

GLA Community Property Meeting 8-6-2015

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GLFPC Summary/Interpretation of GLA Community Property Committee Meeting – August 6, 2015

GLA's Community Property Committee held their second meeting Thursday, August 6, 2015 to consider new uses for 20 acres of common land in NG locally known as the old soccer field. The 20-acres were gifted years ago to GLA by the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT) through a "land agreement," with the stated use being for sport activities by GLA members "and the surrounding area."

At issue by landowners in attendance was whether the above agreement calling for public use of GLA's common land violates the GLA governing documents. Committee chairman Charlotte Mizzi said "no" because this 2002 church land agreement with GLA trumps GLA covenants. And when asked how she knew that, she said she just knew and that GLA had to abide by church agreements.

Next, landowners called the phrase "surrounding area" vague and asked how far does the "surrounding area" go? It was noted by the two present committee members that in the past, when the soccer field was popular, fans and players came from as far away as Big Timber and White Sulphur Springs. Mitzi stated that the use area should not be all the way to Livingston or Gardiner, but limited to an area surrounding Emigrant.

Committee member Pouwel Gelderloos presented a blue-print which was his vision of how the land could be used. The colored lay-out revealed a walking path with benches and picnic tables, a pond with a waterfall, volleyball courts, an ice skating rink, soccer fields, a sports-type complex (seemingly with a pool and sauna), a shelter building, landscaping including trees and parking. He stated it would be the only community park between Livingston and Gardiner and would attract a lot of people. Gelderloos also commented that having a park in Glastonbury available to the community at large would help put a positive light on CUT.

When asked about where the money could be found for this kind of major development, the two committee members assured questioning landowners that donations would be used to fund the project. They named a couple of ultra-wealthy people in the valley who they considered as likely donors.

Noting that common GLA land means every GLA member actually owns part of this 20 acres, landowners at the meeting called for wider landowner awareness and input through a landowner meeting before any plans are made. These concerns were not addressed.

It was agreed by committee members however that there is an immediate need to paint the existing service building (which has been vandalized and needs repair due to water damage according to Gelderloos). It was decided to ask for volunteers to do the work. Mitzi also requested that Gelderloos write up a bid for re-graveling the parking area and weed-cutting. And in the meantime, Mitzi would see what funds are currently available from GLA to do this initial work.

Mizzi reported that the use agreement between GLA and the Paradise Valley Recreation Center which managed the parcel as a soccer field was dissolved and that she is currently working to create a new 501(c)3 organization. Mizzi said a new non-profit entity would be needed to encourage donations. Exploring insurance coverage is also on Mitzi's to-do list.

The next Community Property Committee meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2015.