‘Game On’ At New & Improved Glenview Ice Center Sept. 12

$29.4 Million Referendum Project On Time, On Budget; Virtual Opening With Tours Through September

By Tom Robb on August 28, 2020

By TOM ROBB Journal & Topics Reporter

When then-park board President Dave Dillon helped “break the ice” at the Glenview Community Ice Center groundbreaking in May 2019, he remarked, “We look forward to fall 2020 when in the words of Wayne and Garth (from “Wayne’s World”), it’s ‘game on’.”

That day is almost here.

Glenview Park District officials Thursday announced the 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 ribbon cutting and virtual celebration for the opening of the $29.4 million Glenview Community Ice Center on Landwehr...
Lori Lovell, park district superintendent of special facilities, said the new Glenview Community Ice Center would be the premier ice center on the North Shore.

The Sept. 12 program would allow only a small number of visitors, given COVID-19 restrictions, but would be streamed live via the park district’s Facebook page.

The opening celebration is scheduled to include performances by synchronized skaters and hockey participants, speeches by park district and other officials including Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton (D-14th), a former Glenview trustee, honoring Glenview Community Ice Center Hockey Director Sylvain Turcotte for his induction into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame in January.

“We are also hosting a full month of reopening activities to welcome the community back on our ice in September,” park district officials said. September’s free events require advanced registration and would comply with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Although technically a renovation project, the new ice center will be substantially bigger and feel brand new.

The old 49,840 sq. ft. ice center was built 45 years before last year’s groundbreaking, featuring one full NHL-sized rink and one half-sized studio rink.

The renovated 85,552 sq. ft. Glenview Community Ice Center features two full NHL-sized rinks, one with heated stands, along with a half-sized studio rink and new amenities including a restaurant, dry ground training room, meeting rooms, a fireplace, an expanded pro shop, and new locker rooms.

Glenview Park District officials said the project came in on time and on budget.

In March 2018, parks officials provided a tentative timeline for the project predicting a soft opening Sept. 16, 2020, and a grand opening Sept. 19, 2020. Lovell told the Journal the first freestyle figure
skating use of the ice center would take place at 6 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, a week ahead of that 2018 schedule.

“The biggest challenge experienced was the delay of production or delivery of certain materials due to nationwide factory closures in April,” park district officials said. “The project team continued work on other parts of the project while waiting for delayed materials to be delivered.”

The community ice center was funded in part by a $17 million bond issue approved by voters, a $10 million alternative revenue bond, a drawdown on park district reserve funds, and several grants and donations.

Two bond sales were held with interest on those bonds expected to add $9.5 million to the total $29.4 million cost of the project. Park district officials said changing the term of the bond repayment from 20 years to 13 years saved taxpayers $3.4 million in interest.

Grants and donations were not calculated in the financing of the ice center. Some of those donations, including the largest by the Glenview Stars hockey organization, would be used to directly abate referendum bond payments by taxpayers.

Additionally, the park district and users of the ice center would no longer have to pay for ice time at other rinks outside Glenview. Glenview could also play host to regional hockey and figure skating tournaments.
A donation from the Glenview Stars Hockey Association will total more than $977,000, paid over 13 years to the park district. The donation, originally detailed in a November 2017 letter from the Stars to the park district, was to be for $1 million made over a 10-year term, plus the purchase of a Zamboni valued at $102,000.

At Thursday’s monthly park board meeting, commissioners approved a final donation agreement paying the park district $875,000 over 13 years plus the cost of the Zamboni, adding up to more than $977,000.

That agreement includes minimum weekly hours of available ice time for the Stars and caps increases on ice time rates.

The pro shop vendor, Offensive Zone, has agreed to a one-time capital contribution of $10,000, to be paid in two installments to the park district.

Food and beverage vendor Nick Philippas agreed to donate $125,000 in smaller annual installments.

The ice center is expected to be eligible for a $115,000 energy-efficiency grant from ComEd.

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