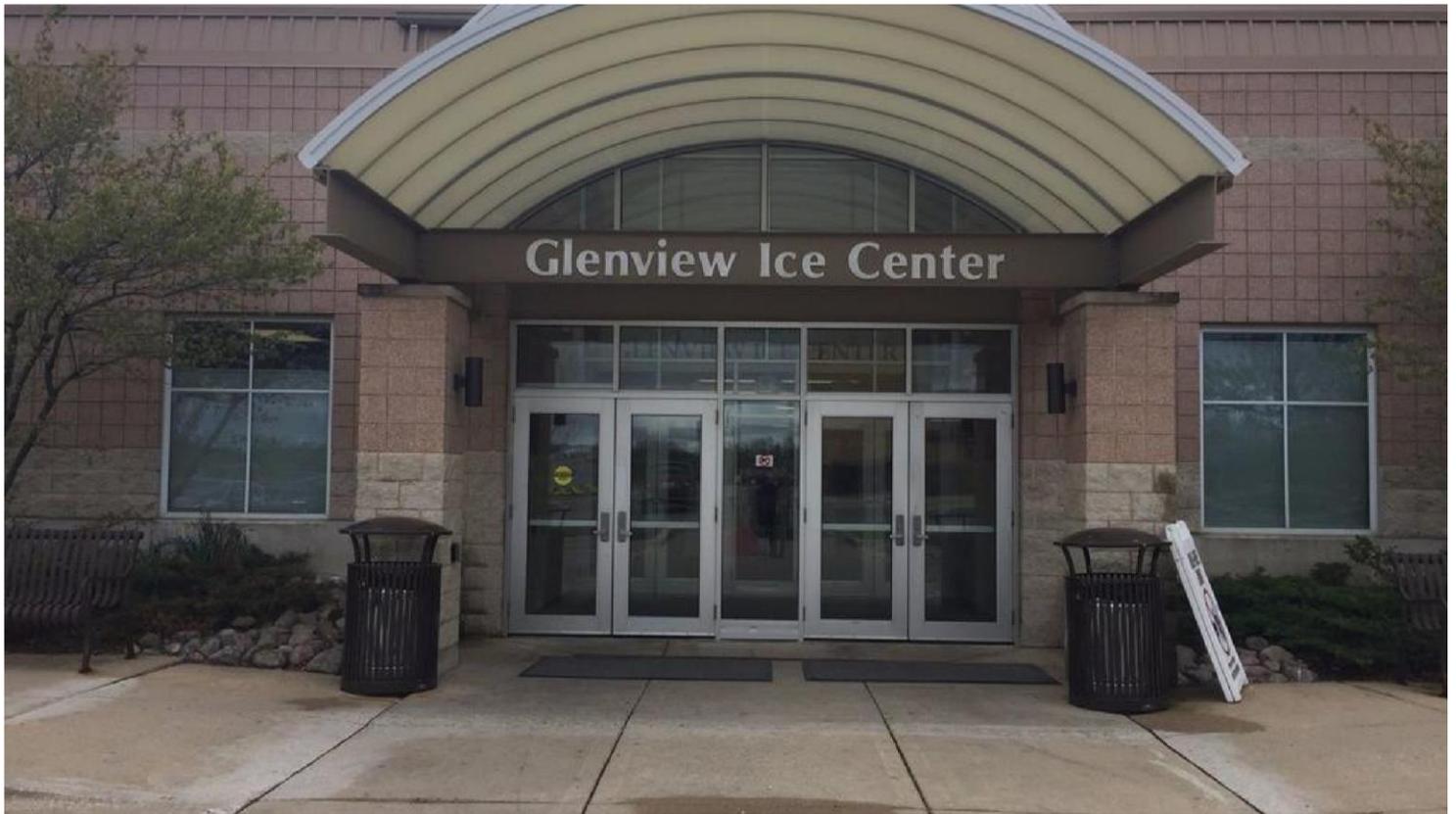


# Glenview Park Board approves \$17 million referendum for March ballot



The Glenview Ice Center would be expanded if voters approve the March referendum. (Alexandra Kukulka / Pioneer Press)

By [Alexandra Kukulka](#)  
Pioneer Press

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**I**n March 2018, Glenview voters will have an opportunity to vote on a \$17 million referendum question that would fund three Glenview Park District projects, including the renovation and expansion of the Glenview Ice Center.

The \$17 million will go toward safety improvements to the entrance of The Grove, improvements to The Grove's Interpretive Center, renovation of the Glenview Ice Center and funds to purchase open space, according to a Glenview Park District press release.

The estimated tax impact is \$35.69 annually for a \$500,000 home , it said.

Park district officials established a 28-member Citizen Task Force to make a recommendation to the Glenview

Park District Board of Commissioners regarding a referendum for four projects: improving the Glenview Ice Center through renovations or new construction, improvements at The Grove and Sleepy Hollow Park and funds to purchase open space.

After reviewing community survey results, the task force recommended a \$17 million referendum to pay for renovating and expanding the Glenview Ice Center, improvements to The Grove and funds to purchase open space, said Board President Robert Patton.

In a 5-2 vote, the board approved the referendum Thursday. Two commissioners voted against the referendum because one stated it did not address the operation of the renovated Glenview Ice Center and the other felt two of the projects covered by the referendum should be removed.

Patton said he supports the referendum, but he proposed a “president’s recommendation” before the board voted to address how the renovated ice center would be operated, which is something the task force was not asked to look into.

The proposed recommendation said that if the referendum passes, the renovated ice center “should be managed and operated in a manner where it will at least break even” and if the renovated ice center “has built up adequate financial reserves” then portions of the bond and interest levy should be reduced, Patton said.

“I believe these two recommendations are fair and obvious given that we are asking 100 percent of Glenview taxpayers to pay for a facility that approximately 6 percent of Glenview tax payers use,” Patton said.

The task force and the board heard from multiple people that there is demand and need for the renovated ice center, so “a commitment that a new ice center break even financially should not be problematic,” Patton said.

Commissioner William Casey said the board has policies in place to help make sure buildings and recreational spaces that are built generate a profit.

“We’re already doing it,” Casey said. “This is way too late in the game. It should be vetted longer, in committee, and not at the 11th hour.”

The commissioners voted against the “president’s recommendation” in a 5-2 vote. Patton and Commissioner Daniel Peterson voted in favor of the recommendation and against the referendum.

Peterson said he voted against the referendum because he does not believe tax payer money should be spent to make \$650,000 in safety improvements to the entrance of The Grove because “it is a little project that we should not be raising taxes for.” He also did not support increasing taxes by \$1 million to purchase open space because the district has other funds dedicated to the purchase of open space.

“When we need open land, we can find the money to do that,” Peterson said. “We could come up with this without any problem, we don’t need to be raising taxes.”

When the referendum vote passed, dozens of people, most affiliated with the ice center, in attendance clapped. Nine residents addressed the commissioners before their discussion and vote, and they each made statements of support for the referendum and renovating the ice center.

Renee Schmidt, chairman of the Glenview Blades Advisory Board, told the commissioners about the medals that the figure skaters have won, despite having only 50 percent of the ice time needed for practice. The renovated ice center would allow the team to practice more, she said.

“Can you imagine what we would do if we had more ice time to practice?” Schmidt asked.

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