

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 14,, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

I. Call to order

II. Agenda-Additions/Deletions/  
Corrections

III. Approval of the Minutes of  
June 22, 1989

IV. Old Business:

1. Consideration of Applicant-  
Ken Kostrzewski
- 2., Letter of resignation-  
Pat Walsdorf

V. New Bu=~~S~~ :

1. Review of ,py-laws and Guidelines
2. "44.1 -1/4e, , ro-e CA,A.Aue lioc)

VI. Communication-Verbal/Written

VII. Adjournment

NOTE: Please notify Ruth 537-2105 or Patti 537-1450 if you cannot be in attendance.

Also note: All meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD JUNE 22, 1989

The regular meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee was held on June 22, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson Patrick Hanley. Members present were: Alice Wargo, Marge Hartmann, Frank Wojek, Virginia Metzger, Patrick Hanley, Daniel Conrad, Barb Dittman and Pat Hancock. Absent: Ruth Wieder, Bobby Silverstein, Ida Hein, and Pat Walsdorf. Ruth and Bobby previously notified the committee they would not be in attendance. Also present were: Park Manager: Karop Bavougian, Liaison of the Board: President Tom Webber, member Ed Klocke. At the President's invitation, Commissioners' Briles, Mattes and staff: T. Busby and A. Biondio were also present. Applicant Ken Kostrzewski.

AGENDA-Additions/Deletions/Corrections

The agenda was submitted for approval. Commissioner Klocke requested to add "Meeting with S.D.#21 as item D. under Old Business. So Done. The agenda was accepted as amended.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of May 10, 1989 were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Alice Wargo, seconded by Barb Dittman to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 4th of July

1. Finalization of Theme and Float- Alice noted that Marge Dolly and Ruth were to check for a flatbed. Alice advised we have an offer of a tow truck willing to pull a float if needed. Patrick noted if we do not get a flatbed, he was told we have the use of a car and questioned if we use the car, who will ride in it? Following lengthly discussion, Patrick reiterated, as of right now, we will try and get in contact with Ruth regarding the car and the second option, is the use of a snowmobile trailer which would be decorated in Patti's garage. Barb and himself will ride in the car if used. Patti, Barb and Marge will meet to discuss decorating. The question came up regarding funds. It was noted there were none available and donations would be requested.

B. Meeting Time Change

1. Discussion regarding change of meeting day and/or time took place. Members voiced their comments and reasons why the meetings should be changed. Motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Dan Conrad that starting in September the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

It was noted that no Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled in the months of July and August and the next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14, 1989.

C. Leisure Services Subcommittee

1. Survey Discussion

Patrick advised he looked over Karop's proposal and basically nothing came out at that point in the proposal that was alien to him and nothing seem to come to mind that needed to be added. He requested the opinions of the members. Alice advised in her opinion, if they are going to hire someone to do the survey, they should know the questions they are going to ask. Patrick advised he understood that Karop basically proposed goals and objectives which he would like to present to each candidate. Karop advised it would give them a framework for them to work within so they all would have an idea of what to look at and what the park is looking for. He stated they will actually come in and be very specific with regards to what information is needed for the survey. Discussion ensued. Frank questioned if the survey would be approved by the Board? Commissioner Klocke advised the Board has already approved doing a survey and a committee has been established to choose the candidate to do the survey. The committee's recommendation will then be presented to the full Board for approval.

Patrick stated he has been made aware that Ruth will be unavailable to serve on the survey committee and advised the advisory committee will need someone to take her place.

Upon requesting members interested in serving, Chairperson Hanley will recommend to President Webber another member of the committee to fill the seat. When asked what was involved, he advised we would sit on a panel, listen to a presentation by each candidate (at least three) and together with the board members, would act as a team and make a recommendation to the full board. Virginia Metzger and Barb Dittman expressed an interest. Pat advised their names will be recommended to the board for their decision with Pat Hancock remaining as alternate.

Patrick noted the discussion at this point, was Karop's proposal which will be given to the pre-candidates and asked members if there is anything they felt was missing or needed to be added? Commissioner Klocke questioned if there was a maximum of candidates? Karop advised there is no maximum but we should have a minimum of at least three. Frank questioned if the sample surveys given out for review were of any help? Pat advised he looked at it very briefly but the pattern of the survey, exactly how it would come about, would be part of what these three candidates would be proposing. How they would go about doing it, he assumed being on the survey committee, is they would make a presentation of how they would handle the survey and the types of information needed. Frank was concerned regarding the financial aspect and asked if we could depict something from the other surveys that would be beneficial to us. Discussion ensued. Patrick felt it would be up to the members of the survey committee to make sure of candidates and solicit answers from them on how they would go about doing the survey. The committee should be asking the proper questions. He felt the initial proposal in principle, gives them enough, at least a feeling of the types of things that we would be interested in finding out. He stated from his standpoint, that once the committee leaves here, if they have any thoughts of any type of question they would want to be asked, they should get in contact with him. He would be glad to listen to any concerns anyone would have relative to this matter.

Dan Conrad stated since he did not receive his minutes, questioned if three candidates are already involved? Karop advised they are not, only that they have been contacted and are interested in giving a presentation. So far there is someone from the U. of I., a gentleman who did Buffalo Grove's survey, and a gentleman who has done work for Harper. Discussion ensued.

Tom Webber arrived at 8:05 p.m. Chairman Hanley advised him that Ruth would not be able to serve on the survey committee and recommended two other advisory committee members for consideration, they being Virginia Metzger and Barb Dittman who are interested in being on that survey committee. He suggested President Webber talk to either of those people and make a decision. He noted Pat would still be an alternate in case one of the advisory committee members could be present. Chairman Hanley asked President Webber if he would be getting in contact with the members in relationship to when the candidates are available or when we will be involved in meetings? President Webber responded he would coordinate that with Karop.

Chairman Hanley then stated let's follow the pattern from there. If this takes place in the month of July and a candidate is recommended to the board in August, where would we go from there? Karop stated that he assumes that once the recommendation is made, an evaluation is going to be made and they will select someone and engage them. From thereon that person during the presentation, is going to be outlining procedurally how they are going to go about it which would come back and start meeting with members of the Board, DAC and staff to get some feedback and which would take place in September, October.

Alice questioned if they will tell us how long it will take to do a survey? Pat noted that should be one of the questions we ask them and what type of timetable are we talking about in relationship to the survey. Also the question of when it should be sent out, in the winter, spring or summer months. When is the public most likely to be in the mood to fill out a survey? He noted the people doing the surveys should know that if they have a survey background.

Chairman Hanley asked if there was anything else on the survey that needed to be discussed, or any other questions from members present? With no response he advised the next item of business was an addendum to the agenda.

D. Meeting with School District #21.

Chairman Hanley requested Commissioner Klocke to give a review.

Commissioner Klocke updated the members of the Advisory Committee of a meeting held between members of the Leisure Services Sub-Committee being, Alberta, Patrick, Alice, himself and Superintendent of District #21, Bud DesCarptentre relative to the use of facilities and rooms.

At that meeting discussion was held and Bud was to check out the availability of space and would contact the Park Manager to set up another meeting. Commissioner Klocke stated Alberta phoned Mr. DeCarpentre to see what happened and he stated the Park Manager had been contacted and was to schedule another meeting, but to date no meeting has been set up. Alice and Patrick agreed they were also was under the same impression and asked Karop if he had been contacted? Karop advised they have not formally sat down but have talked on the phone about trying to increase the park gym usage.

Chairman Hanley then questioned if the committee should be involved in any further meeting in relationship to District #21? His impression was that both Karop and Bud would talk about cooperation as far as the facilities were concerned in District #21, how they were being used and how the park district and District #21 could cooperate in relationship to better facility usage. He questioned if there was suppose to be something beyond that? Commissioner Klocke responded yes, in a meeting you just discussed and that has not happened.

Commissioner Klocke stated we don't know if there is any space available at all. He noted he had questions regarding the rooms at Hawthorn School and felt the concerns that the Advisory Committee and Historical Society have, is to find someplace for preschool to be held other than the Chamber Church and Childerley facilities. Chairman Hanley advised there was suppose to be a grant coming through for District #21 and questioned if it had?

President Webber interjected and apologized for being late. He made reference to the meeting of May 10th, the Advisory Board Meeting and read from the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 18th, which noted:

"Commissioner Webber indicated that Ruth Wieder is the Vice Chairman, Pat Hancock the Recording Secretary.

The main topic of dicussion at the May 10th meeting was the survey and in the past the Advisory Committee has asked for direction from the Board as to where it should be going. Commissioner Webber said he addressed this and the feeling of the Board was for the committee to deal directly and solely with the survey at this time. If anything dealth with intergovernmental, facilities; etc;, the commissioners would like to deal with that directly, if for no other reason than to do our jobs and to learn."

He stated if he wasn't clear at that meeting, then he apologizes. The direction that he would like this committee to take is to concentrate on the survey. If there is anything to be dealt with pertaining to District #21, they as the Board of Commissioners and staff will meet with them.

Alice noted we were only following through on the meeting we had in February. He responded he understood and he heard Pat questioned if there should be an additional followup meeting. Tom stated if in fact there should be, there will be and it will be held by the commissioners that are involved in those various committees, one being Intergovernmental. Alice responded then we don't have a purpose.

Tom stated the purpose of this Advisory Committee at this time as requested at the May 10th meeting was to proceed with the survey. Alice responded we are hiring someone to do the survey now what do you want us to do? We came out and said let's have a survey, we went along with you. We are only here to advise you on what we hear. Tom stated that is correct and there was a committee that was approved by the Board as a Whole. Alice questioned what else can the Ad'isory Committee do on the survey, you are hiring someone else on the outside to do it, so we haven't anything else to say about it.

Tom responded that it was his understanding that the gathering tonight was going to be for the purpose of discussing questions and/or different areas of the park district that we would like the committee to specifically point out and/or request of these various consulting firms, so we have a game plan to present to the consultants, so they can say yes you are headed in the right direction and we can respond on this area, or no you are going to waste your time.

Chairman Hanley reiterated that basically as far as District #21 is concerned, that if there is another meeting, members of the park board on the Intergovernmental Committee will handle it. Tom responded that is correct.

Tom advised Commissioner Klatecki met with Bud DesCarpentre on the early part of this week. Alice questioned why weren't the four Advisory Committee members notified? Tom responded because of other responsibilities and he apologized. Again she stated the committee was only following through on what they were suppose to do. Tom stated he appreciated that and again he apologized he was late and was glad he got to the meeting in time to inform the committee they do not have to set up a followup appointment.

Dan Conrad questioned Tom that with the new board and new President, if they are basically giving the Advisory committee a new direction? He questioned if the committee acts on its own and makes recommendations to the board (giving the board advice) or if the board is basically giving the committee new direction? Tom responded he may tend to give the committee definite direction. Discussion ensued. Dan noted the survey is in limbo and asked what else should we work on besides that? Tom responded nothing at this time. Dan replied then there is no reason for this committee to meet at this time.

Tom stated that the intent of this meeting tonight was that copies of the sample surveys were sent in advance to the committee members for review and for them to come up with questions to ask the consultants at the time of their interviews. Discussion ensued.

Barb Dittman stated it is her understanding if a member comes as a representative of our committee to your board meeting and makes a recommendation and waits for a directive from you at that time, that is when we meet as two boards coming together. Up until then, we can't tell you what you should do, just like you cannot tell us what to do. We are two different entities.

Tom responded and said as long as this advisory committee goes under the name of the Wheeling Park District and as long as it is sanctioned by the Wheeling Park District, approved and authorized by the Board of Commissioners, then yes we have a big say as to what direction this committee will take.

Barb expressed, in that case she feels the committee's by-laws should be redrafted by the Board of Commissioners to state that because she was not under the impression that is the way it works. She noted she is under a total miss conception since the new commissioners have taken office, and feels things should be changed.

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a problem with. That is overstepping your boundary.

Commissioner Klocke disagreed with Tom stating when we left the meeting that night, it was agreed that Bud was suppose to contact Karop. No one overstepped anybody. He advised the committee went through the proper channels and nothing has come of that yet.

Tom advised he is not talking about the past, but from this day forward, the Board of Commissioners have to have an opportunity to do their job. By all means if we learn enough in the near future, and are comfortable with what we are doing, which we are not at this point, and we ask that type of assistance with this committee to meet with the village, School District #214 or #21, or whatever the case may be, then it would be with our blessing. Until then speaking for himself at this point in time, Tom would like the committee to allow the board members to do their job and if a meeting has to be held, or should be held with one of the other agencies throughout the village, they as the Board of

In Tom's opinion, those should have been meetings with the board. Discussion ensued.

Patrick stated he did not remember if the committee asked the board's permission to meet with S.D.#21. He questioned Commissioner Klocke if he remembered?

Commissioner Klocke stated he had to agree with the original set of by-laws for the advisory committee and he has to go back and say it is not what we are doing right now. He advised he is very unhappy at what he is hearing. The advisory committee was set up for citizens of this park district to come up with ideas and follow through with those ideas. When they did, they came up with the survey, they brought that to the board and the board approved it. There was money allocated for the survey in the budget for this year. That's where we are. The preschool is a concern of many people that would like to see the children in another facility. Commissioner Klocke did say that the park district for one year sat, did nothing when Hawthorn School was available, at that time they were willing to sell us that facility for \$800,000.00. There was a survey taken then on how much it would cost to put in a gym with lockers, showers, etc. It was this advisory committee that said it was too expensive and they did not recommend the purchase. But, the Board knew at that time Hawthorn School was vacant and did not take any initiative to go try to rent some of the rooms available on the first floor. He noted now S.D.#21 decided to go for a grant for a science project which we are all aware of. Commissioner Klocke then stated he suggested that maybe they do not need all the rooms and there may be a few the park could rent for preschool and that's where we stand.

Pat commented that basically what he got out of the meeting that Ed, Alberta, Alice and he attended, was that Mr. DesCarpentre was going to try to either contact Karop or us, to see if there were any existing facilities that were not being utilized that could be used by the park district for programs.

Ed responded yes, Mr. DesCarpentre mentioned Jack London and other schools but that meeting never came about, so we don't know if there are any rooms available. He did not understand why the park board has to get involved in that, not as long as the advisory committee started it and he felt they should follow through and meet and present the park board with a recommendation. That's what they are here for.

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saying is that there was suppose to be another meeting that we were suppose to be involved with, as an advisory committee with Karop or Karop was suppose to set up a meeting and report to us.

Commissioner Klocke clarified there was suppose to be a meeting set up between Bud and Karop and Bud did call

Barb questioned after the survey is completed and the results are in, is there some way with the park brochure to insert a questionnaire to keep it current, not to the extent we are doing this survey, but to maybe once a year for residents to voice their comments?

Patrick noted once we complete this process, as rigorous as it may be, then we generally have an idea of what it will take to do a survey, possibly once we have gone through the process, doing it again in five years would be much easier. One other point too, is that we got to make sure the tool we use is valid, that the information we gather is useful and that the survey in of itself, is as unattackable as possible. The more groups that are involved with input in the survey, the better. He noted people that have a chance to create something, will support it. People that don't have that opportunity, will attack it.

Many questions for the consultants were brought up and a copy will be provided to each survey committee member. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes)

The feeling of the group is that the survey should be family orientated. Discussion ensued relative to publicity and the group felt that information regarding the coming survey could be presented through the media, fliers cable tv, posters, etc; making the public aware of the importance of the survey to the Wheeling Park District.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Dan Conrad presented a problem regarding registration of programs at different facilities because of computer incapacabilities. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Busby, Finance Director, responded the computers were not set up for all registration at this time but it is hopeful this matter will be taken care of in the near future and all registration will be done through one system.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, motion was made by Marge Hartmann, seconded by Alice Wargo to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee



4th of July 1989  
Pat Hanley - Ruth Wiedee  
Barb Dittman - Karen Pusenier



4th of July 1989



4th of July 1989



4th July 1987



4th of July - DAC





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WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
GUIDELINES

1. Assist in developing long-range policies and programs.
2. Keep the board aware and advised of community interests and attitudes.
3. Assist in planning new designs and facility improvements.
4. Conduct surveys and appraisals of community needs.
5. With sound leadership, develop an understanding and wider acceptance of leisure programs and the need for parks and recreation.
6. The eyes and ears of the Park Board, providing input to the Board to help shape the direction of priorities and goals, not only for today's needs, but the future, for the general benefit of the tax-paying community.
7. It is not the responsibility of the Advisory Committee to solve Park District problems, only to recommend and advise.

8/12/87

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOVERNING RULES

I. AUTHORIZATION

That the Wheeling Park District Board of Park Commissioners recognize that residents do care about progressive parks, all of their programs and facilities.

That the Park Board formally approved and accepted the concept of a continuing Citizen Advisory Group and ratified the existence of this group to work cooperatively to accomplish Park District goals on July 16, 1987.

II. NAME OF ADVISORY GROUP

1. The Group shall be known as the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee.

III. PURPOSE

1. To promote citizen awareness of the desirability of good parks and recreation.
2. To study the capital needs of the Park District and recommend to the Park Board and community our findings.
3. To identify problems and suggest solutions.
4. To interpret to the community the goals and needs of the Park District.
5. To communicate to the Park Board the concerns of the committee and the community.

IV. ORGANIZATION

1. No more than 15 members of the community he appointed to the advisory committee.
2. Appointees must be a registered voter of the Wheeling Park District, and should be:
  - a. interested and capable.

2.

- b. clear and careful thinkers.
- c. able to work cooperatively and constructively with others.
- d. representative of the people of the community, reflecting cross-sections of the community as much as possible; i.e.: single family, PUDs, commercial and industrial.

V. TERMS OF MEMBERS

1. Members shall serve a (3 year) term. Note: Terms subject to input and group determination.
  - a. Initially 5 members shall serve a 1 year term, 5 members shall serve a 2 year term and 5 members shall serve a 3 year term to be determined by lot.
  - b. Annually as a term expires, the DAC member has the option to continue to serve in an open 3 year term.
  - c. As a vacancy occurs, residents who express a desire to serve, may submit an application to any DAC member. Upon approval of the DAC, the name(s) will be forwarded to the Wheeling Park District Board of Park Commissioners for appointment.
  - d. That absence of three consecutive meetings without prior notification, the member will be so notified by the secretary and their membership will be reviewed. Added 9/28/88.

VI. LIAISONS

1. The Board as a Whole and the Park District Manager shall act as consultants to the advisory group.
2. The Park Board shall designate a Commissioner as their representative to all meetings (advisory capacity).
3. Other staff people may be invited to attend meetings upon request for specific expertise.

VIII. OPERATION

1. The committee shall function under these governing rules.
  - a. Select its own officers.
  - b. Formulate sub-committees as necessary.
  - c. Determine meeting times and agendas.

3.

2. The committee or sub-committees may seek information and counsel through proper administrative channels.
3. Minutes shall be kept and provided to all Advisory Committee members, the Park District Manager and the Board of Park Commissioners.
4. No member shall incur any financial obligation unless authorized by the entire group and then approved by the Board of Park Commissioners.
5. No member may release information of study results, sub-committee reports, or advisory recommendations unless approved by the entire group.
6. The Chairman or his designate shall be the official spokesperson.

VIII. GOALS

Goals may be short or long term, determined annually by the committee and submitted to the Park Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

IX. REVIEW

Procedures, changes and evaluation of effectiveness should occur annually by the group.

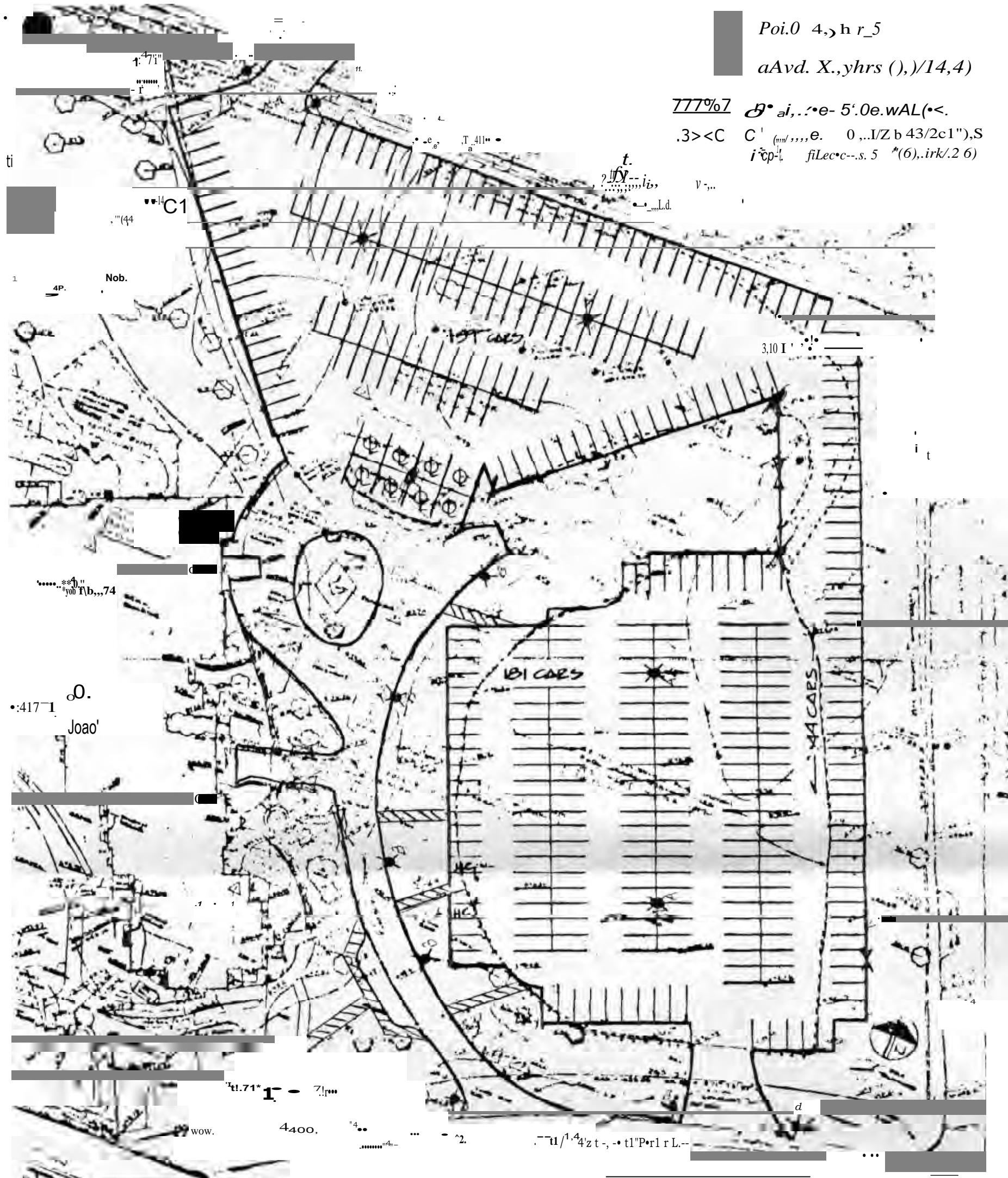
X. SUMMATION

Citizen involvement is always a critical problem for boards and administrators. The complications of attaining input from citizens can produce numerous conflicts. However, regardless of the struggle this process involves, citizen involvement remains a significant resource for the Park District. Not only is citizen involvement a major qualification for state and federal grants, but it provides an invaluable link to the community for assistance, support in programs, planning and development.

XI. Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed in any area not covered by these governing rules.

Drafted 8/12/87

Revised & Approved by DAC 8/26/87



CHEVY CHASE PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS: PRELIMINARY iCe 1-1/3 Nrl

**MODIFIED LOT CONFIGURATION  
SCHEME E: 384 Parking Stalls**  
(384 = No. originally planned for)

Handicapped:

10

**DOYLE & OHLE ARCHITECTS, INC.**  
75 East Wacker Drive, Suite 3600  
Chicago, IL 60601  
TEL: 368-0050 FAX: 368-0548  
Scale: 1".60'-0" Date: 9-12-89

# State could snuff out smoking at local board meetings

*Public meetings held in smoke-filled rooms have for the most part gone by the wayside. The issue of allowing smoking in public places is not dying, however, and several local boards in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove may soon be affected by a proposed state ban on the practice.*

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By Mike Wilkins' on  
Staff Writer

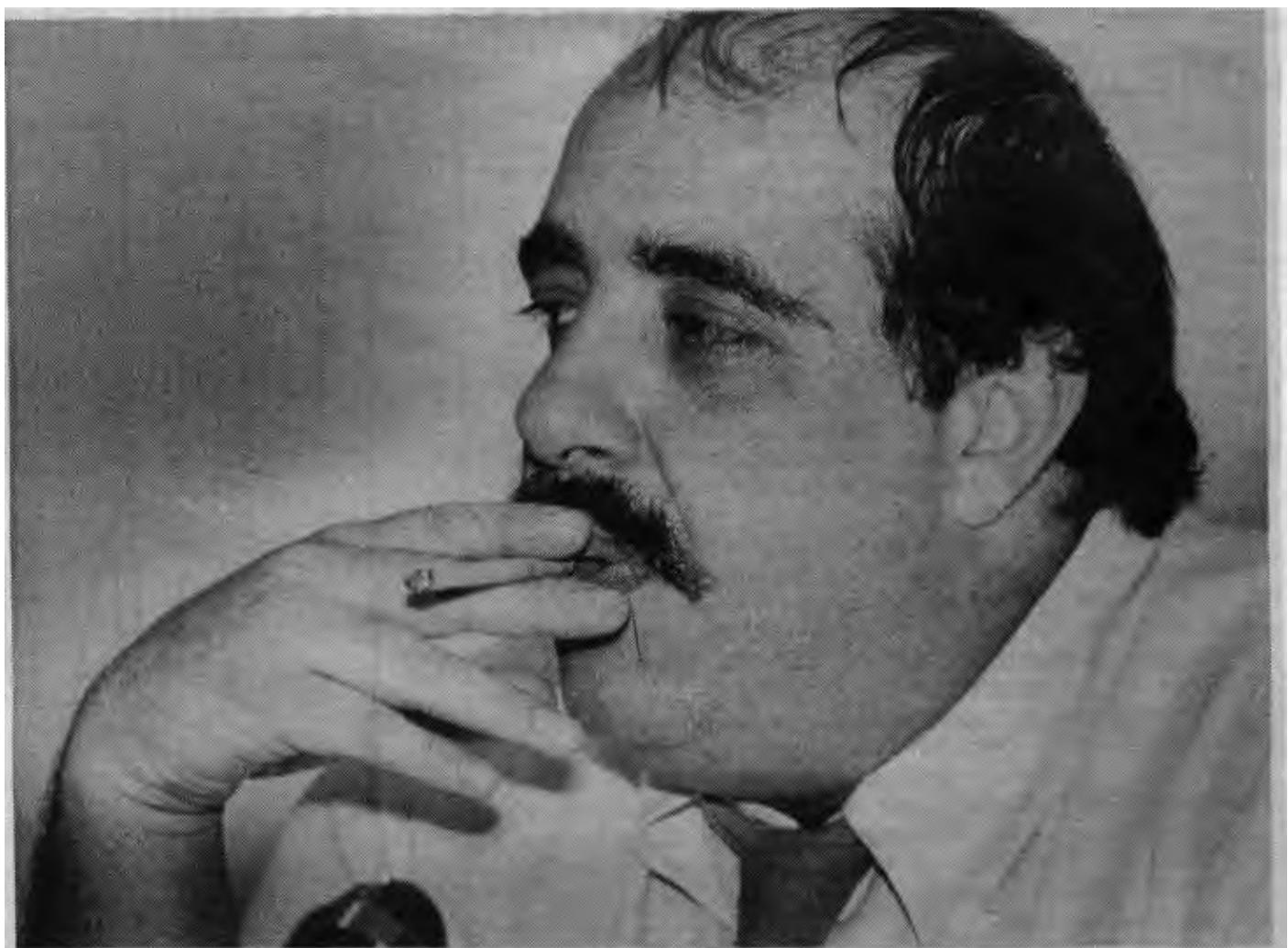
It doesn't happen at Wheeling Village Board meetings, it has been extinguished at Buffalo Grove Village sessions and the Buffalo Grove Park Board has informally made sure Bics are not needed at its weekly gatherings.

The practice of allowing smoking at local board meetings, however, has not been completely eliminated in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. That could all change depending upon the outcome of a legislative proposal aimed at making the need for ash trays at public meetings unnecessary.

For the first time in 10 years, the Illinois General Assembly is on the verge of making Illinois the 44th state to adopt a clean air act that would prohibit smoking in public places. The legislation was expected yesterday to move one step closer to passage as the Senate executive committee reviewed the bill.

"We're not saying you can't smoke, we're just saying you can't do it around me," said Janet Williams of the Chicago Lung Association (CLA). The CLA has been a staunch supporter of the state

(Continued on page 18)



Smokers like Wheeling Park District Superintendent of Resource Management Services John Piazza may not be able to light up at future board meetings if a

clean air bill being considered by the Illinois Legislature is approved. The bill would ban smoking in public places. (Staff photo by Richard Bajjalieh)

(Continued from page 9)

legislation. "You can't damage my health because you want to damage yours."

**BUT WHILE THE** Marlboro Man is unwelcome at an increasing number of public places, he can still find a spot to torch up his trusty cigarette at school and park board meetings in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling.

Kildeer School District 96, Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102 and the Wheeling Park District all permit smoking at meetings.

The three boards are clearly in the minority. As the health effects of "passive" or secondary smoke become known, many governmental bodies are beating the state to the punch and banning smoking in public areas such as taxi cabs, polling places, meeting rooms and public washrooms.

Wheeling has banned smoking in the public areas of Village Hall and allows smoking only in designated areas. Village President Sheila Schultz said the board long ago agreed that the health risks warranted banning smoking. Two board members who smoked approved the ban, Schultz said.

**"IT'S NOT** a question of ... preference, it's a question of 'is this really bothering my health,' " Schultz said.

In 1985, an informal poll of municipalities in the northwest suburbs found that only 11 of the 21 polled allowed smoking at its meetings. As of last week, five of those communities have since adopted bans while two others are now considering them.

"It's a touchy subject," said District 96 School Board President Barbara

Cohen. "We have three board members who are smokers and who enjoy smoking. As long as they are considerate to others ... it's not a problem."

Cohen said the board has not considered a ban. Board member Valerie Lubecke said she and the other board members that do smoke refrain from the practice when school children are present.

**"I THINK** what we're trying to do is be considerate to those who smoke and to those who do not," Cohen said. "I think the board is always open to consider any changes."

District 102 Board Member Bob Kossack, an admitted heavy smoker, said he would object to his board adopting such a ban until the government bans tobacco altogether. While Kossack doesn't debate all the government's findings on the effects of passive smoke, he said it should outlaw tobacco rather than legislate against it.

"If it is that deadly, then it should be made illegal and if it's made illegal, I'll abide by the law," Kossack said. "The government has to decide: Is it trying to protect the health of people or are they trying to protect choice."

For Williams, the issue is clear. "The tobacco industry wants you to think it's about rights, but it's not. It's about health risks," she said.

**AT LEAST ONE** of the remaining boards that allows smoking is considering a ban. Wheeling Park Board President Tom Webber said that his board will consider a smoking ban.

After consulting with park district Manager Karop Bavourian - a smoker - Webber said he expects the board to consider a smoking ban for the district.

# Park board applicant blasts handling of appointment

A man who failed in his election bid to become a Wheeling Park District commissioner last April says that the four commissioners who were elected at that time reneged on a promise to appoint him to a vacancy on the board.

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer



On the evening in which he expected to be named to the Wheeling Park District board, Dennis Drake last week lashed out at the commissioners, saying the appointment of Bill Mattes will only result in "block voting among friends."

Drake bitterly condemned the process that led new board members Tom Webber, Greg Klatecki, Chuck Briles and Fran Melamed to join with board member Ed Klocke in supporting Mattes.

Drake also complained that four board members broke an early promise to appoint him to the post that went to Mattes.

"It's just very appropriate the way they're sitting," Drake said. Webber, now park board president, is flanked by Briles, Mattes, Melamed and Klatecki, with Klocke and board member Don Lark sitting at the ends. "All they need is a round table for King Webber and his (court)."

**JUST BEFORE LAST** Thursday's board meeting, Drake handed out copies of his letter to the board. Moments later the board unanimously accepted the nomination of Mattes to become the park board's seventh member.

Drake, an unsuccessful candidate for the board April 4, said he expected to gain appointment to that spot over Mattes, whom he said was closely aligned with three of the four new board members.

In a letter concerning Mattes' appointment, Drake said he was disappointed he was not chosen to take the seat vacated when then-park board president James Gallagher died Feb. 15. Drake said he had the support of the four commissioners elected April 4.

Before an endorsement interview prior to the April election, Drake said that he, Webber, Klatecki, Briles and Melamed agreed that whomever didn't get elected would be appointed to fill the remaining two years of Gallagher's term. Candidate Ken Kostrzewski was not present at the endorsement interview.

"WHEN I received that endorsement from the four of them ... I was prepared to follow through on it," Drake said of the pre-election pact. "Obviously, they were not."

Drake came in fifth in the election, behind Webber, with Klatecki, Briles and Melamed. Only Kostrzewski finished with fewer votes than Drake. Drake said he thought the May 22 interview was a formality and that he expected to gain appointment to the board.

But Webber, the park board president, said that Drake did little to win the appointment besides make that "deal". Webber said Drake came to the appointment interview May 22 with few ideas for improving the park district.

When asked if he would have relied on the pact to get him on the board if he had lost in the election, Webber said he would have gotten to know the park district better.

"NO SIR, I would have shown my worth by being involved the day after the election," Webber said. "I wouldn't have sat on my butt at home until the day of the interview, walked in there, had nothing new to say and look at everybody like we owed him something and ... then walk out."

Webber said Mattes reviewed the parks and came to the appointment interview with ideas, plans and a desire to be active within the park district. Webber criticized Drake for poor attendance both on the village zoning appeals board and on the park district advisory committee while he was a member of those two bodies.

"Everything fit," Webber said of Drake's approach to those government bodies and his approach to the appointment interview. "That was standard operating position."

Drake, however, said he didn't know he was on the advisory committee during the time when his attendance was

"When I received that endorsement from the four of them ... I was prepared to follow through on it. Obviously, they were not."

— Dennis Drake  
Former Candidate  
Wheeling Park District

in question. After leaving the park board nine months after being appointed in 1984 to finish out a board member's term, Drake said his appointment to the committee was not mentioned to him.

AFTER HE LEARNED about his membership on the committee, Drake said he did become active.

Drake also rebuffed Webber's claim that he "turned his back on the park district" when he joined a neighboring park district's baseball program. Drake said he enrolled his son in the Buffalo Grove Recreational Association's baseball program because the Wheeling program had "poor staff organization, inadequate officiating and a lack of competition."

Drake said his son's development as a ballplayer was more important than staying with the Wheeling Park District program. "If that (situation) has prevented my appointment, I don't care," Drake said.

Webber, Klatecki, Briles, Melamed and Mattes are all involved in the Wheeling baseball program as coaches, officials and parents.

BUT WEBBER SAID Drake could have continued to work with the Wheeling program even though his son was playing in Buffalo Grove. "He turned his back on the park district," Webber said.

"It's real hard," Drake said, "when your son is playing 22 games in Buffalo Grove to be active in another park district."

# Carriage House contractor-is rebuffed in latest bid

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer



After spending six months more than was planned to restore the Wheeling Park District's carriage house, the contractor was told last week it would not be awarded additional work to complete the project.

Angered by the length of time it has taken R.J. Haack Builders to move and renovate the 97-year-old structure, the park board last week decided to hire another firm to add the water and sewer lines necessary to get an occupancy permit from the village.

When finally completed, the project will have taken more than 10 months - six months more than was expected. Park district officials hope the remaining work can be completed within a month.

Architect Michael Dixon told the board that Haack had initially agreed to complete the project in 120 days. By the time the project is done, Dixon said it will have taken Haack more than 300 days, although not all the delays were his fault.

"**I DON'T** think this contractor understands contracts," Dixon said.

Jay Haack, owner and vice president of the Arlington Heights company, defended his company. "I feel that we're quite capable as a contractor," Haack said. But, he declined to discuss the carriage house work his company has performed.

Because the park district was quoted prices lower than Haack's for the water

and sewer work, the board agreed to go with another contractor. The park board(" contracted with MJM Construction to put in both for nearly \$3,000 less than Haack proposed.

In addition, Dixon said Haack wanted an additional \$3,000 for the work his firm had already done because it took longer than expected. Park District Manager Karop Bavoulian said the district won't consider that proposal.

"**I WOULDN'T** even discuss it," Bavoulian told the board. "I'd just tell him to go blow."

Haack still must complete a number of items inside the building while cleaning up the Dundee Road site where the carriage house sat for its first 96 years. John Piazza, superintendent of resource management services, said Haack must remove the remaining foundation on that site and level the property, which the village now owns.

The park district has bought and moved the carriage house to Chamber Park as part of the district's historic preservation park. Joining the old Village Hall and the original Community Presbyterian Church building, the carriage house is the third structure added to the park.

Haack intially moved the structure to the park in 1988 and has been working on and off on the inside and outside of the wood structure. Bavoulian said delays in getting permits from the then-Metropolitan Sanitary District for the sewer line and additional work required by the park district change orders have prolonged the work.

# Park district may stamp out smoking

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN   
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District commissioners want to snuff out smoking during board meetings and possibly in all park district buildings.

Currently, the park district has no policy restricting smoking in any of its buildings. Several staff members regularly light up during board meetings in the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, and ashtrays are provided on seats for audience members.

"Common sense tells me we are a

park district and we stress health and safety," park district board President Thomas R. Webber said. "I think it would be appropriate for us to ban smoking."

Webber said several commissioners have conferred with staff members about the ban and plan to discuss it at a 7 p.m. meeting today at Chevy Chase, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"Being a park district, I would think we wouldn't want to wait around for a bill to pass," Webber said. "I would have thought we

would be a trend-setter."

Webber points to Wheeling village hall as an example of a public building where smoking is prohibited at all times in public areas.

Commissioners plan to discuss several options for a ban, including prohibiting smoking only during board meetings or at all times, and banning smoking in all park district buildings or only in Chevy Chase. The commissioners also will discuss whether there will be designated smoking or non-smoking areas in the buildings, including in banquet halls

at Chevy Chase, Commissioner William D. Mattes said.

"I would be for it at least at all public meetings," Mattes said. "I'm a smoker and I've just made it a policy to refrain during meetings."

"I think eventually when they get the studies in on (the effects of) second-hand smoke, I think they're going to ban it from all public buildings and I'm for it," Commissioner Greg L. Klatecki said. "They have a right to smoke and at the same time we have the right for them not to do it around us."

## Wheeling park district vetos no-smoking bill

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN 4//  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Smokers can continue to light up during Wheeling Park District Board meetings, park commissioners decided Thursday.

Park Board President Tom R. Webber requested the board adopt a no-smoking policy during board meetings, but commissioners rejected the proposal by a 4-3 vote.

The park district currently has no restrictions against smoking. Ashtrays are provided on seats for audience members during meetings.

"The park district basically represents health, safety and clean atmosphere," Webber said. "I am very adamant about this position

I'm taking against smoking."

Webber also had proposed banning smoking at all board-sponsored public meetings but withdrew the motion after discussion grew heated.

"I think we're getting a bit carried away with this smoking," Commissioner Edward Klocke said. "I'm a non-smoker now for three years, and it doesn't bother me one iota. I think they should be allowed to smoke."

Staff members who smoke had agreed to refrain during meetings, and some audience members said they too would follow a non-smoking ban.

"If it's your wishes to have no smoking at public meetings, we can live with it," said Park Direc-

tor Karop Bavoogian, a smoker.

Commissioner William D. Mattes, the only smoker on the seven-member board, rallied for the no-smoking policy and pointed to Wheeling Village Hall as an example of a public building where smoking is prohibited.

However, other commissioners argued for smokers' rights and said the board room is not all that smoky.

"I don't feel we have the right to tell people what to do," said Commissioner Fran Melamed, a reformed smoker.

Commissioner Chuck Briles rejected the no-smoking proposal and suggested smoking only be prohibited when at least one person objects during a meeting.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Contract for park improvements approved

BY IRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Wheeling Park District commissioners have approved a \$79,375 contract with a Plainfield landscaping company to install new playground equipment in four of the district's parks.

Green-Up Landscaping, Inc., the lowest of three bidders, will remove and replace all old playground equipment at Chamber, Heritage, Mark Twain and Meadowbrook parks.

Under the contract, the landscaping company also will replace old landscaping timbers, restore and plant grass at the parks and spread sand for safety surfac-

The district will pay for the projects with a \$100,000 loan it took out last year. In December, the park district issued \$105,000 worth of bonds, which after interest and legal fees, would net about \$100,000.

However, park officials say the loan should have no effect on the district's current tax rate of 52 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The owner of a \$100,000 house pays about \$78 a year in park district taxes.

Park Director Karop T. Bavoulian said the mix of wooden and metal equipment in the parks now is "old and decrepit." All of the new equipment will be metal to prevent children from getting splinters from the wooden equip-

ment.

The park improvements include:

- Chamber, 251 N. Wolf Road — \$22,277 to remove the old equipment, replace it with a swing set, sliding poles and overhead parallel ladder.

- Heritage, 222 S. Wolf Road — \$23,862 to remove the old swing set and replace it with a new swing set with spiral slides for children and to install a sand area.

- Mark Twain, 515 Merle Lane — \$17,725 to condense an oversized play area and install a swing set with slide set.

- Meadowbrook, Nancy Lane — \$15,511 to remove old metal equipment and replace it with a swing set with spiral and wave slides and climbing equipment.

# Developments could bring \$13,125 to park district

BY TRISH ZIFER  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Wheeling Park District could receive up to \$13,125 in developer donations from two town house complexes planned this summer for Wheeling.

Park Director Karop T. Bavoulian said he negotiated with developers from TMK Development of Bannockburn for up to \$8,500 for a town house complex planned for the north side of McHenry Road, west of Rt. 83 and the AMVETS hall.

Developers plan to build between 28 and 34 town houses on 3½ acres.

The park district had listed the property as a potential future park site. But Commissioner Fran Melamed said the asking price of \$350,000 for the land was too high for the park district.

As part of the park district's developer donation plan, TMK developers agreed to pay the park \$250 for each town house built on the property.

Bavoulian also negotiated with developers of the Strong Gate town house subdivision for a donation of \$4,625.

The development includes 10 buildings with 37 town houses on a vacant section of land on the south side of Strong Avenue between 10th and 12th streets.

Because the 3.8-acre section would be too small to make a land donation, Bavoulian negotiated a cash donation of \$125 per town house.

The park district receives the money when the village issues building permits rather than when the town houses become occupied.

# Park board douses proposal to ban smoking at meetings

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

The ashtrays in the Devonshire and Wayside rooms of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse will continue to do their job at Wheeling Park District board meetings.

Board members last Thursday defeated a proposal to ban smoking from the meetings by a 4-3 margin, voting down the suggestion of board president Tom Webber.

The slim majority went against Webber's contention that the park district should follow the lead of other public bodies and ban smoking at public meetings. Webber said the park district should promote good health by making the gesture.

Four other board members, Ed Klocke, Fran Melamed, Chuck Briles and Don Lark, said smoking wasn't an issue at park district meetings.

"WE ARE not in a board room," Klocke said, looking around the Wayside Room as he spoke. "We're in a banquet facility where there's a lot of room."

Webber brought up the issue by saying he wanted to beat Illinois legislators to the punch and ban smoking at the meetings. The General Assembly is considering two bills that would ban smoking in public places.

"We are a park district, we do represent health and I can't think of a better way to show that thought than making the public meetings smoke-free," Webber said.

Several of the board members agreed with Webber. Bill Mattes, a smoker, said

the two hours of going smoke-free wouldn't be a problem. As a member of the village zoning appeals board, Mattes said he spent two years holding his smokes until after public meetings.

"IF THAT be the law, then everyone should follow," Mattes said. "And public meetings (being) what they are, a meeting of a public body, they should be smoke-free. It's not going to hurt anyone for a couple hours."

But although Mattes and Webber had the support of Greg Klantecki, and for a while Briles, the others doused the proposal. Melamed, a former smoker like Klocke, said the board shouldn't get in the habit of deciding people's habits.

"I don't think we have the right to tell people what they should or should not do," Melamed said. "I don't think a handful of people in a room this size could create a problem for everyone."

Members of the Wheeling Historical Society and the park district advisory committee also objected to Webber's proposal, which initially included banning smoking at all public meetings held in park district facilities. That provision would have precluded smoking by those two groups.

**PARK DISTRICT MANAGER** Karop Bavourgian, a smoker, said he could live with a ban if imposed. John Piazza, superintendent of resource management services, said the district had stopped smoking at meetings for about a year when former park district manager Dave Phillips pulled the ashtrays from the room.

## EDITORIALS

### Smoke in their eyes

A move last week by the Wheeling Park District board to stamp out a proposal to ban smoking at board meetings was misguided enough. But the logic adopted by the majority showed a lack of reason seldom exhibited by a public body.

Among the displays of wisdom by the majority were that the park board doesn't have the right to tell people what to do and that the meeting location is not a board room since it also is used for banquets.

It's tough to argue such well-conceived notions.

Of course since the board doesn't have the right to tell people what to do, it may as well dispose of its standing rules of conduct at other park district facilities such as Chevy Chase golf course, basketball courts and playgrounds.

And since the board room doubles as a banquet facility, why not serve liquor at future meetings since the bar adjoins the room? With the board unable to tell people what to do, presumably there would be no closing 'time and no limit on happy hours.

With still others arguing that smoking at board meetings isn't even an issue, perhaps the district ought to assign a liaison to Springfield to assure legislators that there is no need to proceed with considering banning smoking in public places.

Dispatching a letter to the American Cancer Society and other organizations that have spent millions of dollars researching the effects of secondary smoke on the public telling these groups how they've wasted their efforts also wouldn't be a bad idea.

On second thought, maybe these wouldn't be such a good ideas. After all, what right has the park district to tell anyone what to do?

# Park board president, committee clash

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

After just two months on the job, Wheeling Park District's board president Tom Webber is facing growing dissent in the park district over the direction taken by the board-appointed citizens advisory committee.

The rift culminated last week when Webber, claiming that the scheduled topic was not being discussed, abruptly left a meeting of the advisory committee.

"There was a lot of confusion going on at the meeting and I just got frustrated because I could not communicate the direction I wanted them to take and I thought it (the meeting) should continue without me," Webber said.

Webber said he left the meeting when the committee stopped talking about the proposed community survey and instead began a discussion of additional recreational facilities available at Community Consolidated District 21 facilities. Webber said he had directed the committee to focus its efforts on the survey.

**WITH THE DISAGREEMENT** last week, park board member Ed Klocke said Webber must learn to work with the other members of the board and the advisory committee rather than dictate what should be discussed.

"That's the way he comes across," Klocke said, "If you don't play my way, I'm going to take my dolls and go home!"

Webber was elected to the park board April 4 along with Greg Klatecki, Fran

Melamed and Chuck Briles. At the first meeting of the new board, Webber was named park board president and most of the park board's leadership positions were given to the newcomers.

Just six days after being sworn in, Webber said he told the advisory committee May 10 that the new board would be directing the advisory committee to explore certain topics.

**"I FELT** that in all fairness to that committee, as newly elected officials we would give them direction," Webber said. When he arrived at last week's meeting, he said he found that the committee had concluded its discussion of the survey.

Webber said he wanted the committee, along with staff members Arnie Biondo, Tom Busby and Karop Bavourian, to consider possible questions for prospective survey consultants the park district planned to interview.

But when he arrived late, Webber said the committee was finishing up the survey issue and was beginning to talk about other topics, including the availability of additional recreation space at Community Consolidated 21 schools.

If that topic comes up again, as it did earlier this year when the committee met with District 21 Supt. Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie to discuss the potential of additional facilities, Webber said he wants the board to handle the discussions.

**"WE, AS** elected officials of the park board, would like to handle those meetings directly if for no other reason

than to learn," Webber said. Klatecki met with DesCarpentrie, Webber said.

But Webber and Klocke locked horns on the matter, with Klocke saying the advisory committee should engage in such discussions.

"The advisory committee has a viable concern for the residents of this community," Klocke said. "I can't see a thing wrong with them meeting with (District) 21 to talk as long as staff's included."

After a brief discussion, Webber left the meeting. Briles and newly-appointed board member Bill Mattes stayed at the meeting until it concluded. After Webber left, the committee returned to the survey and did discuss questions for the possible consultants, Klocke said.

**SINCE IT WAS** formed in 1985 as the Capital Needs Reassessment Advisory Committee, there have been squabbles between the advisory committee and the board.

Organized at that time to recommend funding priorities, CNRAC members were upset when the park board did not fully address all of their concerns. A struggle ensued when board members themselves became upset with the "take this" manner in which the report was given to them.

Subsequent relations were strained at best, and since then, the two bodies have tried to define each others roles, with the advisory committee last year asking the board for direction. Now, Webber said he is finding resistance to the direction he feels he is providing.

## Clarify committee role

If last week's meeting between Wheeling Park District board president Tom Webber and the district's advisory committee did nothing else, it showed that it is time for clarifying the committee's role and more specifically defining the scope of the work these important volunteers will do for the district in the months and years ahead.

Webber made a hasty exit from an advisory committee meeting last week, a response to his perception that committee members were going beyond what he considered to be their assigned task. This outburst did little to foster the kind of positive working relationship the two boards must have if they are going to succeed in their roles.

In explaining his leaving the meeting, Webber said he became frustrated because he could not communicate the direction he wanted the advisory committee to go. That in itself speaks volumes about what could become a more serious problem if it is not addressed quickly.

In the past, the advisory committee has been given some heavy tasks to help shape the future direction of the district. The committee's input, however, was not always heeded, leaving some to question why previous park boards wanted citizens advice if they didn't intend to act on it.

Now it appears Webber wants to give a clearer directive to the advisory committee about its role as well as the park board which is headed by a new majority.

**Webber is on the right track in trying to clarify the relationship and authorities of the respective bodies. The best way to accomplish that aim, though, is through dialogue, not walking out of meetings.**

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to

Count

# Ohio school keeps interns flowing to park district

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer ✓ 17707

For two straight years, the Wheeling Park District has paid a student intern from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, \$65 a week to work for the district during the summer months.

Last year Tim Peterson earned his paycheck and 15 credit hours for college as he worked on new recreation programs. He also developed the bullpen booth that was a success at last year's Familyfest.

And this year the park district hopes that Brian Cook, another product of BGSU, generates the same good ideas and good feelings that Peterson did last year.

But while it isn't unusual for park districts to employ interns, the manner in which both Peterson and Cook became interested in the park district is considered unusual by peers in the public recreation business, if not by Wheeling park board members.

Superintendent for Leisure Services Arnie Biondo met both Cook and Peterson in on-campus interviews after Biondo gave guest lectures on the northwestern Ohio campus.

**AND WHILE MOST** other park districts rarely recruit interns and nearly never leave the state to do so, the Wheeling Park District paid Biondo his normal salary for two days and picked up \$113 in mileage reimbursements to drive the 568 miles to and from Bowling Green last November.

Once there, Biondo taught a class in

product life-cycles, teaching the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation students how to apply marketing techniques to leisure services. Following the class, he interviewed about six students. One, Cook, was hired.

Cook is joined this year by Hermes Vasquez, a masters student at Aurora University. Last year, Peterson was joined by Shelly Spillman, a student from Eastern Illinois University. Outside of Spillman, contact with the other three interns was initially made by Biondo.

According to Julie Lengfelder, the chairperson of the BGSU department of recreation and dance, Biondo was not paid by the university for teaching the class. Instead, she said he "gets our premium students."

**BUT WHILE RECRUITERS** from private resorts come to Ohio from as far away as the Carolinas, Lengfelder said only Ohio park districts recruit on the BGSU campus, leaving Biondo, a long-time professional acquaintance, in the minority.

Other park district officials said their interns usually contact the park district first, either at the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association annual convention, usually held in the Chicago area, or by sending resumes directly to the park district. Most of those inquiries come from Illinois schools, the officials said.

"Usually, they find us," said Deanna MaGee, assistant to the director of the Barrington Park District. "There are just as qualified students that are closer."

(Continued on page 22)

## Recruiting

(Continued from page 11)

But Biondo, who said he has tried to establish programs with state schools, said those relationships have not produced the interns he said are important for the district.

"**ONE OF** the reasons I go there is I have a good contact with a professor (Lengfelder) there," Biondo said. "It's worked real well. We've gotten two good interns from that one contact."

With a plethora of private and public recreation institutions looking for interns, Biondo said the Ohio connection has paid off for the park district. He said the district has looked at several of the state schools for help, but has been unable to draw a number of candidates from those schools.

"If I'm making the contacts in Illinois and they aren't interested in coming to Wheeling, I can't twist their arms," Biondo said.

Wheeling Park District officials say that getting the interns, even if they aren't all from within Illinois, is important. Tom Busby, superintendent of finance, said the interns play a valuable role in the operation of the park district.

"**I THINK** their work is very valuable," Busby said. "And if it was up to me, I think we would get interns whether it be from Illinois, Ohio or whatever state. The cost that we have spent to go recruit these interns is nothing compared to the costs if we had hired a full-time employee to fill those positions."

But while none of those officials said they leave the state to recruit, some said Biondo's contacts in Ohio could be a boon for the Wheeling Park District.

"More and more interns go to the private sector, so I can see why Arnie would search them out," said Jan Mersmann, superintendent of leisure services for the Northbrook Park District. Mersmann's district, like most others, gets all of its interns from within Illinois.

**Rod Aiken**, superintendent of recreation with the Palatine Park District, said his district gets almost all its interns from within the state. But unlike others, he said his department does not solicit resumes, instead relying on the students to find them, much like looking for a job.

**WHILE THERE IS** some question as to whether Biondo's method for finding interns is common practice, nearly every park district official said interns are valuable. Mersmann said park districts are responsible for providing training for the interns in the recreation area.

"If we want to bring people into our profession, we have to help in the training of them," Mersmann said.

Biondo said Lengfelder will return the favor by donating time to staff development when site is in Illinois. He said his friendship with Lengfelder, which developed when both worked in Ohio, has provided him with a chance to meet the students that turn into positive interns for the park district.

"I've been doing this since 1980," Biondo said. "It works real well. It's that personal contact that makes the difference. I think that if we're going to have a chance for interns, we have to make that personal contact."

**PARK BOARD PRESIDENT** Tom Webber, who wasn't on the board when Biondo made his first two trips to Bowling Green, said he would study the issue. But he said the existing results have been positive.

"If the results give us a Tim Peterson, it was well worth the price that we paid to obtain him," Webber said.

## Playground equipment installation set for August at four Wheeling sites

More than six months after the money was in its coffers, the Wheeling Park District is set to add four sets of playground equipment to the park district.

Park district Manager Karop Bavourian said the equipment should be installed by August at Chamber Park, Heritage Park, Meadowbrook tot lot and at Mark Twain School. Park board members have agreed to pay Green-Up

Landscape, Inc., of Plainfield, Ill., \$79,375 for the metal playground equipment and its delivery and installation.

The money for the equipment came late last year when the park district learned its lending ability had been increased by \$105,000 because some of its previous debts were retired. A portion of the balance, will be put toward the repaving of the Heritage Park parking lot. 

## Officials mull clubhouse improvements

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer* 

Some Wheeling Park District Commissioners say repaving and landscaping the parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse may improve business.

The north parking lot at the clubhouse has never been paved and the pavement on the south side of the clubhouse is lined with potholes. For years, clubhouse neighbors in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling have complained that dust from the unpaved lot blows into their yards.

Now, park commissioners want to make good on their April campaign promise to improve the looks of the clubhouse in an effort

to attract more customers.

"I certainly think it would bring in more business," park board vice president Francine Melamed said. "People who come in for formal affairs have to dredge through dirt, clay and stones. We'll be able to book more and better parties."

The park board's plan is to pave the north parking lot to create about 400 parking spaces, repair potholes on the south lot and around the front circle drive and install landscaping, curbs and lighting. In addition, a retention pond will built south of the clubhouse to hold water run-off and to keep the parking lot from flooding.

Because the project is expected to cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000, the district would likely

take out a loan to spread out the payments, park board President Thomas R. Webber said.

"It will not be easy, however, we feel we've got to do it," Webber said. "The facilities at Chevy Chase are an asset and we want them to remain assets. The banquet facility, I think, will definitely reap the benefits from a new parking lot."

Chicago architect James L. Ohle will discuss the project plans next week with commissioners. Construction on the lot is expected to begin after the golf season in September.

Park district commissioners had considered paving the lot about four years ago, but dropped the idea because of a lack of money.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Clubhouse parking lot to be discussed

A Chicago architect this week will discuss with Wheeling Park District commissioners plans for a new parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

The north parking lot at the clubhouse has never been paved, and the pavement on the south side of the clubhouse is lined with potholes.

For years, clubhouse neighbors in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling have complained that the dust from the unpaved lot blows into their yards.

Commissioners plan to pave the north parking lot to create about 400 parking spaces. In addition, the construction includes: repairing potholes on the south lot and around the front circle drive and installing landscaping, curbs, lighting and a retention pond to hold water run-off and to keep the parking lot from flooding.

The project is expected to cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000, park board President Thomas R. Webber

### The top meeting

**Who:** Wheeling Park District board

**Where:** Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling.

**When:** 7 p.m. Thursday

said. James L. Ohle, a Chicago architect, will discuss plans for the project, the cost and help determine how the park district could pay for the construction.

Webber said the park district likely would take out a loan and use profits from the Chevy Chase Golf Course to help pay for the project. Construction is expected to begin after the golf season in September.

Park district commissioners had considered paving the lot about four years ago, but dropped the idea because of a lack of money to pay for the project.

## Fizzled fireworks blamed on cash shortage

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Wheeling Park District officials are washing their hands of what they call "one of the worst displays of fireworks ever put on in Wheeling" this Fourth of July.

Park district commissioners also plan to write letters to all groups involved in Fourth of July activities including the village of Wheeling, St. Joseph the Worker Church and members of the Wheeling Fourth of July Festival Committee, which takes care of the parade and fireworks.

The letter will outline who is responsible for what activities and what is expected of each group for next year's festivities, park board

President Thomas R. Webber said.

Commissioners said Thursday that residents and those involved in Tuesday's Fourth of July activities blamed the park district for running a disorganized and poor fireworks display.

However, the park district's only link to the annual display is in allowing the fireworks to be launched from Heritage Park.

Commissioner Edward L. Klocke said the park board was not notified of details for the display and the fireworks committee did not adequately prepare for the show.

"They had \$5,000 to blow up in the sky and that's what they did Tuesday night, which I think was one of the worst displays of fire-

works ever put on in Wheeling," Klocke said.

"The display wasn't all that great," said Michael T. Lynch, vice president of the seven-member festival committee. "I think it's a little over-reaction on the park district and a little under-reaction on the community in coming up with the money if they want a good display."

The committee raised \$5,000 for the fireworks and \$2,400 for the parade through donations and fund-raisers like a spaghetti dinner and pancake breakfast, Lynch said.

"We busted our butts raising funds for that and we didn't get much support from the community," Lynch said.

# Parking lot improvements proposed

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer



New lighting and landscaping around the proposed parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse is expected to draw attention to the Wheeling Park District building on Milwaukee Avenue, a Chicago architect says.

"We're looking for setting an example to the community at large as to what could be done to a parking lot," said James L. Ohle, of Doyle & Ohle Architects, Inc. in Chicago. "What we're trying to do is give a

sense of activity (to Chevy Chase) even if nothing's happening."

Following through on an April campaign promise, park commissioners are beginning to improve the appearance of the clubhouse in an effort to attract more business there.

Construction is set to begin the second week in September on a new parking lot that would increase the number of parking spaces from 200 to 400. The park board's improvement plan calls for paving the north parking lot, repairing potholes on the south lot and around the front circle

drive and adding landscaping and lighting.

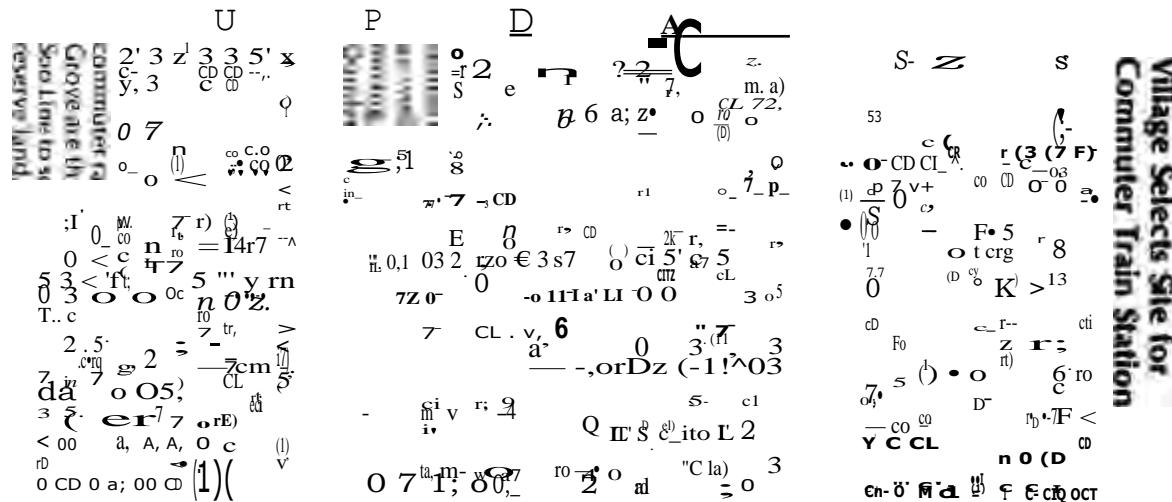
In addition, a three-foot pond will be added south of the clubhouse to hold water run-off and to keep the parking lot from flooding. A gazebo, which holds 26 people, will be built off the main ballroom in front of the pond to allow for pictures to be taken there.

Colored asphalt, similar to that of the golf cart paths, will be spread around the pond, which would be 35 feet in diameter and may be as deep as seven feet.

Only dying trees will be removed around the parking area, Ohle said. But many more trees will be planted to improve the landscaping around the clubhouse, he added.

Commissioners say the increased business because of the improvements to Chevy Chase will help pay off a loan needed to pay for the work. The project is expected to cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000, park board President Thomas R. Webber said.

The park district is expected to seek bids July 11 for construction of -- the project and open the bids Aug. 7.



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# After paying debts off ahead of time, park board to review new projects

By Mike WilKins  
Staff Writer , f.

Just like last year, the Wheeling Park District's early repayment of its past debts will allow it to take on new ones.

Park board members learned last week that the district could take on between \$570,000 and \$800,000 in capital improvement projects over the next two years — all without raising tax rates for district property owners.

"I think we could look at some major capital improvements that maybe have been needed for some time," board president Tom Webber said. "We have lots of options with the expenditure."

Last year, the board agreed to spend \$100,000 on playground equipment and repairs to the Heritage Park building's roof as the park district paid off earlier debts stemming from the purchase of the Chevy Chase Golf Course and

Clubhouse and additions to the clubhouse.

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM** Harris Bank informed the board last Thursday that the district could sell an additional \$570,000 in bonds this year without raising the existing tax rate for the district's non-referendum bond fund. If the district waited one year and paid off more of the existing debt, that figure could climb to \$800,000, Harris Bank Vice President and Manager Dennis R. Daniels said.

Before the board decides what to buy with the extra money, Webber said he will ask board members and staff to come up with ideas for the added expenditures. Webber said the district's citizens advisory committee will also be asked to contribute ideas.

In looking at potential projects for

(Continued on page 19)

## Projects —

(Continued from page 8)

the money, Webber said the district will also use information gleaned from the upcoming survey of park district residents.

Board member Ed Klocke said the board should consider a number of options when deciding how to split the \$570,000 pie. Increasing the amount of parking at Horizon Park and repairing the surface of the tennis courts at Heritage Park should be studied, Klocke said.

**WITH DISCUSSION ONLY** beginning on where the money will go, Webber said the park board also could look toward reversing its 12-year pledge not to use additional tax dollars for improvements to Chevy Chase Golf Course and Country Club.

When the Chevy Chase facility was bought in 1977, district officials said any improvements to the course and building would be funded solely through facility revenues.

But Webber said the park district should re-evaluate that stance. Park District Manager Karop Bavouugian said as much as \$400,000 of district operating expenses have been paid from golf course and clubhouse revenues. Bavouugian said that money could have been charged to the property tax-supported general fund.

"It's admirable when that mandate was made," Webber said of the pledge not to spend additional tax dollars at Chevy Chase. "However, in light of these figures, I see it may be time to pay back this facility; to lend back that money this facility has supported in operations."

**KLOCKE, HOWEVER, SAID** the board should not spend additional tax-supported dollars on the 66-year-old facility. He said three previous park boards have maintained the pledge taken in 1977 and that improvements to the building and grounds should continue to come from facility revenues.

The park district is opening bids Aug. 11 on paving and lighting of the Chevy Chase parking lot. The project, which officials consider essential for the continued success of the facility, will be partially funded using \$150,000 in profits from last year's golf course and clubhouse operations.

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## Park district awaits bids on Chevy Chase lot

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer

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Provided that the price is right, construction of a new parking lot at the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse will get started this fall, Wheeling Park District board members learned last week.

The board also learned that the proposed parking lot project will also include construction of a lighted gazebo overlooking a retention pond designed to handle storm water overflows from the new, 400-spot parking lot.

About 200 cars can now be parked in the gravel and dirt lot in front of the golf course and clubhouse. Park officials have long said the new parking lot is necessary for successful operation of the district-owned facilities.

Last Thursday, architect James Ohle laid out plans for the construction, landscaping and lighting of the parking lot, which district officials earlier estimated could cost more than \$600,000.

**THE PARK DISTRICT** will open bids for the project in August, hoping they come at a level the park district can afford. The district has already set aside \$150,000 for the project and intends to borrow money for the balance of the project.

Ohle cautioned the park board that contractors are bidding on a number of projects this summer. Whether that would mean a higher than expected price, Ohle did not say.

"People are busy," Ohle said. "You'll get some action, but I'm not sure what it's going to be."

Included in the bid price is construction of the 400-space lot, construction of a pond, the gazebo and extensive lighting and landscaping around the lot, the building and the pond.

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# Fizzled fireworks spark flap among Wheeling officials

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

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Fireworks of the vocal kind were lit last week as Wheeling Park District board members tried to deflect criticism over the "disappointing" Fourth of July fireworks.

As park board members complained about the fireworks, or rather the lack of them, they said problems with the explosives were unfairly directed at the park district.

"They ordered at the last minute and that's why they got garbage," park board member Don Lark said as he commented on the fireworks arranged by the Fourth of July Festival committee. Confusion at the fireworks, he said, caused some residents to blame the park district. "That's totally the Fourth of July committee's blame and it should all go back on them."

Lark, board member Ed Klocke and even organizer Mike Lynch agreed the fireworks didn't match the previous year's pizzazz. "They absolutely stunk. They were a disaster," Klocke said.

But Lynch said the committee only had \$5,000 to work with, far below the \$10,000 spent in 1988. Hopefully, the fireworks will be better next year, Lynch said. But he dismissed the complaints by the park board. "In my opinion, it was overreacting on the part of the park board," Lynch said.

What disturbed several park board members was the situation somehow got turned around on them when the district only agrees to allow the fireworks to take place in the back of Heritage Park. Park board president Tom Webber said he denied a request for help to dig a hole for the fireworks because the park district hadn't been told help was needed.

Board member Greg Klatecki said the entire episode was the result of poor communication between the fireworks committee, Familyfest organizers, the village and the park district.

Next year, Klatecki said the park district must know what's involved in getting the fireworks off without incident. But Klocke said, and Lynch confirmed, the fireworks committee had sent the park district a letter asking them for use of a reviewing stand for the parade and for use of Heritage Park.

Klocke said park district staff, including Director Karop Bavoulian, should have been more prepared for the fireworks.

Next year, Klatecki said the park district should contact the other interested parties before the fireworks display to determine how the park district can help.

As for additional financial help to ensure a bigger aerial display in 1990, Village President Sheila Schultz said the village will consider helping with direct funding for the fireworks. The village now allows residents to make donations when they send in their water bills.

# Heritage Park bridge bids being taken by park district

BY DAN ANDERSON 07  
Daily Herald Correspondent /

Wheeling Park District officials are accepting bids for a new service bridge at Heritage Park.

The existing bridge protrudes from the creek that runs through the park, preventing normal water flow during floods. In addition, the concrete on the bottom of the bridge is deteriorating.

Wheeling village officials had requested the park district either repair the old bridge or build a new one downstream. Because repairing the bridge would require construction of a temporary access route, commissioners unanimously opted for a new bridge.

Commissioners also chose a pre-fabricated steel bridge rather than one of reinforced concrete, which is more expensive.

Park District Manager Karop T. Bavougian estimated the cost of the bridge at \$45,000, which will be split between the park district and the village. Commissioners agreed to spend no more than \$7,500 for engineering

costs.

The new bridge will be 55- to 60-feet long and 16 feet wide. One tree, which Bavougian described as "a small one," will be chopped down. And two trees alongside the existing bridge will be destroyed during the demolition of the bridge. At least one of the trees grows from the creek and is probably supported by the bridge, Bavougian added.

Two large trees along the walkway approaching the bridge will be preserved, Bavougian said.

# Park district may hire firm to oversee work on lot

BY DAN ANDERSON 07 A3/1/9  
Daily Herald Correspondent /

Wheeling Park District commissioners may pay an architect to oversee improvements to the Chevy Chase Clubhouse parking lot.

The construction, expected to cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000, was supposed to have been supervised by John Piazza, the park district's resource management superintendent.

However, commissioners recently agreed that full-time, outside supervision would be more efficient, even though it would cost more money.

"Something's going to suffer if we spread ourselves too thin," board President Thomas R. Webber said.

He added that the extra work would demand too much of Piazza's time from his daily responsibilities.

Park district Director Karop T. Bavougian said it may cost between \$50 and \$80 an hour to have an architect oversee daily construction of the project, which should be complete in about 15 weeks. Bavougian will find out how much the project's architect — James L. Ohle of Doyle & Ohle Architects, Inc. in Chicago — would charge to supervise the construction.

If commissioners cannot reach an agreement with Ohle, the responsibilities and cost for the chosen contractor will increase.

Commissioner Greg Klatecki, a former contractor, said such projects require outside accountability.

"I would like to see the responsibility more in someone else's hands than ours," he said.

The proposed parking lot renovation includes include paving the north parking lot, repairing potholes in the south lot, constructing a retention pond and a gazebo and adding landscaping and lighting.

Commissioners are expected to vote to accept a bid for the work Aug. 3.

Commissioners cited the restoration of the historic carriage house at Chamber Park as an example of how long a project takes with no supervision. The carriage house project, in which an historic barn was moved and restored, missed several completion deadlines last fall.

# Underground drains set for park playgrounds

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Wheeling Park District commissioners have agreed to install underground drainage at four district playgrounds to help reduce flooding.

The playgrounds — three of which will replace old sites — will be built at Chamber, Heritage, Mark Twain and Meadowbrook parks. The board's recent action provides for

sub-surface drain tiles in three of the playgrounds and a French drain, or trench-filled drain with rock or brick, in the other.

The drainage was added because park commissioners accepted a bid from Green-Up Landscaping, Inc. of Plainfield, for \$79,375, which is less than the \$86,379 budgeted for the

improvements. The additional money will be used for the underground drainage installation.

Commissioners recently approved spending \$4,987.50 to install the drains. The additional work brings the total cost of the playground improvement project to \$84,362.50.

Improvements to the playgrounds

include replacing all old playground equipment, old landscaping timbers and restoring and planting grass at the parks. Sand also would be spread for safety surfaces. The wooden equipment is being replaced with new metal equipment to prevent children from getting splinters, park officials said.

# Park improvement funds may be borrowed

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN / Daily Herald Staff Writer / A. 1 eV /

Wheeling Park District officials may borrow nearly \$600,000, which would likely be used for park improvements.

Park Commissioner Francine Melamed said board members have not yet determined how the money would be spent. But it could be used

to pay for the new parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, which is expected to cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

"There's a thousand things we could do with it (the money)," Melamed said. "We just have to determine what."

The money also could be used to buy equipment for parks, or for "future dreams of a lot of commission-

ers," Melamed said. Some of those dreams include installing an outdoor pool, a golf driving range and repairing the ballroom at Chevy Chase, she said.

In 1983, the park district refinanced and condensed the number of payments made each year on a \$3.25 million loan in order to save money, said Thomas Busby, the park district's superintendent of finance.

When the park district repays loans, the board is allowed to borrow more money, or issue bonds.

Because of the annual payments the district has made on the 1983 loan, the park district is now eligible to borrow \$570,000 without seeking voters' approval. The park district may borrow up to .575 percent of the district's equalized assessed valuation.

# Park board to retain firm to oversee parking lot work

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Trying to get better control over construction work done for the Wheeling Park District, board members will hire an architectural firm to oversee construction of the new parking lot at Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse.

After watching the relocation and renovation of the Sicks' Carriage House take six months longer than scheduled, board members said they wanted more accountability on a parking lot project that will cost 10 times more than the Carriage House work.

Park District Manager Karop Bavougin said the board has informally agreed to pay architect James Ohle's firm \$43,000 to act as construction managers for the 16-week project. Ohle designed the parking lot project.

With the park district set to spend more than \$700,000 on the 400-space parking lot, board member Greg Klatecki said the commissioners should ensure that the project has adequate supervision.

"**WITH THIS** size of a project, I would like this in someone else's hands rather than ours," Klatecki said.

In making his pitch for the supervision, Superintendent for Resource Management Services John Piazza said the park district needed to provide greater control over the construction site rather than have the general contractor supervise his own work.

"If you don't have somebody accountable, it's going to be the general

contractor, and I point out the Carriage House as an example," Piazza said.

Board members last Thursday rejected a proposal to make Piazza the project's supervisor, arguing that Piazza should concentrate on other park district business.

**AFTER GETTING A cost estimate from Ohle last week, Bavougin said board members Klatecki, Chuck Briles, Fran Melamed and Don Lark have agreed to spend the money. Bavougin said his phone poll of the board found only Ed Klocke objecting to the expense. Bill Mattes and board president Tom Webber were not reached, Bavougin said.**

Since R.J. Haack Builders, Arlington Heights, was awarded the contract to move the carriage house to Chamber Park and renovate the building, the project has seen numerous delays. In June, the park district contracted with another company to finish plumbing work on the project.

Last week, Webber said the park district should have more control over future projects like the parking lot. "I would say from past history we would like to hold someone more accountable," Webber said.

With contractors now preparing bids for the work, Piazza said they needed to know whether they would have to provide additional supervision at the site. With the decision to go with Ohle, Piazza said the size of the bids should be reduced. The park district will open the bids Aug. 11.

# Park district eyes loan for parking lot

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Wheeling Park District commissioners may use part of a proposed \$570,000 bank loan to pay for a new parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

The move, in effect, would break a 12-year-old pledge to voters made by a former park board not to use property tax money for improvements made to the facility.

When the Chevy Chase golf course and clubhouse were bought with voters' consent in 1977 for \$3.4 million, park commissioners then promised taxpayers that the facility would be self-sufficient.

Now commissioners are plan-

ning to construct a new 400-space parking lot at Chevy Chase that may cost more than \$600,000.

Park Board President Thomas Webber this week asked commissioners to allow the park district to use between \$100,000 and \$150,000 of the proposed loan to help pay for construction.

Park commissioners are planning to borrow up to \$570,000. The district is eligible for the loan without seeking voters' approval because other outstanding district debts have been paid.

District loans plus interest typically are paid off over a period of time, usually with some property tax revenues.

"It was a very admirable pledge. It was a realistic pledge at

the time," Weber said of the former park board promise. "I think it is very, very important that we proceed with the parking lot."

Park District Manager Karop T. Bavoulian said that over the last five years the Chevy Chase facility has absorbed about \$476,856 in costs that would have come out of the park district's general funds.

Portions of salaries for the park manager, superintendents of finance and resource management, and costs for utilities, printing and equipment repairs have come from clubhouse funds, he said. Thomas Busby, director of finance, said using \$150,000 of the loan for the parking lot would not affect plans for other improvements.

# Wheeling park officials work on 'wish lists'

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District commissioners are trying to decide how to spend the \$570,000 they plan to borrow.

"There's a thousand things we could do with it," park district board Vice President Francine Melamed said.

But park board President Thomas R. Webber has asked commissioners submit a prioritized "wish list" of a few projects board members would like to fund with the money.

"It is a lot of money," Webber said. "I want to give it careful thought and consideration."

Webber also is seeking suggestions from park district advisory board members and residents for a meeting on the subject in October.

The park district can issue bonds, or borrow, up to \$570,000 because of payments the district has made on other outstanding debts. In 1983, the park district refinanced and condensed the number of payments made annually on a \$3.25 million loan in order to save money.

Because of the payments that were made, the district now may borrow the money without seeking voters' approval. The funds will be available at the end of November.

In 1993 the district may be eligible to borrow more money after it repays a \$2.65 million loan used to purchase a golf course.

So far, commissioners' suggestions for the money range from paying for a new parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse to adding a golf driving range or swimming pool to the district.

Commissioner Edward L. Klocke said he would consider using some of the money to finance part of the Chevy Chase parking lot and a new bridge at Heritage Park. His other "wishes" include improving the tennis courts at Heritage Park and building a new community center.

Melamed's suggestions include repairing the Chevy Chase ballroom, adding a golf range and swimming pool and constructing a new district building.

# Wheeling hires project manager

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN -v-  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A construction manager will supervise the installation of a new parking lot at Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Clubhouse despite objections from one park commissioner that the extra help on the \$500,000 project is unnecessary.

Park commissioners have approved hiring James L. Ohle, of Doyle & Ohle Architects Inc. in Chicago, for \$43,774, as the construction manager for the four-month project.

Commissioners said the project should be supervised by more than just the contractors and park district staff. John Piazza, the park district's

superintendent of resource management services, previously would oversee construction projects, such as improvements made to the Devonshire Room and the kitchen at Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

Park Commissioner Edward L. Klocke rejected the proposal to hire an outside supervisor. Klocke said the park district already has spent some of the \$150,000 set aside for architectural services and advice from Ohle. That money was reserved from golf course profits to help pay for the parking lot, Klocke added.

"We've already eaten into that quite a bit," Klocke said. "My feeling is we could have had John (Piazza) do it. For the betterment of the park district, I've got to vote no."

Construction bids for the 400-space parking lot will be opened at 10 a.m. Friday. The board will hold a special meeting on Aug. 22 to approve a contract so construction may begin Aug. 28. The cost is estimated between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

The parking lot improvement plan calls for paving the north parking lot, repairing potholes on the south lot and around the front circle drive and adding landscaping and lighting.

Also included in the project is the addition of a three-foot pond on the north side of the clubhouse that will hold water run-off to keep the parking lot from flooding. A gazebo able to hold 26 people will be built off the main ballroom in front of the pond.

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The park district is expected to open  
birds tomorrow (Friday) on plans for  
paving the Chevy Chase parking lot.

# Carriage house's long journey ends with transport of historic items

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By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Nearly one year after traffic was halted and utility wires were raised to make way for it, the Wheeling Park District's carriage house has finally been pronounced ready for occupation.

A long battle with time-consuming delays were declared over Saturday as members of the Wheeling Historical Society removed relics left in cold storage and began putting them into the carriage house that the park district moved to Chamber Park Aug. 31, 1988.

"**JUST KNOWING** that everything was being put into the carriage house was great," said Lonnie Schnaitmann, president of the historical society. "The society people are very happy about it."

After months of agonizing waiting, the village finally has granted an occupancy permit for the 97-year-old building. Delays over unfinished work that the park district blamed on a contractor forced the historical society to wait more than eight months longer than originally planned.

"It was good, of course, to see some progress at last," said society treasurer Bob McIntyre.

The historical society is now working with Jack Thompson of Northbrook on additional artifacts that will be added to the facility. Thompson has already donated one carriage and is expected to donate others, Schnaitmann said. She said the society is hoping to open the facility to the public.

**FOR THE FIRST** 96 years of its existence, the carriage house sat off Dundee Road, where for many years it had served as a barn for the Sicks family. After the village bought the land as part of a redevelopment plan, the park district was offered the building.

On the last day of August, 1988, the building was moved to the park district's historical preservation park at Chamber Park on Wolf Road, just around the corner from the carriage house's initial plot.

The carriage house joins the existing historical museum, formerly the first village hall, and the original Community Presbyterian Church, built in 1865.



Rudy Hrrcher, Jan Broda and Sam Dattilo move a water pumper into the old Carriage House. (Staff Photo by Rich Bajjalieh)

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# Parks mulling options after high bids for lot work

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer



Revamping the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse parking lot will cost the Wheeling Park District much more — possibly 26 percent and nearly \$200,000 more — than officials originally expected.

Bids opened last week found the lowest bidder offering to do the work for more than \$893,000, park district Director Karop Bavourian said. He said he had hoped the low bid would come in at \$700,000.

"The bids came in high," park board President Tom Webber said. "Higher than we would like, certainly."

The size of the bids, Webber said, may mean the district would have to consider scaling down some of its plans for the parking lot, which now is pockmarked with holes. It can accommodate 200; the expansion will hold an estimated 400 vehicles.

**THE PARK BOARD** wants to complete the project this year, with improvements scheduled to include paving the lot, adding lights, landscaping and a retention pool. The initial design also called for a wooden gazebo to be constructed over the parking lot's retention pond. But that portion of the project was not included in the bids opened last Friday.

Two general contractors and several sub-contractors bid on the project, Bavourian said. More contractors had indicated they would bid on the project

but did not, he said.

Park board members will now wait until next week to find out if John Piazza, superintendent for resource management services, and architect James Ohle can negotiate better prices for the park district.

If they do not, the board must decide whether it wants to continue with a project that once was expected to cost \$350,000. Although the bids indicate a high price, Webber said the park district should continue with the project.

**"IT'S IMPORTANT** to the facility to enable it to grow and with those improvements ... possibly we can begin in the near future on other improvements (at Chevy Chase)," Webber said.

Past and present board members say the addition of the parking lot would spur additional business for both the golf course and banquet facilities because patrons would not have to worry about battling mud and dust.

The district is expected to pay for the improvements through an installment contract. Profits from the operation of the golf course, combined with a portion of bond sales, are expected to pay for the annual installments.

For the first time since the park district bought Chevy Chase, board members are now considering spending additional tax dollars on facility improvements. When voters approved the purchase in 1977, the park board said tax dollars would not buy further improvements.

# Time to consider leasing Chevy Chase: commissioners

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

While the Wheeling Park District board struggles with financing a new Chevy Chase parking lot, several board members are saying the district should consider other options of operating the golf course and clubhouse, including possibly leasing the facility.

"I'm going to be honest with you and give you my gut reaction," commissioner Greg Klatecki said at Monday's special board meeting. "Either we improve it or we get rid of it."

Klatecki would later say that as the park board ponders the decision on whether to approve plans to repave, landscape and light a new parking lot, he favors the improvements. "My sentiment is we have to make repairs ... I'd like to keep it but we need to make major repairs," Klatecki said.

But board member Chuck Briles said several board members and at least one staff member have talked about the possibility of considering other management options for the golf course and clubhouse.

**"IF IT'S** going to drain the taxpayers' dollars for another 11 years, I have some

## Wheeling Park board looks to cut costs on dubhouse parking lot work

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

After finding out the cost of the proposed new parking lot for Chevy Chase may climb as high as \$900,000, Wheeling Park District board members Monday took steps to cut costs on the project.

Board members rejected bids on the work and called for new bids. The board also named John Piazza, superintendent of resource management services, as the general contractor for the project, hoping to cut profit margins built into the original bids.

But several board members appeared ready to scale back — and move back — the project should the new bids come in higher than

questions whether we should operate (and) run it," Briles said. The park district bought the facility in 1977 after voters approved a tax hike to support a \$3.7 million bond sale to pay for the golf

anticipated. The low bid from a general contractor came in at \$893,000. Board members said they expected bids around \$700,000 for the plans to repave, landscape and light the new parking lot.

"I have to say I have a hard time justifying a \$900,000 parking lot," board member Fran Melamed said. "I don't feel comfortable nor do I feel justified to spend that kind of money on the parking lot."

**IF THE BOARD** changed plans after getting the next round of bids, scheduled for an early September opening, the project would most likely be delayed until next year because design changes would not allow

(Continued on page 17)

course, clubhouse and land on McHenry Road.

The board members' comments come as the board is considering spending \$150,000 in bond money to cover a portion

of the cost of the new parking lot. On Monday, the board rejected existing bids for the project, which came in higher than expected. (See related story.)

That \$150,000 in bond money, coming from an expected \$570,000 bond issue, would represent the first time that tax dollars were used to improve the facility since the district bought it. At the time of the 1977 referendum, the park board vowed not to spend additional tax dollars to upgrade the facility. Since then, only golf course and clubhouse revenues have fueled improvements.

As a result of Monday's and other board discussions concerning Chevy Chase, Klatecki, Briles and board member Fran Melamed said the park board should concentrate on other aspects of the district.

**SINCE THE APRIL** 4 election, Melamed and Klatecki said the board has spent too much time on the golf course and clubhouse. "That's fine," Melamed said, "but what about the parks?"

By getting away from constant discussions on the golf course and clubhouse, Klatecki said the district

(Continued on page 16)

## Chevy Chase —

(Continued from page 5)

could refocus its efforts on the district's parks and possibly look at other, new facilities.

Briles and Melamed said the board should review the management of the facility to try to improve the financial situation that Melamed said may result in the district spending more taxpayers' dollars on the facility.

"I just think the people of this community have spent lot of money at Chevy Chase and we need to spend some somewhere else," Melamed said.

**BRILES SAID INFORMAL** discussions with district staff may be made more formal in the future as operating options are explored. So far, park district Manager Karop Bavougian said there has been little more than philosophical discussions concerning other options.

"I'd like to know if we'd have more profit doing that ... than running it ourselves," Briles said.

In Buffalo Grove, the village had leased the lounge and dining facilities of the old clubhouse facilities of the Buffalo Grove Golf Course. Village Manager Bill Balling said the village terminated that agreement when it built the new facility.

## Parking lot

(Continued from page 5)

contractors to bid on and then complete the project, officials said.

By becoming its own general contractor, the park district hopes to save on the profits added onto bids submitted by subcontractors. Piazza said informal conversations with several subcontractors indicate the district could cut as much as \$110,000 of the base price of the project, bringing the total cost down to \$834,000.

For years the park district has wanted to pave and rework the parking lot, which can now accommodate 200 cars. A new, 400-car lot is expected to bring in additional revenue in both the banquet halls and the Gable Room.

But board members questioned the scope of the project, saying the facility may not need space for 400 cars. Melamed, like other board members, raised the idea of just paving over the existing lot, which would cost an estimated \$500,000 to \$600,000.

**"MAYBE IT** wouldn't be the project we'd love to see, but it would be better than what we have," Melamed said.

Architect James Ohle argued that the larger project would yield better aesthetics and a better price for each parking stall created. But he said it was the board's decision as to whether they could afford the additional 200 parking spaces.

In the past, Piazza said the district has saved \$153,000 on four projects in which he served as the general contractor. But on those projects, Piazza volunteered for the position.

This time, the board tapped him as the district's representative. To complete the job, Piazza said he will have to work nights and weekends.

If the bids come in favorable, the district hopes to begin the project in September and have most of the work completed before winter sets in. Final grading of a drainage system and landscaping of the parking lot and gazebo would be finished in the spring.

**DURING THE DISCUSSION**, park district Manager Karop Bavougian said the board must be willing to contribute \$150,000 of next year's \$570,000 bond sale to the parking lot project. He said that money, combined with the \$150,000 the clubhouse and golf course are expected to contribute, is essential to keep the size of the loan low enough for the park district to finance.

"If \$150,000 is not available out of the bond money, we shouldn't go any further," Bavougian said. "We wouldn't be able to carry the note (loan)."

With the \$300,000, Bavougian said payment schedules would allow the district to borrow \$550,000 for the parking lot project. He said that would force the park district to face annual payments that it could absorb. If the project cost rises, the district may be unable to handle such a loan.

The board, however, declined to vote on the bond expenditure until after the new bids are opened and other options are explored.

**"I'M SAYING** spend what you need to make this parking lot acceptable," Melamed said.

## Moving on

How to make the most efficient use and generate the maximum amount of revenue out of the Chevy Chase golf course and clubhouse has been a perplexing problem for many years now for the Wheeling Park District.

And while it doesn't appear there will be a definitive answer to addressing these two issues any time soon, it's refreshing to see the current park board is at least considering some new alternatives for dealing with an old problem.

Several park board members say it may be worth considering leasing the facility to a private operator with more expertise in the field. No firm decisions have been made and no definite direction has been given to staff on this matter as of yet, but it is a positive sign that the new board wants to get on to matters other than the golf course and clubhouse.

With a myriad of capital projects that could be undertaken in terms of repairs and upgrades to the clubhouse, it is the nuts and bolts of programming and meeting the recreational needs of the community that must get at least equal attention.

Over the long haul, the park district board will have some tough decisions to make on Chevy Chase. But by setting priorities now and paying greater attention to the overall programming needs and long-term capital needs of the community, the board will have a much better chance of keeping focused on how to best serve all residents.

## Wheeling board rejects parking lot bids

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer*



Wheeling Park District commissioners are seeking new bids for construction of a parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse because the quotes they have received are "much too high."

The parking lot improvements include increasing the number of parking spaces from 200 to 400, paving the north parking lot, repairing potholes on the south lot and around the front circle drive and adding landscaping and lighting.

Commissioners estimated the project to cost no more than \$700,000. However, the lowest of the two bids the park district

received was about \$200,000 more than commissioners are willing to pay.

MJM Construction of Bensenville quoted the project at \$982,863 and International Construction Corporation, Inc. estimated the cost at \$893,900. Commissioners rejected both quotes and will accept new bids until Sept. 5.

"As far as I'm concerned, that amount was much too high," Commissioner Francie Melamed said. "I won't spend \$800,000 on a parking lot. We need to worry about some other areas of the park district."

Melamed added that even if the next batch of bids comes in at \$700,000, commissioners may reconsider some of the plans for the

parking lot in order to reduce costs. Landscaping and other "elaborate" plans, such as a gazebo, may be excluded from the plans for now, she added.

"We don't want it to be an eyesore," Commissioner Chuck Briles said. "There's got to be a more economical way to fix that parking lot without spending a million dollars."

Commissioners have also named John Piazza, the park district's superintendent of resource management services, as the general contractor of the project. That move would help reduce the cost of hiring an outside supervisor to oversee the actual construction of the parking lot, Briles said.

# Board offers food for thought for sobering golf drinkers

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District board members are making a last call on the increasing number of golf outings that come complete with drunken golfers who are causing problems on the course and in the clubhouse.

"You know you're in trouble when you see (the golfers) looking to get at the bar at 8:30 in the morning," park district Manager Karop Bavougan said.

Faced with "excessive" drinking by those golfers who come as part of restaurant- or bar-sponsored golf outings, the board accepted a staff recommendation to require that all golf outings also book food service from the clubhouse's banquet facilities.

Superintendent of Golf Services Vern Verstraete said the policy will eliminate those outings that drink, play golf and then leave to go drink some more, leaving the golf course in disarray. He said the new policy will also create more time for open golf and limit the noise in the clubhouse's Gable Room.

"**SOME OF** these outings are running rampant," Verstraete said. "They come in here gungho to play golf and all they end up doing is drinking."

Verstraete said 35 percent of this year's 59 outings that did not sign up for food service were sponsored by bars or restaurants.

"This excess of drinking causes our

staff many problems from these players," Verstraete said in a letter to Bavougan. "It becomes very difficult to make sense to anyone about rules and policy of the golf course when they have been drinking."

Bavougan said the new policy would "weed out" those golfers who tear up the course and disturb other paying customers. Golfers have criticized the behavior of some of the outings' players, Verstraete said.

**UNDER THE NEW** policy, all golf outings, which must have at least 36 golfers on weekdays and 50 golfers on weekends, must also arrange for food service. Besides keeping more drunks off the golf course, Verstraete said the new policy will also increase food sales for the clubhouse.

"There is no doubt that we will have less golf outings in the future," Verstraete said in his letter. "However, those that we will book will contribute more money to the clubhouse."

When those outings are put into a separate room for food service, Verstraete said that would relieve some of the burden now put on diners and staff in the Gable Room.

The park district has discussed the recommendation for several years without a change in the policy. Now, with the golf outings that are coming through the course this year, Verstraete said bad behavior prohibits those outings from booking the golf course again.

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Pursuant to, and in accordance with, the Truth in Taxation Act (the Act), notice is given that the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District will hold a public hearing on its intent to adopt a tax levy in an amount which is more than 105% of the extensions for said Park District for the preceding year of 1988.**

- 1. Legal name of taxing district:  
Wheeling Park District**
- 2. Commonly known name of taxing  
district: Wheeling Park District**
- 3. Amount of taxes, exclusive of election  
costs and Bond and Interest costs,  
extended or estimated to be extended  
on behalf of said Park District for the  
year 1988    \$1,350,014.00**
- 4. Amount of the purposed aggregate  
levy, exclusive of election costs and  
Bond and Interest costs, for the year  
1989    \$1,441,890.00**
- 5. The percentage increase    106.8%**
- 6. Date, time and place of the public  
hearing on the intent of the Wheeling  
Park District to levy taxes in excess of  
105% of taxes extended or estimated  
to be extended upon its 1988 levy:**

**DATE: September 7, 1989**

**TIME: 7:00 p.m.**

**PLACE: WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE  
1000 N. MILWAUKEE AVE.  
WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090**

**BY: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WHEELING PARK DISTRICT**

# Park district's 7% levy hike will force Sept. 7 hearing

By **Mike Wilkinson**  
Staff Writer

After drawing thousands of dollars from cash reserves to pay for Wheeling Park District operations this year, the park board last week took the first steps toward asking for a property tax hike.

Because park district board members want to collect nearly 7 percent more tax dollars next year, they will hold a public hearing Sept. 7 to prove the necessity of the extra dollars.

Any tax increase request greater than 5 percent requires a taxing body to hold a public hearing. The board will not adopt the tax levy request until after the Sept. 7 meeting.

Although the tax request will not raise the district's tax rate, the district is asking property owners to contribute \$1.44 million next year, up from the \$1.35 million the district received this year.

**PARK DISTRICT MANAGER**  
Karop Bavougian said rising health insurance costs, salaries and utility bills led the district to ask for more money.

Using conservative estimates of the increase in the district's assessed value, Bavougian said the district could have used its tax rate to collect more dollars.

This year's quintennial reassessment of property in the district is expected to show a substantial gain in the tax base, thereby allowing taxing

bodies to get more money with the same tax rates. But Bavougian said he estimated the district's property values to jump only 15.7 percent.

He called the levy an "honest attempt to levy on a needs standpoint."

**LAST YEAR, THE** \$1.35 million represented 31 percent of the district's \$4.41 million 1989 budget. Program fees, charges and golf course and clubhouse revenues made up a portion of the balance.

But the final portion is expected to come from existing fund balances, Bavougian said. From the corporate fund, the district's largest individual operating fund, the district plans to withdraw nearly \$93,000 to meet budgeted spending, leaving a minimal fund balance.

The increase the park district is considering calls for a 16 percent hike in taxes generated by the corporate fund, from \$405,000 to \$470,000, and a 16 percent jump in the recreation fund, from \$304,000 to \$355,000. The greatest percentage jump is in the fund for employee pensions — a 113 percent hike, from \$41,000 to \$88,000. That raise is established by the state.

The park district will also ask for a reduction in some funds, including the museum fund. Established fund balances in that fund will cause the district to ask for only \$35,000 this year, down 57 percent from last year's \$82,000.

# New Chevy Chase lot bids show substantial savings

By Mike Wilkinson 7/7A  
Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials say the rebidding process for the proposed expansion and paving of the Chevy Chase parking lot may have saved the district more than

Tribids:tipened Tuesday, the park district found that the project may cost \$711,000 compared to the low bid of \$894,000 that the district saw in August.

The park board called for the rebidding Aug. 17 and named John Piazza, superintendent of resource management services, as the general contractor for the project. The board also sought bids only from sub-contractors in an effort to reduce profit margins added by general contractors to the overall project.

Piazza said the lower bids come after a frantic couple weeks dealing with prospective bidders.

"I'm personally pleased with the cost of the project," Piazza said. "I know it's a large dollar amount, but based on the size of the project and the area, I'm very pleased."

The ne 'ce, which could go as high as 705 with the inclusion of contingency funds and performance insurance, also includes portion of the project not included in the initial bid, Piazza said. Improvements to

the north side of the clubhouse, along with better curbing in the parking lot are included in the new price, he said.

Piazza said he will recommend the board take action on the proposal tonight (Thursday) at the board's regular meeting. If the project is delayed further, Piazza said it could push construction to next year while watching costs rise.

**THE DISTRICT** is expected to pay for the project partially through bond sales and golf course and clubhouse revenues. But *in order to make the project affordable*, Bayougean said the cost has to be kept under \$900,000.

Board member Fran Melamed said *the new, lower bids are still too high* and again renewed her suggestion that the board may scale back the scope of the parking lot project.

"My feeling is right now it's still too high," Melamed said Wednesday. "If we need to take \$150,000 out of the bond money, maybe we need to put a ceiling ... on how much we want to spend."

**EARLIER THIS YEAR**, the board learned it could sell an additional \$570,000 in bond money. Melamed said the board may reconsider a proposal to spend up to **\$150,000 of that money to offset the parking lot costs.**

894  
705  
711,000

# Taxing issue in park district up for review

By Mike Wilkinson c7t

Staff Writer

Wheeling taxpayers will get the chance tonight (Thursday) to question a tax-hike proposal by the Wheeling Park District that officials are calling necessary to bolster district finances.

With the park district seeking a nearly 7 percent increase in the dollars contributed to the district by taxpayers, the park board will hold a required public hearing tonight on the request. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse on Milwaukee Avenue.

During the current fiscal year, the park district is expected to meet spending projections by dipping into fund balances. Board president Tom Webber said because the district has to use up some of its cash reserves to balance the budget, New York bond rating officials denied a request to improve the district's financial rating. An improved rating would allow the district to borrow money at lower interest rates.

Webber said the rating news indicates the district's need to get on sounder financial footing because, he said, "we are running pretty tight."

**BUT ALTHOUGH DISTRICT** officials are calling the tax request necessary, resident Ruth Wieder said she will be asking the board to justify the increase from \$1.35 million in 1988 to \$1.44 million in 1989.

"I want to know why they need it," Wieder said. "And if they get it, what are they going to do with it."

Wieder, a member of the district's advisory committee, said she will ask the board to describe why the district needs the money. Although she said she understands that a sizable portion of the increase is going toward state-mandated hikes in employee pensions, she still is looking for signs that the park board will take a close look at the budget process.

"Nobody's denying that those (employee insurance and pension benefits) are going up," Wieder said, "but I think they need to show somewhere

along the way that they are conservative. It's not just spend, spend, spend."

**FOR FIVE OF** the seven members of the park board, this is their first tax request. Webber, along with Greg Klatecki, Chuck Briles and Fran Melamed were elected to the board April 4. Bill Mattes was appointed in June to fill in the remaining two years left of former board member James Gallagher's term.

Last year, the \$1.35 million in collected tax dollars covered 31 percent of the district's \$4.41 million budget. Program fees and charges, golf course revenue and banquet hall rentals covered most of the remaining balance, park district Manager Karop Bavoulian said.

The suggested tax increase calls for a 16 percent hike in taxes generated for the corporate fund, from \$405,000 to \$470,000. Tax dollars account for the majority of this fund, which is used to pay for employee salaries and office supplies.

Countryside

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MEMO TO: Members of the Survey Committee  
FROM: P. Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee  
DATE: July 12, 1989  
RE: Questions to Consultants re:Survey

Below is a list of questions which were brought up at the Wheeling Park District Advisory Meeting of June 22, 1989.

1. What type of experience has the consultant in surveys in general?
2. What specific experience has the consultant in recreational surveys?
3. Does the consultant have any physical examples of those types of surveys?
4. If so, what were the results of the survey?
5. Did the park district really benefit from the survey?
6. Should the survey contain paragraph answers or yes and no answers?
7. When is the best time of the year a survey should be sent out to the public?
8. How long should a study take?
9. If a survey took 30 days, what was the benefit 6 months later?
10. If the survey took 6 months, was the benefit the same as the one that took 30 days?
11. (Method) Are we going to have objective types of questions?
12. Are there going to be essay types of questions?
13. Is there going to be a phone survey?
14. What percent of responses come back from a survey?
15. How many questions on the survey are going to pertain to children, young people, adults, seniors, etc?
16. Is the survey geared to all age groups in the household?
17. Is the amount of surveys sent out based on population?

2.

18. How are the consultants going to guarantee the survey is random?
19. What type of validity can they guarantee out of the survey?
20. How would they involve the village in coming about in the questions?
21. What method are they going to take in getting information from the board, staff, advisory committee, etc?
22. What other committees do they think should be sequestered for information? What types of committees?
23. Are there other committees in the village that should be asked for their input in relationship to the types of questions that the consultants would like to see, either as a committee or as citizens of Wheeling?
24. How would they sequester information in relationship to indoor and outdoor facilities? Ex. outdoor pool, recreation center?
26. What type of questions would they use to get the communities feelings in paying for new facilities? Taxes? Users Fees?
27. Would they ask how the community feels about acquiring land?
28. Would they present a pilot survey?
29. How do they pick people to do a random survey?
30. Do they do an evaluation following the survey?
31. Will there be a space for questions residents or make comments, opinions?
32. Are the consultants going to come up with objective data from the questionnaires?
33. Are the surveys going to cover all areas of Wheeling?
34. Should we have a simple separate study for children that would extend from the study to the parents re: sports/programs?
35. What is the best way to present a survey, mail, phone, take it to each household?

# Pioneer Press

## Voter's Guide

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### Wheeling Park District Commissioner

NIZNE1 Vote for four

#### Charles W. Briles

**Address:** 378 S. Wolf Rd.  
**Occupation:** AT&T/Illinois Bell Management  
**Experience:** Organized Wheeling youth football program; park district coach eight years  
**Civic Activities:** Telephone Pioneers of America, former assistant cub master for Cub Scouts.



If Briles is elected to the board, he said he would try to get the district to address more of its long-term needs. Briles said far too often the district has taken a "band-aid" approach to maintenance projects, particularly at Heritage Park and at the Chevy Chase Club House.

"You have to set policy on how to solve the problems," he said. Briles said he stands behind efforts to conduct a community survey to determine what residents think of the district's programs and facilities. While he thinks the park district has improved its variety of programming in recent months, Briles said he wants to learn more about what changes would like to see. In addition to further scrutinizing facilities, Briles said commissioners have to take a larger role in listening to and working with staff and the various sports organizations to improve operations. He also said the district should consider hiring a consultant to analyze the Chevy Chase facility to examine whether more revenues could be raised there.

#### Kenneth Kostrzewski

**Address:** 1313 Exeter Court  
**Occupation:** Claim adjuster  
**Experience:**  
**Civic Activities:** AMVETS Post 66, Concerned Parents for High Risk Infants, Inc.



As a newcomer to Wheeling and a long-time Chicago resident, Kenneth Kostrzewski has seen how politics and politicians can affect things. But as a candidate for the Wheeling park board, Kostrzewski said he wants to make sure that neither gets in the way of making the Wheeling Park District a better place.

Kostrzewski said inactive board members have been stalling the changes necessary to improve the park district. He said a reassessment of the park district must be made before resources are allocated to improve facilities and update programs.

"I want to see a comprehensive plan of all the parks . . . and develop a program to replace (what's worn out)," he said. "Right now they have no idea. As they get the money, they replace it."

He blamed a combative spirit between some board members and members of the district's advisory committee as disrupting board business. Kostrzewski said he hopes to bring a calming influence to the board if he is elected. In addressing the park district's needs, Kostrzewski said the park board must look at three things: park equipment, infrastructure and acquiring open space.

#### Dennis Drake

**Address:** 1029 Valley Stream Drive  
**Occupation:** Accountant  
**Experience:** Former park board member, appointed in 1984 (served from July, 1984 until May, 1985); member of citizens advisory committee; park district coach for more than 10 years.  
**Civic Activities:** Vice-chairman of Wheeling 4th of July Festival committee; former member of the Wheeling Zoning Appeals Board; member of Wheeling High School Spur Club; Former chairman of St. Joseph bingo committee; past president of Holy Name Society Men's Club; former vice-chairman of parish council.



Drake, who served on the board for more than nine months in 1984, wants to put his experience and activism to work with the park district.

He said the park board needs to improve the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse, maintain and improve the current parks and add more programs for older children.

Calling Chevy Chase the "crown jewel" of the park district, Drake said the park board has to decide to spend more money on the facility to improve its profitability. He supports the board's recent decision to pave the parking lot, but said more has to be done.

On the question of whether the district should pursue the purchase of open space around the village, Drake said the district should work more on maintaining the current 240 acres within the district.

#### Greg Klatecki

**Address:** 278 N. Fifth Street  
**Occupation:** Teacher, Holmes Jr. High School  
**Experience:** Former member Wheeling Zoning Appeals Board, former chairman of Capital Needs Reassessment Committee (CNRAC).  
**Civic Activities:** Park district coach six years; total of 23 years coaching experience; member of Whitman Elementary School and Holmes Jr. High School Parent Teacher Organizations.



Klatecki, who has been highly critical of some current park board members for not being active enough, has pledged to take a highly visible role as a commissioner.

Through the experiences he has gained in working with park district programs, Klatecki said he has seen a need for commissioners to take a more active role in setting policy and in working with staff. Although he is friends with and is closely aligned philosophically with fellow candidates Charles Briles and Thomas Webber, Klatecki stresses that he would be an independent commissioner.

In terms of examining programs, Klatecki said there is a need for more programs to serve students at the junior high school level. Another problem area Klatecki said he has seen is in staff turnover, especially in athletic coordinators.

#### Fran Melamed

**Address:** 464 Harmony Drive  
**Occupation:** Director of Operations, Worldwide Leasing, Inc.  
**Experience:** Administrative secretary, Wheeling traveling soccer club, fund-raising chairperson.  
**Civic Activities:** PTO member, nine years.



Melamed said she wants to make sure that the new park board represents more residents than she said it now does. With better communication with residents, Melamed said the park board will be better able to offer the programs and facilities everyone wants.

"I would like to represent the viewpoints of more of the citizens," Melamed said. "If you can be visible to the people, you can represent them better, rather than not knowing what the residents want."

What they want, and what they need, Melamed said, is an improved community center. Right now, she said the Heritage Park facility doesn't meet the needs of the district. "The building as it is now is a poor excuse for a community center," she said.

Melamed suggested the park board initiate research into how a new community center could be afforded, and to look at how other districts afford what they have. She said the park district must also look at improving the Chevy Chase golf course and club house in order to make it more profitable.

The park district must also make some hard decisions on the future of Neptune's Pool, which figures to operate at a loss over the next 20 years under the current financing structure between the school district and the park district.

#### Thomas R. Webber

**Address:** 578 Longtree Drive  
**Occupation:** Account executive, sales  
**Experience:** Wheeling Park District advisory board member  
**Civic Activities:** Longtree Homeowners Association, board of directors.



Webber, a park district advisory board member, has stressed that the park board should be more responsive to the community's needs and that the board should pay more attention to maintenance of the district's facilities. He also has criticized the present board for not being active enough in park district activities and not working closely enough with staff.

While he thinks the district has made considerable strides in the last year in terms of improving programs, he said he thinks the park board needs to work closer with staff to address programs and other community needs. Among the key issues he would like to see the park board focus on is the Chevy Chase Club House facility to determine what maintenance the club house needs and what can be done to maximize revenue generation from the facility, both for golf and banquets.

He adds that he doesn't think the district would have to seek a tax increase to perform necessary maintenance on the building. Another major issue Webber said he would like to address is to improve communications among the park district and the various athletic groups affiliated with district and with residents at large.

# Hopefuls call for park improvements

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Like many households this time of year, Wheeling Park District soon will undergo spring cleaning. The difference is that the park district's housekeeping will be finished April 4.

That's when four commissioners will be elected to the park board. The newcomers will replace two six-year commissioners, who are not

## ELECTION 89 1E4



**Chuck Briles**



**Ken Kostrzewski**



**Dennis R. Drake**



**Greg Klatecki**



**Thomas R. Webber**



**Francine Melamed**

running for re-election.

The names Chuck Briles, Ken Kostrzewski, Dennis R. Drake, Greg Klatecki, Thomas R. Webber and Francine Melamed will line the April 4 ballot. The winners will be the first to serve four-year terms on the newly-expanded board.

All six candidates vying for four open seats say the facelift is a long time coming. If nothing else, they say, a change of face would give the old five-member board a new look. It could even help improve the board's image, which they claim needs polishing.

Improving the board image is but one issue in the campaign. The candidates point to several other issues which they say park officials need to improve or consider.

The primary issues include working with the village and school district on future planning, completing a community survey, improving operations at Chevy Chase Country Club and reviewing open space for future park use.

The board's new look is inevitable seeing that two incumbents are not running for re-election and two new seats have been added to the now five-member board.

Furthermore, with the recent untimely death of board President James W. Gallagher, another new commissioner will be appointed to fill the two remaining years of his term. Thus, five of the seven commissioners will be new to the board.

The candidates say the board needs direction — an issue which has topped the priority list of all the board hopefuls.

Because of their mutual involvement with park district youth sports, Briles, Klatecki and Webber are teaming up for the election and supporting the same issues.

The trio advocates a new image for the board, which should be more visible in the community, they say.

Briles suggests the new commissioners meet with other community leaders. Meetings with Wheeling village officials and school district representatives would be just the start of better communication, says

Briles, a manager for AT&T in Chicago.

"Park commissioners need to be more involved in the park district," said Briles, who organized the park district youth football program last year.

The political newcomer added that the commissioners should attend park district functions and activities to get a better idea of the community's needs.

Webber agrees with Briles and says there needs to be more accountability from the park management and staff to the board.

"With the current commission being so inactive," Webber said, "there's a total lack of desire being filtered down to subordinates. It's got to change. I think an active board would be a tremendous asset to the board."

Board members should "without hesitation" attend major park-district events to be seen in public. That way, residents would know who to direct questions to, said Webber, an account executive for North Shore Distributors in Wheeling.

Webber is a park district youth coach for soccer, basketball, floor hockey and baseball and has been on the board of directors for the Longtree Homeowners Association since 1987.

Although running separately from the three, Melamed, an administrative assistant for Worldwide Leasing in Wheeling, supports the stand to increase the board's visibility. She wants commissioners to be more in-

volved in village doings.

"The reason I'm getting involved is because there are certain things in this community that keep us from growing," Melamed said. "I never understood why there are so many divisions in this community. I don't know why we don't work together."

Drake and Kostrzewski, who are running independently, also agree that commissioners should communicate more with village officials. They say the community survey, which was initiated by the park advisory board, is just the tool to bring the park district in better touch with the community.

The survey is expected to reveal how residents view the park district. It will be used by park officials to determine the district's direction for the next 10 years.

"It must be a priority to get their feelings" about the park district, especially among new residents, Webber said.

Drake, who was appointed to the park board in 1984 to fill a vacancy and lost his bid for re-election the following year, said the survey would help determine residents' views on open space.

The issue is a critical one for Drake, who said his leadership ability, experiences as a village and park official and his involvement in youth sports would benefit the board.

Drake, an accountant for Winchester House, a Libertyville center for the elderly, encourages park officials to work with village officials to determine what land would be avail-

able and suitable for park use. He also suggests the park district set up a land bank, in which land would be bought and left alone until the park needed to develop it.

"We need more land for parks," said Kostrzewski, an insurance adjuster with Bankers Life & Casualty in Chicago.

He points to future projections showing the village population increasing by about 10,000 residents and says additional parks and recreation equipment are needed soon.

"The parks we have now would not be adequate," Kostrzewski said, adding that park officials should draw up a 10-year master plan based on results from the survey.

By working with the village, Klatecki, a Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 teacher, said the park possibly could acquire land through developer donations. Klatecki is a teacher and coach for the school district and has also served on the park district's advisory board, along with Drake and Webber.

In the meantime, Drake said, park district officials should improve existing park sites and continue to improve park programs — two issues the other candidates also consider significant.

The site most in need of immediate attention is Heritage Park, where landscaping should be improved and new equipment installed, Melamed says.

See PARK on Page 3

## PARK: Candidates say board needs a new look

Continued from Page 1

But Klatecki, Webber and Melamed are intent on making the Chevy Chase Country Club a money-making enterprise rather than a financial strain for the park district.

Webber suggests holding open houses at the clubhouse for local corporations and initiating an intense marketing strategy to push for business in the banquet hall and other uses of the building.

"That hall should never be empty," Klatecki said.

Several candidates say they want to speak with other leaders before making too many specific judgments

on how the park district should be run.

With the experience of attending park board meetings, all of the hopefuls agree that the board's image is the No. 1 thing to change. Some, including the trio of candidates, say the urge to improve that image prompted them to seek election in the first place.

For Klatecki, it's "frustration" that makes him want to become a commissioner.

"The park board that gets elected would create an energy," Klatecki said, "so that the image of the park board would not be one that the people laugh at but one they respect."

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP LIST

**19tr-rr**

NAME, PHONE & ADDRESS

COMMISSIONERS

Ruth Wieder 116 S. Wille  
537-2105

Jim Gallagher  
157 Mockingbird Ln  
Wk. 856-5721 .f%  
Ho. 459-1561

\, Alice Wargo 401 S. Wolf Road  
537-5127

\Marge Hartmann 48 S. Wille  
537-0656

Don Lark  
593 Merle  
Wk. 283-3460  
Ho. 537-1028

\, Pat Hancock 386 S. Leslie Ln.  
537-1450

Gary Dobbe 252 E. Norman  
-.Wk. 253-7456 R  
Ho. 459-0178<sup>I</sup> '3 Fg

Ed Klocker [REDACTED]  
245 E.Wayne  
Wk. 593-2988  
Ho. 537-0574

Greg Klatecki 278 N. 5th St.  
11.. Wk.520-2790  
Ho.459-8116      *17.1 cer*

Julia Robberson  
294 E. Second  
Wk.362-4636 X 225  
Ho. 541-5680

Marc Kaplan 214 Shadow Bend Dr.  
. 459-0441

Anthony Abruscato  
125 W. Wayne    c"  
Wk. 299-2900/02  
Ho.

Bruce Goldberg 11 Lakeside Cir.  
, 577-7957 Mt<sup>4</sup>c0

Cliff Bird 159 Hansom Rd.  
541-4136              ii/z7/ffe

\Virginia Metzger 46 Holly Ct.  
537-8114

Steve Heinz 966 Honeysuckle Dr.  
--Wk.391-7984  
Ho. 537-4651      */?/re*

Tom Webber 578 Longtree Dr.  
--Wk.537-6900  
Ho.541-1112      *W7/Pef*

Bill Feezor 1082 Kingsport Dr.  
. 537-5899

Dennis Drake 1029 ValleystreaR Dr.  
\^Wk.362-4340 459-4405    5\cr - \

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
MAY 1, 1989-APRIL 30, 1990

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS:

PRESIDENT	Thomas Webber	4
VICE PRESIDENT	Francine Melamed	4
COMMISSIONER	Edward Klocke	2
COMMISSIONER	Donald Lark	2
COMMISSIONER	Charles Briles	4
COMMISSIONER	Greg Klatecki	4
COMMISSIONER		To be appointed 2 Yr.

APPOINTMENTS:

LEGAL COUNSEL	Ebers, Metskas and Assoc.
TREASURER	Thomas Busby
PARK MANAGER	Karop Bavouugian
SECRETARY TO BOARD	Karop Bavouugian
NWSRA REPRESENTATIVE	Karop Bavouugian
RECORDING SECRETARY	Jane Carroll

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE....Francine Melamed chair, C.Briles/ T.Webber members

BLDG &  
GROUNDS...Charles Briles chair, D.Lark/ \_\_\_\_\_ members

PROGRAMS

FAC Don Lark Chair, G. Klatecki/F.Melamed members

INTERGOV. &

COMMUNITY

RELATIONS.Greg Klatecki chair, F. Melamed/C.Briles members

BOARD AS A WHOLE....T.Webber, chair.

LIAISON TO

ADVISORY COMMITTEE..T.Webber chair/E.Klocke member

LIAISON TO

HISTORICAL SOCIETY..E.Klocke chair/G. Klatecki member

**WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
YEAR 1988-89**

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

PRESIDENT	James Gallagher
VICE PRESIDENT	Edward Klocke
COMMISSIONER	Don Lark
COMMISSIONER	Julia Robberson
COMMISSIONER	Anthony Abruscato

**APPOINTMENTS**

LEGAL COUNSEL	Ebers, Metskas and Assoc.
TREASURER	Tom Busby
PARK MANAGER	Karop Bavougian
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD	Karop Bavougian
NWSRA REPRESENTATIVE	Karop Bavougian

**COMMITTEES**

FINANCE	<u>E</u> Klocke, Chairman/J. Robberson
BUILDING & GROUNDS	<u>D</u> Lark Chairman/ E. Klocke
PROGRAMS & FACILITIES	<u>A</u> Abruscato, Chairman/D. Lark
INTERGOVERNMENTAL & COMMUNITY RELATIONS	<u>J</u> Robberson, Chairperson/ A. Abruscato
BOARD AS A WHOLE	<u>J</u> Gallagher, Chairman/E. Klocke
LIAISON TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE	<u>E</u> Klocke

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, June 22, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

- I. Call to order
- II. Agenda-Additions/Deletions/  
Corrections
- III. Approval of the Minutes of  
May 10, 1989
- IV. Old Business:
  - A. 4th of July
    - 1. Finalization of Theme  
and Float
  - B. Meeting Time
    - 1. Decision re: Change of  
meeting day and/or time.
  - C. Leisure Services Subcommittee
    - 1. Survey discussion
- D -  
V. New Business:
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
- VI. Communications-Written/Verbal
- VII. Adjournment

NOTE: Please notify Ruth 537-2105 or Patti 537-1450 if you cannot be in attendance.

Please note the meeting has been rescheduled from the 14th to Thursday, the 22th of June.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD MAY 10, 1989

The regular meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee was held on May 10, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Wieder. Members present were: Alice Wargo, Marge Hartmann, Ruth Wieder, Frank Wojek, Ida Hein, Bobby Silverstein, Patrick Hanley and Pat Hancock. Absent: Virginia Metzger, Pat Walsdorf, Barb Dittman and Daniel Conrad. Virginia Metzger and Dan Conrad notified the committee they would not be in attendance. Also present were: Park Manager, Karop Bavougian, President Tom Webber and Commissioner Briles. Commissioner Klocke was absent.

AGENDA-Additions/Deletions/Corrections

The agenda was submitted for approval. Motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Marge Hartmann to approve the agenda as presented. Carried by Voice Vote.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of April 12, 1989 were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Alice Wargo, seconded by Ida Hein to approve the minutes as presented. Carried by Voice Vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Subcommittee Reports

A. Leisure Services Subcommittee

- a. Survey Update- Pat Hanley advised the committee he had contacted Karop and they talked verbally concerning the survey and thought it would be good in relationship to making a presentation on how to go about it and why we should be doing the survey.

Park Manager Bavougian advised the committee that we have been talking about a survey for a while

and presented to the committee a memo in which he expressed he thoughts as to what should be considered before actually engaging a consultant to conduct a survey for the district. He covered the specific areas of the memorandum with the committee.

He felt it is important to get some sort of ground work done and have something for the consultants to deal with and look at.

Discussion ensued relative to what issues should be addressed, the overall purpose and choices were listed as to how to present the survey to the public. Mr. Bavougin strongly felt a random survey should be made inorder to receive feedback that is representative to the entire community. Ways of conducting the survey were also discussed.

He noted that many surveys conducted today are done by telephone, but it could be done through the mail or hand delivered. Discussion ensued as to how a random poll could be taken. Ruth asked what if a telephone poll was made and also a hand delivered poll was done to get some idea? Karop felt it should be done one way or the other but not both. He noted one of the problems with a telephone survey is what they typically do, is start using the prefixes. Mr. Webber stated then the survey is one-dimensional and you only get a response from the person that you are talking to. In previous discussion, input would be requested from an entire family. Discussion ensued.

Pat Hanley also stated in regards to the comment Tom brought up, what we talked about before is that when you have a survey and there are specific questions in it that are geared for specific members of the family, it is hoped in the course of one person filling the survey out, that they will sequest their information from the rest of the family.

Frank Wojek stated in talking surveys costwise, he is trying to keep in mind a census that they are going to take and when that is completed, he is sure the village will publish the amount of males, females, children and different ages, and questioned if that would be some way of cost saving and giving

3.

an idea as to what we feel that those ages, adults and children would perhaps want, and draw from that, something that we could get right to these people by some reference in newspapers or other means.

Pat Hanley stated trading off of services and the cooperation that we have talked about in relationship with the park district and village, this would be a step in that direction, especially if they are somehow involved in the descision making process. If they feel they have input, or some type of assistance in this, I believe they would be very cooperative.

Mr. Webber noted the census comes once every ten years. Ruth advised a special census could be called for. Discussion ensued regarding the information which could be derived from a census. Mr. Webber requested Park Manager Bavougian to check with Mr. Anderson to see if there is a census planned by the village?

Pat Hanley advised as we go along with the survey, the more publicity we have on how important we feel the survey will be, and the more that appears in newspaper publications in quotes from the board, or from the advisory committee members, the more important that feeling gets out and the more its stated, then hopefully when we do get to the point sending out the survey, the public will realize just how important the survey will mean to the future of the district.

Pat Hanley questioned what the committee should do from here and asked if this is the type of tool that we would give people who are interviewing to do the survey, and asked if this is the type of information they would need to know prior to the interview?

Karop responded what he would give to them, is the overall purpose issues to be addressed, the goals and objectives amd let them come in and plan how they would go about it. He noted the information given is only a general idea of what we think we want to do and how to go about it but it will give them some idea of what direction we think we want to go with it and what we want to accomplish, realizing when they come in and whoever is selected, will

**4.**

meet with several groups, individually or collectively and try to pull some of this information together and frame it out themselves.

Pat Hanley advised that if anyone sees anything lacking, some concept that has not been covered, to call him or Karop and they will be sure to see that is added or addressed.

Pat questioned how many interested groups or individuals are interested in doing the survey? Karop responded as of now, there are four and and he is meeting with a gentleman from Harper next week.

President Webber requested to interject with regard to over the last few months the meetings he has attended as an observer, on more than one occasion various people have asked about what direction the Board as a Whole would like this committee to take. Tonight on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, to help the committee out and give direction so we can be positive and focused on the steps we want to take and make progress and do it efficiently, the Board as a Whole would like to see a priority placed on the survey. We touched on some things tonight already and he thought what would be in the best interests of the community would be for your June meeting, if we could get copies of the memo which was given to Pat from Karop. If all the members could receive a copy, (the ones that were not in attendance tonight, as well as yourself) and as Pat suggested, review it, make some notes and if there is any areas, or any other questions that you have, jot them down and at the June meeting he will have at least three other board members present and what he is proposing is at that meeting, discussion be held to basically finalize the information that we're looking for.

At that time he would like to establish a committee of five members, three from the Board of Park Commissioners and two from the Advisory Committee to meet with these sources and choose a body to conduct the survey, and then come before the board for final approval based on recommendations of the committee.

5.

He felt this will help us move along and a survey is very much in order and should be a priority which the community will benefit from it, not just immediately but in years to come.

Ruth questioned when this issue will come up before the Board? Tom stated this will be discussed at their next meeting to allow the Board to know the direction.

He further stated with this in mind, a subcommittee group to discuss the survey is fine, again speaking as the Board as a Whole, we are asking this committee put a priority on the survey. Everything done in the past has been greatly appreciated be it open space, be it meeting with District #21, but we as a board with four new members at this time soon to be five members and have a full complement, would like very much to have an opportunity to learn and meet with some of these other governing bodies and do our job as commissioners of the Wheeling Park District. We can't do it all, we know that but at this time we feel the best interest of the community would be served with some assistance pertaining to the survey.

Pat Hanley reiterated so as a time table he is talking about bringing up discussing the survey at the next board meeting, then trying to come up a committee representative of the board, members of the advisory committee and those five people would basically interview the candidates for the survey, then a decision would be made. Tom stated the committee would then meet with the Board as a Whole and would make the final recommendation.

Karop commented he wanted to make everyone aware he does know one of the people from Illinois, not socially, but he does not want someone in the future to get the wrong idea. Tom noted a point well taken and he appreciated that information.

Tom questioned Karop if he had received a copy of the survey from Glen Ellyn? Pat advised he also has a copy. Pat Hanley updated the group as to what Glen Ellyn's process was in handling the survey. Discussion ensued. Tom requested copies of Glen Ellyn and Buffalo Grove's surveys also be sent to all members to review.

Discussion ensued regarding timing of the survey. Pat noted he and Karop had talked about a timetable concept. He noted if the committee met in June and the decision was made in June or July, and the person was on board by July, August, the interviewing process with the board, staff and advisory committee came up with the first draft in September, and a second draft by November, then the decision would be made at that point, when is the best time of the year to introduce the survey. Discussion continued. Tom stated that possibly the consultants would have some of the answers.

Ruth advised that we can expect at our June meeting hopefully that everybody had gone through the report from Karop and we will be prepared to take it from there.

She questioned Tom how they would choose the member from DAC? Tom stated he would like to appoint the two members, being Ruth Wieder and Pat Hanley to be the representatives, which would be made official at the next regular board meeting. Ruth requested to an alternate in the event that she or Pat could not be in attendance. She requested Pat Hancock to be our alternate and take notes of the meetings. She felt that this is important to have somebody a part of this group, not necessarily a voting five man, but the alternate part that can sit in and felt this would be to all of our advantage. President Webber agreed and Pat Hancock accepted. She also noted in the event that Patrick or she could not be there, Pat would then become one of the voting members.

Ruth thanked Karop for the report he presented and also Patrick for the work done.

B. Open Space Subcommittee

- a. Fort Sheridan- Karop advised it was approved to close Fort Sheridan and now the move is somehow to keep it in public domain and there is a petition to have it go to the National Park Service which comes under the Advocates for the Preservation of Fort Sheridan. They may well try to form some type of group with some kind of funding. They are looking to forming an actual organization. Right now they are made up of people from different areas and groups. Discussion ensued.

7.

Ruth noted before she left for Florida, she had asked that a request be made to the village and school district for some support on this and of which #214 and #21 supplied some letters but there was response by the village president saying she did not support this at this time because she did not know enough about it. Karop also sent a letter and received no response.

2. 4th of July

Pat Hancock advised the application had been sent back. Ruth noted the 4th of July committee advised they would like to see more floats rather than cars. Ruth asked if anyone had any ideas, she would like their input. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that members check into the use of a flatbed and to come up with a theme such as "Touch Tomorrow Today". Dan suggested something that would promote the survey. Ruth added also open space could be represented. The theme of the committee is "Stars and Strips Forever".

It was noted that \$600 has been allocated for the park float. Ruth asked if any monies are left over, if the park could give the advisory committee some since there is no financial resource of our own. Ruth asked Marge and Dolly to check into the use of a flatbed. Discussion ensued.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Appointments

Ruth advised the Patti, Marge and Alice were appointed at the last board meeting to serve the committee for a three year term. She thanked the members. She noted this leaves three openings on the committee and advised there are some applications out. She also advised there are no provisions in our by-laws in regards to getting members and has taken upon herself as chairman to ask anyone who appears interested in serving on the committee. She noted if anyone knows of anyone, let her know. She also requested members feelings on asking the unsuccessful candidates for park commissioner to become involved. Discussion ensued.

2. Election of Officers

The election of officers are as follows: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary for a one year term.

Ruth entertained a motion for the nomination of chairman. Motion was made by Pat Hancock, seconded by Marge Hartmann to nominate Pat Hanley as Chairman of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee for 1989-1990. Carried by Voice Vote.

Vice Chairman- Motion was made by Marge Hartmann, Seconded by Frank Wojek that Ruth Wieder be nominated for Vice Chairman. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

Secretary- Motion was made by Ruth Wieder, seconded by Ida Hein that Pat Hancock be nominated as Secretary. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

VI. Communications-Written/Verbal

Pat Hancock asked if a change in meeting time was going to be discussed? Ruth noted it has been brought to her attention that many people have trouble with the 7:30 pm. meeting time and asked if 8:00 pm would be better?

Pat Hanley also noted Wednesday evenings are bad for him. Discussion ensued. It was agreed the next meeting would be held at Wednesday June 14th at 7:30 p.m. and Pat Hanley would check his schedule for the first of September. Time and date changes will be discussed and finalized at the next meeting. Park Manager advised he would not be in attendance at the next meeting. Ida Hein questioned Mr. Webber if the regular board meeting still would be held at 7:00 p.m? Discussion ensued. He responded he would take the time under advisement and discuss it with the other board of commissioners.

President Webber thanked Ruth on behalf of the board for a fine job of being chairperson over the last year and looks forward to working with her as vice chairperson and Mr. Hanley as chairperson.

9.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Pat Hanley to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP LIST AS OF MAY, 1989

MEMBERS

Ruth Wieder  
116 S. Wille  
Wheeling, Il. 537-2105

Alice Wargo  
401 S. Wolf Rd.  
Wheeling, Il. 537-5127

Marge Hartmann  
48 S. Wille  
Wheeling, Il. 537-0656

Frank Wojek  
150 E. Highland  
Wheeling, Il. 459-0768

Virginia Metzger  
46 Holly Ct.  
Wheeling, Il. 537-8114

Pat Hancock  
386 S. Leslie Ln.  
Wheeling, Il. 537-1450

Ida Hein  
272 Maureen Dr. N.  
Wheeling, Il. 537-2315

Pat Walsdorf  
483 Thornhill  
Wheeling, Il. 537-7528

Patrick Hanley  
1089 Pear Tree Ln.  
Wheeling, Il. 537-2019

Barb Dittman  
293 Fletcher Dr.  
Wheeling, Il. 459-8357

Bobby Silverstein  
923 Shady Tree Ln.  
Wheeling, Il. 520-0178

Daniel Conrad  
655 Longtree Dr.  
Wheeling, Il. 537-5644

PARK MANAGER

Karop Bavooulian  
Wheeling Park District.  
1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Wheeling, Il. 537-2930

BD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Webber, Pres.  
578 Longtree Dr.  
Wheeling, Il. 541-1112

Francine Melamed, Vice P.  
464 Harmony Dr.  
Wheeling, Il. 459-4464

Edward Klocke  
245 E. Wayne  
Wheelng, Il. 537-0574

Donald Lark  
593 Merle  
Wheeling, Il. 537-1028

Charles Briles  
378 S. Wolf  
Wheeling, Il. 459-9066

Greg Klatecki  
278 N. Fifth St.  
Wheeling, Il. 459-8116

William E. Mattes  
362 Marion St  
Wheeling, Il. 537-2376

# Commissioners strip Klocke of major committee posts

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Campaign rhetoric turned into action last week as the new majority on the Wheeling Park Board quickly and quietly stripped senior commissioner Ed Klocke of having a voice in any of the district's key committees.

In making committee assignments, newly-elected board president Tom Webber turned some heads when he dropped Klocke from two of the more prominent committees while assigning him only to serve as liaison to the historical society and the district advisory committee.

"I'm on nothing," Klocke said. "And I guess that's just the way they wanted it when they got four to one."

Until last week's meeting, Klocke had served as chairman of the finance committee and as a member of the building and grounds committee.

During the campaign, the candidates focused on the existing board in identifying what they perceived as problems in the park district. Webber, Greg Klatecki, Chuck Briles and Fran Melamed were elected April 4 to serve four-year terms on the board. All four joined the other two candidates in labeling the park board as inactive.

ALTHOUGH PARK DISTRICT corn-

**"I'm on nothing. And I guess that's just the way they wanted it when they got four to one."**

— Ed Klocke  
**Wheeling Park District Commissioner**

mittees have been inactive in the past, Webber said the new committees will meet monthly in a move to get board members involved with problems and decisions facing the park board and district staff.

Webber, elected president of the board in his first meeting, defended his committee assignments, saying he thought Klocke wasn't active enough to warrant appointment to several of the more important committees.

"I put people in chairmen's position to do the job," Webber said. "He did the job but not with the attitude that I as president would like to see or as a board member (would like to see)."

Klatecki said Thursday's action was the result of the election. After campaigning for change, Klatecki said the new members had to act on their word.

**"ONE OF** the reasons we ran was because we were advocating change in

the park district and on the park board,' Klatecki said. "We had to put into practice what we said we'd do."

Although no plans were presented during the campaign to change the board, the new members dropped Klocke from the committees while naming themselves to the chairmanships of three of the four most important committees. Melamed was named vice president.

Don Lark, also a 10-year veteran of the park board, was named chairman of the programs and facilities committee and was named to the building and grounds committee.

Joining Lark on the programs and facilities committee are Klatecki and Melamed. Briles was named chairman of the buildings and grounds committee and will meet with Lark and the board member who fills the vacancy of James Gallagher, who died Feb. 15 in the middle of his four-year term.

**WEBBER NAMED MELAMED**

chairman of the finance committee. Briles and Webber will also serve on that committee. Klatecki was also named chairman of the intergovernmental and community relations committee. Briles and Melamed fill out that committee.

Also, Klatecki and the as yet unappointed board member will join Klocke as liaisons to the historical society. Webber will be the first liaison to the advisory committee, with Klocke joining him.

After making the recommendation for the appointments, the board approved them by a voice vote. Only Klocke didn't register a vote.

Klocke said he will accept the assignments and will still voice his opinions during board meetings. "I've got two more years to go and I'm going to do everything I can do for the park district," Klocke said.

**HE SAID HE** will continue to question those things he finds wrong and speak out for residents. "I'm not going to be quiet," Klocke said. "I'm not there to be quiet."

"I've got nothing against them," Klocke said. "They made a decision and I'm man enough to live with it."

Webber, as a member of his first public body, said he will stand by his decision.

# Park district begins effort to change pool contract

**By Mike Wilkinson**   
**Staff Writer**

With High School District 214 holding the plug that might drain the profitability from the Wheeling Park District's indoor pool, the park board is now looking to avoid a flood of red ink.

Months after learning that the school district has extended an agreement between the two bodies that may result in substantial deficits in pool operation, the park board last week formally began the process of trying to alter that agreement.

The pool, located at Wheeling High School, is owned by the park district and funded by user fees. Under a 20-year contract signed in 1969, the school district paid for one-third of the construction costs and picked up more than 55 percent of maintenance costs.

**But with the expiration of the agreement, the school board exercised an option on the contract which allows the school district to continue paying only for facility maintenance.**

**HOWEVER, FOR THE** past several years, the park district has been counting the school district's loan contribution as income. Even with last February's \$35,000 payment, the pool racked up an \$11,000 deficit.

Park board member Greg Klatecki, who is heading the district's push for negotiations with District 214, said the loan payment shouldn't have been considered income.

Now, he said, the park district needs to study similar agreements between park districts and school boards to see how the Wheeling facility fares. The board will study both pool agreements.

and operating budgets for six different pools, Klatecki said.

After the study, which he hopes will be underway by June 1, is completed, Klatecki said the park board must consolidate its position and begin negotiations with the school district.

**SEVERAL BOARD MEMBERS** and staff said one recommendation could have the park district getting out of the pool business. Klatecki said the board must wait for more information before adopting a negotiating stance.

While earlier discussions by the park board indicated a pressing need to begin negotiations with the school district, District 214 Assistant Supt. for Business Jack Swanson said there was no hurry.

"We can make a deal anytime," Swanson said. "We have a right through the contract to extend it and we've done that. Any changes to the agreement can be made anytime in the next 20 years."

Klatecki, however, doesn't want to wait that long. "I would like to clear this up in the immediate future," he said. "I don't want to wait 20 years. I don't think we want to run a pool if we're losing money if everyone else is making money."

**BY STUDYING SIMILAR** contracts of other park districts and by studying balance sheets from other area pools, park board chairman Tom Webber said the park district can get a better handle on whether they should change the way they currently do business.

"We're trying to get some background now so we can deal with this in an intelligent and formal manner," Webber said.

**Helpful Individual Aluminum**

private money to "carry out the functions" of closing. He said it may be possible to prevent a closing by stopping those funds from being allocated.

**Transcript of meetings held by the Special Defense Department panel that targeted the bases for closure has revealed that Fort Sheridan, for instance, did not meet all of the panel's criteria for closing yet was included on the "hit list" of 86 bases.**

# Wheeling pool contract up for renewal

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN 1 R/  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials are negotiating to renew a 20-year contract for Neptune's Pool with Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

The swimming pool, in Wheeling High School, is used for physical education classes and swim team practices and meets. The school district's pool contract with the park district expires in December, and school officials say they want to renew the agreement for another 20 years.

District 214 recently made its last annual payment of \$35,000 to the park district. The annual pay-

ments have represented about 37 percent of the park district's debt for the 1969 construction of the \$850,000 pool. The school district also pays 55 percent of the pool's daily operation and maintenance expenses, which cost District 214 \$80,000 last year.

But the pool lost \$11,000 last year "because the operation of the pool is a fairly expensive proposition," Park Director Karop Bavougian said.

Since the park district will no longer receive \$35,000 a year from the school, the debt will continue to increase each year without some new revenue, he added.

However, park officials are reluctant to say whether the con-

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tract negotiations include requesting the school district to absorb a bigger chunk of the expenses.

"That may be one of the only viable options we have," park board President Thomas Webber said. "We are in the process of negotiating to work out a fair and equitable contract for both parties. Whether that requires more money I don't know."

Park district officials may consider other options for the pool, including cutting staff costs and attracting more swimmers to the pool, Bavougian said.

The pool is open for park district residents at night and on weekends when the school does not have a swim meet there.

# Zoning board member gains park post

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals member has been selected to fill a seat on the Wheeling Park District Board that has been open since February.

Park commissioners are expected to approve the appointment of William D. Mattes Thursday, when the newcomer assumes his position.

"I'm excited that I've been selected," said Mattes, a plant supervisor for United American Metal in Chicago. "I will make every effort to make the appointment a success for all. I will try to live up to the confidence the commissioners have placed in me."

Mattes will fill the vacancy left by the sudden death Feb. 15 of former park board President James W. Gallagher, whose four-year term expires in 1991.

Mattes, a zoning board member for the past two years, was chosen over two other candidates.

Dennis R. Drake and Ken Kostrzewski, who both ran unsuccessfully in the April 4 park board race, interviewed for the position.

Drake, who was appointed to the park board in 1984 to fill a vacancy, lost his bid for re-election the following year. Kostrzewski, an insurance adjuster in Chicago, is a Neighborhood Watch block captain.

Mattes has been a youth baseball coach for the past six years

and a basketball coach for the past year at the park district. He also has umpired baseball games for the National and American Leagues for youths.

"He's done an excellent job," park board President Thomas Webber said. "He has a history of doing things very thoroughly. We're pleased to have him on our team."

As a park board member, Mattes will serve as a liaison to the Wheeling Historical Society and as a member of the buildings and grounds committee. That committee will be negotiating a new contract with Northwest Suburban High School District 214 for use of Neptune's Pool at Wheeling High School.

# Park board is set to appoint Mattes as commissioner

*The Wheeling Park District is expected to get another dose of new blood with the expected appointment of Bill Mattes, who was previously asked by the current park board president to run in last April's election.*

By Mike Wilkinson   
Staff Writer

Tom Webber finally got his man.

Months after being asked to run with Webber for the park district board, the district's commissioners are poised to appoint Wheeling resident Bill Mattes to fill the seventh seat on the board.

After interviewing Mattes and two other residents, both defeated in the April 4 election that put Webber and three other new commissioners on the park board, the board unanimously decided to appoint Mattes, Webber said Tuesday.

After conducting interviews May 22 with Mattes, Dennis Drake and Kenneth Kostrzewski, the five present board members picked Mattes as their choice for the vacancy. Both Drake and Kostrzewski were unsuccessful candidates for the park board in the April 4 elections.

**WEBBER, NOW PRESIDENT** of the park board, lauded Mattes for his commitment to the community, from his involvement with the village zoning appeals board to his interest in the park district's youth sports programs.

"Once he is committed to something, he sticks with it," Webber said. Board member Fran Melamed agreed

with Webber's assessment of Mattes. She said Mattes showed that he is already committed to working to improve the park district.

"In the interview he said a lot of things that showed his interest," Melamed said. "And they were views we obviously agreed with."

Webber said that he asked Mattes to run for the board last fall. Mattes said he considered running, but because of personal reasons, he could not seek an elected position with the board. Then, just before the election in late March, Webber said Mattes made known his interest in the vacancy, created by the tragic death Feb. 15 of then-park board president James Gallagher.

**MATTES, ONCE CONFIRMED** by the park board tonight (Thursday), will begin serving out the remaining two years on Gallagher's term.

Mattes said Tuesday that he looks forward to working with the board. After two years on the ZBA, Mattes said his appetite for public service was whetted. After getting the nod from his wife, Mattes said he decided to apply for the opening.

He said he has already delivered his resignation from the ZBA to Village President Sheila Schultz and is looking forward to working with the park board.

Like the four new commissioners, who control the leadership positions of the board, Mattes has long been involved in the park district's youth sports programs, both as a coach and umpire. Webber said he first met Mattes while working with those programs. Together, both men worked on revising the district's baseball program, Webber said.

With Mattes' expected appointment, five of the park board's seven members will have strong ties to the

youth sports program. Greg Klatecki, Chuck Briles and Fran Melamed joined Webber in winning four-year spots on the board April 4. Klatecki, Briles and Webber are coaches in the park district's youth sports programs and Melamed is active with youth baseball and soccer.

During the campaign, several park district observers complained that too many of the candidates were related in youth sports, saying too much emphasis would be placed on that area of park district programs.

**AS TO CRITICISM** that too many board members are affiliated with the youth sports program, Webber deflected the charges, saying Mattes was appointed because of his interest in the park district, not just youth sports. Mattes will be a member of the board committee on buildings and grounds and will serve as a liaison to the historical society, Webber said.

"We do not want to be one-dimensional," Webber said. "We represent the entire park district. All phases."

Melamed, a member of the Wheeling Traveling Soccer Club's interim board of directors, said board members' involvement with youth sports does not automatically narrow their view of the park district.

"I think youth sports are a very important part of the park district," Melamed said, "but I don't think they are the only thing that makes up the park district."

**WEBBER SAID KOSTRZEWSKI** didn't have a proven track record of involvement and that Drake's track record as a member of the zoning appeals board and as a member of the park district advisory committee didn't merit his selection over Mattes.

# Losing candidate lashes out at park board

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
and CARL PUGLIESE  
*Daily Herald Staff Writers* 

An unsuccessful Wheeling Park District board candidate says commissioners have made a "fool" of him by bypassing him to fill a vacancy on the board.

Dennis R. Drake, who lost his bid for park commissioner in the April 4 election, said he is "disappointed" with the board's appointment of Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals member William D. Mattes.

Commissioners recently appointed Mattes to fill a vacancy left by former park board President James W. Gallagher, who died Feb. 15. Gallagher's four-year

term expires in 1991.

"I feel I have been made a fool of and I don't particularly like it," Drake said. "I had received unsolicited verbal commitments for the appointment from four of the commissioners on the committee."

Drake said that he and Thomas R. Webber, Chuck Briles, Greg L. Klatecki and Francine Melamed had agreed before the election that whoever was not elected would be appointed to the new board.

"Obviously, these (commitments) are not legally binding," Drake said, "but I surely felt they would be honored."

"We joined hands on it," Klatecki said of the agreement. "I'm not going to deny it. Everyone had their own reasons (for not choosing

Drake) and our reasons were for the good of the park district."

Mattes, who has resigned from the zoning board, was chosen over Drake and Ken Kostrzewski, who also made an unsuccessful bid for election in April.

Drake faults Mattes for coasting to a seat on the park board rather than going through the election process like the other candidates.

But Mattes said he was unable to run for election because of personal reasons and his involvement on the zoning board.

"I've been involved in park and youth programs for five to six years now," Mattes said. "I'm well-versed in the direction to which the park district wants to proceed."

## KAMM\*

### New commissioners to join park board

Four new Wheeling Park District commissioners will take their seats on the park board for the first time when they are sworn into office this week.

The commissioners-elect — Chuck Briles, Greg L. Klatecki, Francine Melamed and Thomas R. Webber — will serve four-year terms on the board. They will replace Commissioners Anthony Abruscato and Julia Robberson, who did not run for re-election.

In addition to the swearing-in, the commissioners also must elect a board president, who will appoint a vice president and treasurer. The new president will appoint committees, committee chairmen and vice-chairman with board approval, Abruscato said.

The four park board committees include buildings and grounds, finance, intergovernmental and community relations and programs

### The top meeting

Who:Wheeling Park District board

Where:Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

When:7 p.m. Thursday

and facilities.

The newcomers are the first to be elected to the newly-expanded park board. The number of board seats will increase from five to seven with the additional board members.

However, one vacancy still remains on the board after the Feb. 15 death of former board President James W. Gallagher. Another duty of the board, which involves veterans Donald P. Lark and Acting President Edward L. Klocke, will be to appoint a board member to carry out the remaining two years of Gallagher's term.

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## Applicants sought to fill park vacancy

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer* 2 1.0

Wheeling Park District commissioners are accepting applications for a park board vacancy they hope to fill by next month.

"We're looking for people that are active or that have been active — if not in the park district, then other areas of the community," said newly elected board President Thomas R. Webber. "I'm looking for a commitment. We're looking for reliable, conscientious citizens."

The board newcomer would carry out the remaining two years of a four-year board term formerly held by James W. Gallagher, who died in February. Gallagher, 38,

was elected board president last year after serving the district since 1985.

Applications to fill the open seat are due at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse by May 19. Commissioners plan to interview candidates May 22. The new commissioner would take his seat on the board June 1.

Although the new board member should be involved in park district or community activities, the commissioners will consider all those who apply, said board Vice President Francine Melamed, who had requested a deadline for filling the opening.

"We all need to be open-minded and talk to everyone that shows an interest," Melamed said. Commissioners want "somebody, hopeful-

ly, that is easy to work with."

So far, at least two people have applied, Webber said. Dennis R. Drake, who ran an unsuccessful campaign in April for one of four open seats on the board, is one of the applicants.

"I feel my experience on the board would help them," said Drake, who was appointed to the park board in 1984, but lost his bid for re-election the following year.

Ken Kostrzewski, who also ran in the April election, said he likely will throw his hat in the ring of contenders for the board seat.

Webber, Melamed, Chuck Briles and Greg Klatecki attended their first board meeting last week since their election to four-year board terms last month.

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

- I. Call to order
- II. Agenda- Additions/Deletions/  
Corrections
- III. Approval of the minutes of  
April 12, 1989
- IV. Old Business:
  - 1. Subcommittee reports
    - A. Leisure Services Subcommittee
      - a. Survey Update
    - B. Open Space Subcommittee
      - a. Fort Sheridan
  - 2. 4th of July (Red, White and Blue)
    - A. Theme
    - B. Float or car
- V. New Business:
  - 1. New Appointments
  - 2. Election of Officers
    - a. Chairman
    - b. Vice-Chairperson
    - c. Secretary
- VI. Communications-Written/Verbal
- VII. Adjournment

NOTE: Please notify Ruth 537-2105 or Patti 537-1450 if you cannot be in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD APRIL 12, 1989

The regular meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee was held on April 12, 1989 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Co-Chairman Pat Hanley. Members present were: Alice Wargo, Frank Wojek, Virginia Metzger, Ida Hein, Patrick Hanley, Alberta Klocke Daniel Conrad and Pat Hancock. Absent: Barb Dittman, Marge Hartmann, Bobby Silverstein, Ruth Wieder and Pat Walsdorf. Marge notified she had to work, Ruth, Pat and Bobby previously advised they would be in Florida. Also present were: Ed Klocke, Liaison to the Board, Tom Webber, newly elected commissioner.

AGENDA-Additions/Deletions/Corrections

The agenda was accepted as submitted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of March 8, 1989 were submitted for review and approval. Dan Conrad advised his name had been misspelled on pages 7. and 8. The correction was made. Motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Alice Wargo to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried by VOICE VOTE.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee Verbal Report

1. Leisure Services Subcommittee

- a. Alberta Klocke advised the members of the meeting held with School District #21 Superintendent Bud DesCarpentrie regarding use of facilities.

She noted that Alice, Pat Hanley, Ed Klocke and herself were in attendance. They discussed facilities and stated as of now, there is nothing available. The School District is looking for a science grant for Hawthorn School and if they get it, they will be using the first floor.

At this time it is not definite but Bud said there were other places that could be looked into such as London and and some of the other school buildings.

Following the referendum, he will be setting up a meeting with Karop and Arnie and the advisory board will be contacted when it is held.

Alberta advised Mr. DesCarpentrie thinks that we can work with more municipalities. He felt we could make it a joint effort which she thought was a good idea. It is her feelings that we cannot do anything in the way of a community center by ourselves, if we're even thinking about it.

Pat Hanley expressed he felt that one of the things that came out of the meeting was the fact that we showed as an advisory committee, we were interested in trying to make sure that we were using everything in the area before we get into looking at new facilities for Wheeling. We want to make sure that all resources within the schools were being utilized and cooperation was there. Basically, programs could be run by the park district while there were facilities that were sitting empty, whether it be gymnasiums, or class room space. Part of the meeting with Karop would be (Bud was going to analyze and take a look at #21) to see if there were any facilities that were not being used, which could be utilized for programs by the park district.

Alberta advised Bud felt the big problem at Hawthorn was the lack of a gymnasium but she said there is something at Hawthorn we do need and that is seven classrooms, where we could improve our programs. She noted the incident that happened regarding a program and hoped it would not be repeated in which only eight children could be serviced in a class. She advised the members of what transpired.

Mr. Klocke suggested when they meet regarding this matter, to ask if they will be using all seven classrooms and if not, possibly the park district could use them. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Webber questioned about room available at London? Pat advised Bud was going to look into Jack London to see there was and how it was being used and this would be discussed in the meeting with Karop. Mr. DesCarpentrie is very interested in using his facilities as productively as possible so it seems like he is very interested in cooperating. He did agree with the point that it is difficult to sell new facilities if there are facilities not being utilized to the fullest.

3.

Mr. Conrad advised the problem he has seen in the past with School District #21 and the park district is that #21 sets all their scheduling around the first week of June. The park district was not aware of that fact for some of the activities that needed to be scheduled. Discussion continued.

b. SURVEY UPDATE

Alberta questioned if there was anything done relative to the survey? Pat advised he had not been in contact with Karop. He thought Karop would be here this evening and could give an update. Pat stated he would talk to Karop before the next meeting and get up some type of update on the survey to see where we are at. He knows nothing new in relationship to what was talked about on the survey since the last advisory meeting. Pat questioned Ed Klocke if any reports have been made at the board meetings? Mr. Klocke responded they have not discussed it but it is his hope that staff, board and this committee would come up with some of the questions that they would like to see appear on the survey. Input should be received from board, staff as well as members of this group in order to cover all basis.

Pat stated the point was well taken and hopes whoever does the survey, will be interviewing people like the advisory committee, board members, and staff members. We should be asking questions about open space, about facilities, about programming and mention particular schools and particular areas of the village. The actual formation of the questions should come from the person doing the survey in the way they are going to phase the questions, but they should ask for input because they don't know our facilities, needs or programs. Discussion continued.

Pat also mentioned at the last advisory committee meeting, the park had two consultants. He brought up the point at that time, that he felt there should be at least three options. How these choices are presented will probably have to come in relationship with the park board and Karop. There is \$15,000 dollars or under involved and if we are going to spend this kind of money, there should be some competition for it. General discussion ensued.

Alberta advised she gave Pat a copy of the survey done inhouse by River Trails Park District. Out of 8,000 surveys sent out, they received 81 responses. Pat noted that is why we chose to go outside the district.

## **4.**

Alice questioned the open space which has been designated as park sites. She noted most of the areas were unusable. Pat advised there is less than 15% open space left. Alberta question why more parks are needed? She stated we cannot handle what we have so why not concentrate on what there is presently? Pat Hancock stated for the sake of argument regarding open space, is that people never think about it until it's too late. The thing is, if there is land designated by the village as park sites, and when it becomes available, it is up to the park district to decide if they can make use of the area and the final decision is theirs.

Pat Hanley felt the purpose of the open space committee was to educate the advisory committee members of what is exactly available. Now the opinion may be after that period of time, that what is available, is not very good and we should not spend money on it, but at least from our standpoint, we have gotten to the point where we are educated and know the areas and if the question ever does come up regarding a purchase, we as a group can give an opinion and recommendation. General discussion ensued.

### **2. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

The following four members have terms expiring April 30, 1989 Marge Hartmann, Alice Wargo, Alberta Klocke and Pat Hancock. With the four openings for three year terms, Co-chairman Hanley asked the four members if they would remain in the committee. Pat Hancock advised she had talked with Marge and she indicated she would remain. Alice, Alberta and Pat also stated they would remain on the committee.

Pat Hancock advised she was told to send an application to Mr. Kaplan and an application was sent. No response has been received.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Alberta Klocke stated in January of 1989, \$105,000 dollars was allocated for playground equipment which we are in dier need of and questioned Commissioner Klocke why the playground equipment is not in yet? She noted to her understanding, it has not been ordered yet? Mr. Klocke advised she should check with the Park Manager.

Alice also brought up programming relative to the incident with the Afernoon Adverture Class. Discussion ensued. She again stated that all programs should be looked into and advised she is still waiting for a report on last year's Familyfest which she was told she would get a copy.

Pat Hancock questioned Commissioner Klocke on the status of the pool agreement and if there was a meeting scheduled? He advised he tried to schedule a meeting but to no avail and feels once the newly elected commissioners take their seats, this will be a priority on the agenda for the second meeting in May. He advised the members of what has taken place in the last few years.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS-Written/Verbal

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, motion was made by Alberta, seconded by Virginia to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried by VOICE VOTE.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

# Park board hopes for a smooth transition

*Wheeling Park District commissioners are hoping for a quiet honeymoon with their recently elected counterparts after a vocal campaign in which the candidates took many of the incumbents to task.*

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Now that the Wheeling Park District board has four new members fresh from the April 4 elections, the district will try to see if oil and water can mix.

But before the four freshmen join the board, sitting members say a few key facts and impressions must be straightened out in order to make the new, expanded body an effective one.

Ed Klocke and Don Lark, along with former park commissioner Tony Abruscato, say allegations and statements made by some of the candidates during the campaign were off base and that the new board should meet and form a consensus as to the goals, objectives and understanding of the board.

"I'd just like to sit down and have a chit chat with them," Klocke said. "I'm just going to have to see where they're coming from. Sometimes I don't know where they're coming from."

GREG KLATECKI, CHUCK Briles, Tom Webber and Francine Melamed won seats on the board, outpacing candidates Dennis Drake and Ken Kostrzewski. The new board members will be sworn in May 4.

A seventh seat on the board, which expanded from five to seven members with the election, will be filled later this spring. A vacancy was created when board president James Gallagher died Feb. 15.

During the campaign, candidates lambasted the board for being inactive while pointing to the need to improve certain programs and facilities, including the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse.

But Tony Abruscato, who decided not to seek reelection, said some of the campaign comments weren't based on all the facts that are before sitting board members. He said many of the concerns raised by the candidates-elect were also the concerns of the current board.

"**I DON'T** think the allegations made against the board were 100 percent accurate," Abruscato said. "Some of the comments may have been close to the target, but not all of them were."

While the candidates said Chevy Chase should be upgraded in order for the facility to make money for the remainder of the park district, Abruscato said the board has long held

## Transition —

(Continued from page 11)

the same view and that the district's improved financial condition is finally allowing those improvements to be made.

Using revenue generated by the golf course and the clubhouse, board members have already begun plans to have the parking lot paved, a long-standing board concern.

But they said the money for the improvements is just now available. Without going into general tax dollars, the board had to wait until the revenues at the facility could support its own improvements.

"GRANTED, NO one is against that (improving Chevy Chase)," Abruscato said. "But the money is in the budget now. If there had been money in the budget three years ago, it would have been done (then)."

In some of their public comments, candidates called Chevy Chase a burden on the district. Lark disagreed.

"It's not a burden, it's paying for itself," Lark said. "What everyone seems to fail to realize (is) that once Chevy Chase is fixed . . . it (profits) will then be turned back into the park district."

Klocke said some of the other campaign issues are also the issues that he and other commissioners have been behind. He said the board is behind a community survey, scheduled to take place this year, and has been interested in the financial position of the district.

ABRUSCATO, LOOKING AT the end of six years on the board, said the new board will be working with a vastly different park district than the one he joined in 1983. He said the district's finances are in order, new and competent staff have been hired and the role and direction of the board has been better defined.

"I wish I would have had that (financial and staffing) situation when I came onto the board," Abruscato said.

After all the initial discussions take place and after the slings and arrows of the campaign are forgotten, the board will have to work together and continue. Sounding forgiving, Klocke said the new board must start fresh, regardless of past issues, and form a working relationship. And they must do it quickly, he said.

"If we want to go forward, whatever was said, we have to get together as a unit and go forward," Klocke said.

# Should park districts provide child care?

By Bob Kehoe  
Managing Editor

When it comes to teaching youngsters the finer points of hitting a baseball or how to play offensive line play, local park districts have typically carried the ball for parents.

It may not be long, however, before the park districts in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove begin a whole new coaching relationship with youngsters outside the athletic field.

Both park districts are in the process of evaluating whether to offer before-school and after-school child care programs in an effort to meet the ever-changing needs of two communities that are home to a large *number* of young families.

Any programs, while they would probably be heavily oriented toward athletics, would also allow the park districts the opportunity to assume some additional responsibility in offering students a chance to learn as well as play.

**BUFFALO GROVE OFFICIALS** have once again renewed talks with the local school districts about leasing space for such programs. If a lease agreement is reached, the programs could start as early as next fall.

Wheeling Park District officials, while they have had only preliminary talks among staff about the potential need for these services, say they still aren't *sure* how many families would

take advantage of a program if one was offered.

Reaching into the field child care — even if it is done so on an extremely limited basis — is something more and more park districts are considering as a generation of latch-key kids progress through the school system. And while few people would argue against a governmental agency trying to serve community needs, some have questioned whether it is a park district's charge to look after children.

"There is even disagreement among (park district) professionals in this area on whether we should go into this area," said Buffalo Grove Park District Director Mike Rylko. "It becomes a question of whether we're trying to be all things to all people."

ON THIS LATTER question, Rylko is convinced not only that the community would like to see the park district provide before-school and after-school programs for school-age children but that the park district could do a credible job.

In response to a survey the park district conducted last year, more than 71 percent of the 1,528 respondents said they think the park district should offer latch-key programs at their children's school.

But while the survey questions dealt with recreational programs, Rylko knows any services offered would have to include more than just fun and

(Continued on page 21)

## Child care—

(Continued from page 12)  
games.

"I'm sure the (park district) staff will have to work with the school district and the staff that's hired for (the program). I think it would also be helpful to meet with the parents and participants in the program," Rylko said.

FOR NOW, THE main stumbling block to getting a *program* started in Buffalo Grove is finding a suitable location for the children. Local schools appear to be the leading *contender*, particularly since school space could probably be leased for a minimal cost and would allow many of the students to remain in the building where they spend most of their day.

In talks last year with Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102, the Buffalo Grove Park District was unable to obtain the space it needed to run a program. The school district's space needs and after-school programs precluded it from being able to offer rooms to the park district, according to District 102 Supt. Glenn "Max" McGee.

With the opening of a *new* school next year, McGee said prospects look better for a lease agreement between District 102 and the park district. He said the school board is expected to discuss the matter later this month or early next month.

McGee said the district is trying to cooperate with the park district, but one thing he doesn't want is for the school district to get into the child care business.

"AS A district, we're responsible for education. One problem I've had is sometimes the schools are asked to do too much," McGee said. "I'm not downplaying the need for (before- and after-school programs), but I don't think it's *the* school district's responsibility."

The key to any deal being worked out, McGee said is finding a compatible working relationship that will allow the district's teachers and staff to get their work accomplished without conflicting with another group's use of school facilities.

Community Consolidated School District 21 has had success in meeting such challenges. District 21 Supt. Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said the district has had few problems in operating before-school and after-school programs at four of its schools. For the second time in as *many* years, the school district is again talking with the Buffalo Grove Park District about leasing space at Longfellow School in Buffalo Grove.

ALTHOUGH THE DISTRICT'S role in providing space for programs outside the normal school day started before he became *superintendent*, DesCarpentrie said he is sensitive to the potential need to expand services. His only concern, he said, is *whether* there is sufficient demand for a program at a given school.

Regardless of what happens in terms of expanding services, DesCarpentrie said one thing he is sure of is that there will be a growing need for services to assist families in which both parents work.

"It's an issue that is going to be around. I don't think we can predict whether the schools will take an expanded role in (providing services) or whether the private sector will pick it up," he said.

If neither of these two sectors expand their offerings, it may well be up to local park districts to step in to pick up the slack.

Thursday, April 20, 1989



# Greener pastures

## Vern Verstraete sets a course for success

The grass was once always greener on the other aiks u frhe Chevy Chase golf course, but these days a man named Vern VCTSMICIC has the pinks looking plush and local gullets flooding to the course in record numbers.

By Alike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

At the time of its purchase by the Wheeling Park District, the Chevy Chase Golf Course was a ramshackle mess that didn't look much like a place for golf.

There were huge bare spots on the greens, many trees were dead or dying and when a golfer teed off from one of the run-down tees, he was lucky - even if he was in the fairway - to land on grass. Few people were playing golf in this cow pasture.

Much of that has changed during the past 12 years. Now a success, the golf course is showing a profit and bringing added prosperity to a park lane' that saw the course's 1977 purchase as a way to expand, improve services and generate revenues for the rest of the park district.

Hut getting there wasn't easy. Although the financial success of the golf course and clubhouse are contributing to the construction of a new, asphalt parking lot for the 66-year-old facility, for many years it was a victory just to produce green in the fairways, not the cash register.

TAPPED AS THE director of parks and assigned to oversee the renovations to the golf course and clubhouse, Vern Verstraete knew that the 1117 version of the course was far different than the one he had toured as a professional golfer in the 1950s. Back then, the fairways were cut out of veritable forests and the course was a quality one.

Unlike Michelangelo, who at least got good marble to work with, Verstraete was given LIS acres of pasture upon which he was expected to resculpt a golf course. There were a few things standing in his way. For one, the 51.7 million purchase price didn't include money for renovating the golf course.

Without the aid of more revenue, Verstraete had to find other, less conventional ways to improve the golf course.

"We begged, borrowed and stole out there. It was unbelievable. We borrowed equipment from other golf courses," Verstraete said. "Friends in the fumness let us borrow their equipment.

"WE BEGGED dirt to build tees, to enlarge tees. We begged anything we could get our hands on. We were paupers. We didn't have any money," he said.

Somewhere along the line, all the measures Verstraete and his people trade worked. Last year more than PAU rounds of golf were played on a course that even during its heyday as a country club would only see 20,000 rounds a year.

To make the links a public course

that novices and everyday finicky golfers alike could enjoy, Verstraete and golfing consultants decided they had to enlarge tee areas because of wear, enlarge greens and cut down on the size of sand traps in the fairways.

They also decided to alter the course to cut down on bottlenecks that would slow play. The course also lost a fair number of trees. When Verstraete was playing professionally in the 1950s, he said you couldn't see between fairways because of all the elm, cottonwood and oak trees.

THE DEATH OF some of the trees ended up working in the course's favor. It now has a more open, meadowland feel to it and the hazards that once frustrated private members aren't a nerve wracking burden to today's golfers.

It all seems to have come together, although Verstraete says he could do a lot more with the course. If there were additional resources such as integrated fairways. Mother Nature was kind of cruel last year, heaping lots of sunlight and little moisture on the course.

But with all the work and effort, the people, or rather the golfers, keep calling up, driving in and choosing Chevy Chase. Among a group of sportsmen that are given a wide variety of choices, Chevy Chase seems to be drawing aces.

"We've made a lot of good customers over the years. We've got people believing us that the money they are paying for their greens fees and carts and so forth is going to go back into the

deadly provided greener frequent the Chevy Chase

Golf Course and Clubhouse. (Staff photo by /\*chant Batteneh)

course, It's not going to p MOM Verstraete said.

"WE STILL have people walking through the door saying 'I played here 10 or 12 years ago and I heard you had your golf course la pretty good shape,' he said.

The rerembenuices of long-time golfers aren't always fond ones, Verstraete said, recalling one particular conversation with a woman. "She said 'I remember I used to play here 10 or 12 years ago and it was a real cow pasture.' And I keep hearing these things. Then they come after playing and say, 'man. I would never have recognized it!'"

Golfers go where the conditions are good. They are a close group that uses word of mouth advertising as much as any Fifth Avenue firm. If they don't a course, they're sure to tell someone else. Obviously, they Like what they see, and what they had seen 12 years ago.

"The pride is having someone walk and say 'you guys are doing one helluva job.' I love that. I take all that in, it's part of the reward. Money can't pay you for what people see as golfers. Only golfers know what a course is like and they can panty what you've done better

IT APPEARS THE purchase that maned as a sparkle in Lorraine Lark's eyes is now working out for everyone. Lark, then president of the park board, saw the place as an opportunity for the park district to expand and offer more open space for golfers and residents. Lark's husband, Don, is a current member of the park board.

Two years ago, when floodwaters made the course one large water hazard. Verstraete said golfers were calling and asking if they were going to be able to save the course. He did, even though last year's drought made up for the floods.

"The pride comes from having people walk in the door that knew what it was like 10 or 15 years ago, when it was nothing but a cow pasture and it was hard even find grass out there, let alone play on it."

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April 27, 1989

# Park board member cautions district on S&L investments

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

After watching the trust in the country's savings and loan industry plummet, Wheeling Park District commissioner Tony Abniscato last week warned against investing in the institutions, even though they are offering the highest return rates.

Abruscato told the board and Superintendent for Finance Torn Busby that the district should be wary of the institutions.

"I'd hate to see us have a problem 'having our deposits in a savings and loan that has to be taken over," Abruscato said.

During March, April and into May, the park district had invested in 13 separate \$100,000 certificates of deposit. The deposits were invested in various local and national banks and savings and loans. Interest rates ranged from a low of 8.75 percent with the First National • Bank of Wheeling **to a** high of 10.25 percent with two out-of-state savings and loans.

MANY OF THE savings and loans institutions in the South are offering the higher rates to generate revenue, Abruscato said. Many banks are having a hard time matching those rates, leaving investors to decide between high rates and potentially high risks over safer, low-rate investments.

Although the park district's deposits are covered by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, Abruscato said the time it takes to receive money from FSLIC -could hurt the district's

liquidity.

"You pick up the Wall Street (Journal) everyday and there's another savings and loan being taken over," said Abruscato, who works for a bank in Chicago. "It's just something to be aware of."

But Abruscato said that if the proper checks are made, by park district financial staff and the Illinois Park District Liquid Asset Fund (IPDLAF), the district should make wise investments. The IPDLAF screens savings institutions and clears them for investment by member organizations.

THE PARK DISTRICT is investing more in the savings and loans because they are offering higher rates, Abruscato said. Park district Director Karop Bavoulian said the higher rates can generate hundreds of dollars more in interest, even over the short-term. Most of the CDs are invested in for between one and two months.

Robert Wyatt, vice president for research and education of the Illinois League of Savings Institutions, said any claims railing all savings and loans are unfair. He said investors are fully insured if their investments are below \$100,000, which the park district's are.

• "We certainly don't feel that's appropriate," Wyatt said of Abruscato's statement.

Bavoulian said <sup>s</sup> Abruscato's concerns will be considered when the district is making its investments. He said, however, that the district will not completely avoid investing in savings and loans.



Careful work by movers helped save Wheeling's Carriage House last August, but efforts to restore the facility remain far behind schedule. (File photo)

## Carriage house restoration work slides off schedule

Five years after the idea was conceived and eight months after it was moved, the Sicks' Carriage House may soon be finished and ready for occupation by the end of May.

But the final work on the 97-year-old building brought to Chamber Park as part of the Wheeling Park District's historical preservation park, is still months behind schedule. The delays have prompted the park district to consider taking action against the contractor hired to move and restore the building.

Superintendent for Maintenance John Piazza said the contractor, R.J. Haack Builders, Inc., of Arlington Heights, has resumed work on the floors, painting and caulking of the building after he and the district-hired architect asked Haack to speed up the process or face charges of breach of contract.

Piazza told board members last week that Haack immediately began work on the facility and has been given a May 25

deadline to complete the project.

**BEFORE THE PARK** district can take occupancy of the building, the wood floors must be installed, caulking and painting of the interior and exterior must be finished, and minor electrical and hardware trim work must be done.

The park district agreed to pay Haack \$69,000 to do the work. In addition to moving the building and upgrading it, Haack is also required to remove the foundation from the ground where the building used to sit on Dundee Road, just west of Milwaukee Avenue. The village has requested the foundation be knocked down and the site be leveled.

The building was moved to Chamber Park last August and was expected to be finished by late February. Haack had asked for an extension last October.

Although the building may still not be completed by then, the historical society has scheduled a Morgan Horse and carriage show at the facility May 13.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### New commissioners to join park board

Four new Wheeling Park District commissioners will take their seats on the park board for the first time when they are sworn into office this week.

The commissioners-elect — Chuck Briles, Greg L. Klatecki, Francine Melamed and Thomas R. Webber — will serve four-year terms on the board. They will replace Commissioners Anthony Abruscato and Julia Robberson, who did not run for re-election.

In addition to the swearing-in, the commissioners also must elect a board president, who will appoint a vice president and treasurer. The new president will appoint committees, committee chairmen and vice-chairman with board approval, Abruscato said.

The four park board committees include buildings and grounds, finance, intergovernmental and community relations and programs

### The top meeting

**Who:** Wheeling Park District board

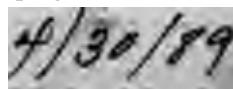
**Where:** Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

**When:** 7 p.m. Thursday

and facilities.

The newcomers are the first to be elected to the newly-expanded park board. The number of board seats will increase from five to seven with the additional board members.

However, one vacancy still remains on the board after the Feb. 15 death of former board President James W. Gallagher. Another duty of the board, which involves veterans Donald P. Lark and *Acting* President Edward L. Klocke, will be to appoint a board member to carry out the remaining two years of Gallagher's term.



### Applicants sought to fill park vacancy

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN, Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District commissioners are accepting applications for a park board vacancy they hope to fill by next month.

"We're looking for people that are active or that have been active — if not in the park district, then other areas of the community," said newly elected board President Thomas R. Webber. "I'm looking for a commitment. We're looking for reliable, conscientious citizens."

The board newcomer would carry out the remaining two years of a four-year board term formerly held by James W. Gallagher, who died in February. Gallagher, 38,

was elected board president last year after serving the district since 1985.

Applications to fill the open seat are due at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse by May 19. Commissioners plan to interview candidates May 22. The new commissioner would take his seat on the board June 1.

Although the new board member should be involved in park district or community activities, the commissioners will consider all those who apply, said board Vice President Francine Melamed, who had requested a deadline for filling the opening.

"We all need to be open-minded and talk to everyone that shows an interest," Melamed said. Commissioners want "somebody, hopeful-

ly, that is easy to work with."

So far, at least two people have applied, Webber said. Dennis R. Drake, who ran an unsuccessful campaign in April for one of four open seats on the board, is one of the applicants.

"I feel my experience on the board would help them," said Drake, who was appointed to the park board in 1984, but lost his bid for re-election the following year.

Ken Kostrzewski, who also ran in the April election, said he likely will throw his hat in the ring of contenders for the board seat.

Webber, Melamed, Chuck Briles and Greg Klatecki attended their first board meeting last week since their election to four-year board terms last month.

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 1989 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

I. Call to order

II. Agenda-Additions/Deletions  
Corrections

III. Approval of the Minutes of  
March 8, 1989

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Subcommittee Verbal Report

a. Leisure Service Subcommittee  
Meeting with S.D. #21..A.Klocke

b. Survey Update

2. Review of Membership Status

V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Other

a.  
b.  
c.

VI. Communications-Written/Verbal

VII. Adjournment

NOTE: Please notify Patti at 537-1450 if you cannot be in attendance.

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD MARCH 8, 1989

The regular meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee was held on March 8, 1989 at 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by Co-Chairperson, Patrick Hanley. Members present were: Alice Wargo, Marge Hartmann, Frank Wojek, Bobby Silverstein, Daniel Conrad, Ida Hein, Alberta Klocke and Pat Hancock. Absent: Ruth Wieder, Pat Walsdorf, Virginia Metzger and Barb Dittman. Those absent had previously notified the committee. Also present were: Ed Klocke, Liaison to the Board, Karop Bavougian, Park District Manager.

Guests: Mr. Ed Fox, resident and Trish Lichtenstein, Reporter Paddock Publications.

Mr. Hanley advised that Ruth Wieder is in Florida and will not be in attendance at this meeting and possibly will not be back until the end of April and that he had been requested to chair the meetings.

AGENDA-Additions/Deletions/Corrections

The agenda was accepted as submitted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of February 8, 1989 were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Marge Hartmann to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Subcommittee Verbal Report

- a Leisure Service Subcommittee- Pat Hanley, Subcommittee Chairperson advised a Leisure Service Subcommittee meeting was held and a written report was provided to the members of the subcommittee. Since there are no other copies available, he would give a general synopsis of the subject matter they covered. He advised that if any of the members who were present at the meeting would like to make further comments, or if he fails to mention something they feel is important, that they please do so.

He advised the meeting was held on February 14 at Heritage Park which was attended by Ruth, Alberta, Virginia, Dan and himself along with Superintendent of Leisure Services Arnie Biondo, his staff and Park Manager, Karop Bavooulian.

The meeting started off with staff introductions and basically gave members a chance to meet the staff. They talked about their duties and each one of the staff members explained what they did, what populations they served, and what percentages of time they spent in their jobs. Pat advised he and other members of the subcommittee asked questions concerning the staff. One of the first questions was the age and number of people they were serving in programs and was told it is mostly children of baby boomers. He noted they talked about the park district, the schools and private recreation and how the three of them relate and what type of programs the park district and the school district is offering and if there is any type of private recreation. Also discussed was where we overlap, where we cooperate in relationship to schools, and specific programs in some of the **schools** and parks. Demographics was also discussed, what. Wheeling is now and what it will look like in the future in relationship to our current programming and future programming.

He advised they talked about the seniors and the park district and village's role in relationship to the seniors and senior programming because we assume that would be something that if it's not currently being served, should be served as we start to get more and more people into the 45, 50, 55, and 60 year old bracket. From there we discussed facilities and questioned the staff and Arnie about where they felt we were lacking in facilities in relationship to the types of programs we were offering. Hawthorn **School** was discussed and the potential of either leasing or using it in relationship to programs that are currently being offered and possible future programs. In regards to Hawthorn, if it was used properly by the park district, if it was decided to be leased, would that free up other buildings and other facilities for other type programming usage? He noted Arnie felt that we were lacking in the amount of gymnasium space that we had within the village.

Pat advised discussion ensued relative to **schools**. Were elementary, junior high and high schools being used properly in relationship to gymnasiums and if all these facilities are being used by the schools and the park district? Also discussed was the future possibility of a community center.

3.

Pat advised he talked a little about the survey and toward the end of the meeting long range goals were discussed. We asked the staff what they would like to see in relationship to Wheeling in the next 5 or 10 years as far as facilities are concerned or any type of long range goals.

He noted they talked about gymnasiums and also the concept of a water park. Arnie basically talked about a water park being not just an outdoor pool, but the type of park where there would be different areas within a park space, that would be (example) dry sand area where volleyball could be played, a quiet area where adults could read and relax in the sun and also an active area or games area. Basically the kind of park where it wouldn't be related to just children but it would bring in families, adults would have specific areas, but would center around a water theme which would be inclusive to an outdoor pool. We talked about at that time, it would be interesting during the summer if people on the advisory committee could get a chance to go out and see such a facility. Comments about the water park were brought up that it would be attractive to not only Wheeling residents, but would also generate revenue in relationship to offsetting some of the operating costs.

Pat advised that Arnie and Karop mentioned that they would like to see a full time position come on within the village of Wheeling, a public relations type of position where not only the park district would be involved but possibly the Village of Wheeling and other aspects of Wheeling, promoting Wheeling, what Wheeling has to offer, its positive points to be inclusive of the village and the park district.

He then advised fields were discussed and how would we may be able to expand outdoor field space. The concept was brought up of possibly trying to use in the industrial area, in Wheeling, some of the space in that area for possibly for softball, soccer, or athletic fields that could be used by the people of Wheeling and also in cooperation with the industries in those areas, where private enterprise could possibly be interested in supporting those fields in relationship to creating recreation for their employees and also the park district could use it in relationship to any type of athletic team usage as possibly an area to expand athletic fields.

Alice advised this was tried in the past. Alberta said it was with the Naperville Ordinance. Alice disagreed. Pat questioned what the Naperville Ordinance was and asked for a brief synopsis which Ed Klocke explained.

4.

Ed Klocke advised that Naperville has an ordinance which is still in effect that industry must make available a certain amount of land for recreation. This type of an ordinance was presented to the village board by the Wheeling Park District and was twice defeated. Ed felt the reason for deciding against it was the village board did not want to discourage industry from coming into Wheeling. Karop reiterated the Naperville Ordinance was basically land/cash donation where as any development that comes into a town has to donate land/cash.

Karop avised some of the companies are which are already located here have some property that are not being used and maybe they would in fact, allow the park to come in and build some ball diamonds, etc., using the existing property. They would still own it but the park could go ahead and use it and their employees would also benefit.

Alice advised the park district already tried that but it never progressed. Discussion ensued. She felt insurance coverage was one of the causes not go ahead and also the future possibility of the company expanding and needing the area. Pat Hanley stated there would definitely have to be cooperation between private interprise and the park district. He said possibly the employees having priority in relationship to programming during the week and the park district having priority on the weekends.

Pat questioned if the industry people use the park leagues at this time? Karop advised in sponsorship only, but as for a whole team coming from one company, no. The leagues are made up of residents and non-residents.

Pat advised this was just a thought brought up at the recreation subcommittee meeting just in relationship with expanding athletic field space in Wheeling and taking advantage of existing field space that isn't being used and it would definitely have to be an cooperative effort if something like that were to take place. Pat advised the discussion also covered Hawthorn School and the potential of trying to use it either for program space or for office space. Basically trying to look at what existing facilities there are in the Village of Wheeling that are not being used that are potential resources that could be renovated before going into building a new facility, such as a gymnasium or community center.

Frank asked if questions regarding this would appear in the survey? Pat responded these could be potential survey questions.

Again Pat said this is something that could be looked into trying to use some resources we have existing within the community on a cooperative level especially when we talked about how open space is so limited and trying to look for different creative imaginative ways to use existing space that is vacant and not being used by anyone.

Pat noted he briefly went through the recreation subcommittee report and there are somethings he missed and somethings we should talk about.

Frank questioned if the park is using any school gymnasium facilities? Karop responded yes.

Pat advised private recreation was also discussed such as those in villages like Glen View which have a racketball club which has gone under and vacant but the potential of acquiring a private recreation space really doesn't exist in Wheeling.

Discussion ensued relative to open space and the designated site for a cultural farm west of the village hall.

Ed Klocke mentioned Hawthorn School and was advised Karop was checking on it. Karop advised he checked with Bud DeCarpenter and at this stage there is nothing available. They are saying they have some potential use for it. Alberta advised when she talked to him, Bud said maybe another deal could be worked out somewhere else. She advised they (S.D.#21) is asking for a grant on a science project, but maybe there would be another facility available. Discussion ensued. Pat stated he felt if we are ever going to go to the people or look into a new facility, we should really look at our town and see how existing resources are being used and see if it is more practable or feasible to use something like an elemetary school or to renovate a potential building which has gone out of business before creating something new.

b. Survey Update

Karop advised the members, he contacted the university of Illinois Office of Park and Recreation Resources which is doing work with extension services and over the years have done many surveys. He had talked to Dr. J. Brademas head of the department and although they as a whole don't do them anymore, there are people who do and would be interested. He said they would be happy to speak with the park. He said he may be interested and also Johannes C van

Es of the Sociology Department. Pat interjected by saying they are a private consulting firm that has an association with the University of Illinois and many of their people like themselves, either work for the U of I or are part of the U of I and they would be working in relationship to the survey. Karop advised they were not a firm but many professors are doing other work outside of their academic work.

Karop advised he also has a call into Northern University to see if they have anyone who does surveys. He noted the park may also want to look into a private firm such as the one who did Buffalo Grove's survey. Discussion ensued regarding inhouse surveys and it was felt the park would get better results from an outside source.

Pat asked when we line up two or three alternatives, what would be the next step? Karop responded he would suggest to get them to come in and speak to the group of both advisory committee and board members. Following the interviews, Karop felt the advisory committee would make a recommendation to the board. Ed Klocke agreed and felt following the interviews, we should also get a price range. Karop felt the first guidelines should be layed out of what you think you want. Discussion ensued.

Dan Conrad stated he would strongly suggest the park board members attend these meetings also. Karop responded Ed would be there as Liaison but other would be welcome and encouraged to be there. Ed said to send out invitations when the meetings occur and it's up to the individual board members. He noted after the election, there may be more participation.

Dan stated he can see something very beneficial to the park district now and in the future and to many residents to come and if anybody is really interested in this community, being an advisory board member or actual commissioner, should be in attendance. Pat noted it makes sense that when there is a presentation, the more of a cross section we have, the more input there is.

c. Open Space- Fort Sheridan

Pat advised he received no report from Ruth, and the only thing he has to add about open space is what he has read in the news media and it seems like there is a strong push for private development in that area and they are doing strong talking financially with an estimated value on that land of \$56 million, someone has offered \$52.2 million. Mr. Fox (resident) advised he attended the meeting of February 25 and felt it would be a long time

7.

before anything is done and what Mr. Porter outlined (the procedures they have to go through), he doubts if any builder is going to touch that property. He said it was indicated that there would remain some sort of military facility with reserves and also some of the property will become an historical site.

Discussion ensued regarding the designated open space sites. Alice stated that most of the land designated was "white elephants" and of no use to anyone. Discussion ensued.

A community center or fieldhouse was again discussed and Alberta noted this was considered at the last referendum and failed. Pat stated he felt this is one thing the survey can help us with and that is posing those types of questions to the people, asking what type of facility do we need? Are the people willing to pay for it? What open space is available and where would be a good location for it to be accessible to the majority of Wheeling residents?

Alberta asked if a meeting could be sent up to sit down with the Superintendent of School District #21 and discuss use of Hawthorn School and/or use of other facilities? Pat requested her to contact the school district and if a meeting is set up, to notify the recreation subcommittee and advisory committee members to attend. Following a meeting, this item would be placed on the agenda of the next regular advisory committee meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Announcements

4th of July Parade-Pat advised the advisory committee received an entry form and an invitation to participate in the 4th of July parade and asked the group if they desire to enter one this year? The theme for this year is "Stars and Stripes". It was noted we participated last year. Discussion ensued. It was agreed by the members to enter either a car or float this year and the secretary was directed to notify the 4th of July Committee.

Coach Certification- Dan Conlqd advised this year the Wheeling Park District is the first park district in the state of Illinois to his knowledge that has all of it's head coaches and better than 90% of assistant coaches certified by the National Youth Coaches Association out of Oregon meaning we are insured, we have been through 6-7 training classes. He commended the recreation department for insisting that all coaches of all sports get involved like this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, motion was made by Dan Contelp, seconded by Ida Hein to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

# Park OKs \$500,000 for repaving projects

BY TRISH LICHENSTEIN / 2/377  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials plan to pave several district properties.

The park district board recently agreed to spend nearly \$500,000 to repave the parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 Milwaukee Road, and the parking lot at Heritage Park, along Wolf Road.

The Chevy Chase parking lot project, which could cost nearly \$400,000, includes installing a storm-water sewer system, parking blocks, landscaping and lighting in the area, park district Director Karop Bavougan said.

"It needed to be done for years," Bavougan said. "I think we're finally in a position where we can do it, handling the payment with it."

Bavougan added that the park district would probably pay about \$150,000 for the work. That money is included in this year's budget from the golf course fund. The rest would

be financed.

In order to begin the project, plans made previously for the lot work must be updated to include the new Milwaukee Avenue entrance.

The Heritage Park parking lot repaving project, which would cost nearly \$100,000, includes installing concrete curbs and a storm sewer and resurfacing the parking lot.

Skokie Valley Asphalt of Grayslake, which submitted the lowest bid for the project at \$81,749, received the contract for the work. Gewalt-Hamilton Associates, Inc., a Northbrook engineering company, will inspect the work periodically. Board members agreed that the cost for engineering inspections should not exceed \$2,900.

Old asphalt is breaking up at the park's parking lot and a section leading to the maintenance garage needs to be paved, Bavougan said.

"It's just junky," Bavougan said, "and we wanted to improve it."

The month-long projects should begin in September.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

### Parks survey to be conducted by consultant

BY TRISH ICHENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

At least three consultants should be reviewed before Wheeling Park District officials choose one to conduct a community survey, park district advisory committee members said Wednesday.

The survey, one of the pet projects of the advisory committee, is expected to reveal how residents generally view the park district. Residents will be asked to give views on park district issues including open space and land acquisition, park programs and facilities and how projects should be funded.

Three or four candidates should be enough to review for the job be-

cause the committee is also considering having each consultant give a presentation for the group, said committee member Pat Hanley, who also heads the survey subcommittee.

Although committee members are considering two University of Illinois professors, Park Director Karop Bavougan said he will continue to search for other candidates.

One of the professors works in the university's sociology department and the other is chief of the school's office of recreation and parks resources, Bavougan said. Both of the Champaign instructors also work as consultants.

Bavougan said he plans to contact Northern Illinois University in

DeKalb and Western Illinois University in Macomb for other possible candidates to conduct the survey.

The committee is recommending the park district hire an outside consultant or group to do the survey for unbiased results. "The questions asked and the input received tend to be skewed" with in-house surveys, Hanley said.

In addition, committee members advocate that a school be involved in conducting the survey so that both groups would benefit.

The park district has budgeted \$15,000 for the survey, which will also be used by park officials to determine the district's direction for the next 10 years.

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# Park district paves the way for improvement

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When the park district first bought the facility in 1977, it was hailed as an opportunity to generate revenue for the district. But although the club house made about \$50,000 this year, it is still going toward paying off an existing fund deficit.

The golf course, meanwhile, made more than \$140,000 last year. Most of

**THE BOARD AGREED** to spend no more than \$5,000 with Ohle's company. Bavourian, in a letter to board members, said another study could have cost the district \$15,000.

Also in relation to Chevy Chase, the park board last week agreed to refinance the final \$150,000 payment needed on a loan to add the Devonshire

## THE WEEK AHEAD

3 5 57

### Consider professors for survey of parks

Two University of Illinois professors are being considered by Wheeling Park District officials to conduct a community survey.

The survey, one of the pet projects of the park district advisory committee, is expected to reveal what residents think about land acquisition, park programs, facilities and how projects should be funded.

Park district Director Karop Bavourian is expected to present information about the Champaign professors, who also work as consultants, at an advisory committee meeting next week.

The committee recommended the park district hire an outside group to do the survey to achieve unbiased results. However, the U of I professors are just the first group being considered by the district, and officials will continue to look for and review other outside groups, Bavourian said.

One of the instructors works in the university's sociology department, Bavourian said. The other is chief of

### The top meeting

**Who:** Wheeling Park District advisory committee

**Where:** Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 Milwaukee Ave.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

the school's office of recreation and parks resources, a department known for conducting many community surveys, he added.

The park board has budgeted \$15,000 for the survey, which also will be used by park officials to determine the district's direction for the next 10 years, said advisory committee member Patrick Hanley, who also heads the survey sub-committee.

Likely questions on the survey, which would be distributed to a cross-section of district residents, include how much the park facilities and programs are used and how they could be improved.

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## Base closings pass first test

United Press International

**WASHINGTON —** A plan to close or scale back nearly 40 major military bases across the country cleared its first congressional hurdle Thursday, winning the approval of a House subcommittee.

Congress was given 45 days starting March 1 to reject the entire plan, as recommended by a government commission in December and approved by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci before he left office in January. Otherwise, the Pentagon automatically will begin the process of closing bases next year.

Although Congress is not required to act, the issue has stirred enough controversy that a House floor vote on whether to accept or reject it is nearly certain.

In a meeting Thursday, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities voted 13-1 in favor of the plan. The dissenting vote was cast by Rep. Jim Courter, R-N.J., who is opposed because it includes the recommendation to place Fort Dix in his state on semi-active status.

Courter is one of about two dozen lawmakers, most from New Jersey and California, vowing to fight the commission's plan. They say many of the bases targeted for closure continue to serve vital functions and in some cases would cost more to shut down than to leave open.

But because such objections are limited to a relatively few lawmakers, the opposition is not expected to muster enough votes to defeat the plan. That is exactly what Congress intended when it created the commission, placing the burden of choice in other hands, and required the package to be accepted or rejected in its entirety.

The plan, aimed at saving money and streamlining the nation's network of military installations, calls for closing 34 major bases and 52 smaller ones with the partial shutdown of five major bases and the "realignment" of others.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Gallagher's seat remains empty for now

BY CARL PUGLIESE 3/1.40/r/9  
Daily Herald correspondent

Rather than fill a vacancy left by the death of James Gallagher, the Wheeling Park District board will postpone naming a replacement because it wants give its new board members some say in the matter.

Edward L. Klocke, the board's acting president, said filling the vacancy will have to wait until after the April 4 election, when four new park commissioners will be chosen.

Four of seven park board seats will be filled from a field of six candidates.

Chuck Briles, Dennis R. Drake,

Ken Kostrzewski, Greg Klatecki, Frances Melamed and Thomas R. Webber are the candidates vying for the spots.

A pair of seats are open because the incumbents are not running for re-election while two new posts have been created by the current five-member board.

The vacancy on the board resulted from Gallagher's sudden death on Feb. 15.

Gallagher, a systems analyst for Amoco Oil Co. in Chicago, had been feeling ill for 1½ weeks prior to his death and was scheduled to have blood tests taken on the night he died.

Gallagher, who was 38, had been a park board commissioner since

1985. He had two years remaining on his term.

Klocke said the board will advertise in local newspapers for applicants to fill the post.

Wheeling residents may submit a resume to the park district.

The park board then will interview the applicants and make a selection.

Klocke said he isn't sure if the applicant will be selected by the board's majority vote or unanimous approval.

"I'd like all board members to agree on one particular person, male or female," Klocke said.

The post will be filled by early August.

## WHEELING 3/1/7

### Seat stays empty

Rather than fill a vacancy left by the death of James Gallagher, the Wheeling Park District board will postpone naming a replacement to give its new board members some say in the matter. Edward L. Klocke, the board's acting president, said filling the vacancy will have to wait until new park board members are elected April 4, when new park commissioners will be elected. Chuck Briles, Dennis R. Drake, Ken Kostrzewski, Greg Klatecki, Frances Melamed and Thomas R. Webber are vying for four park board seats.

### PUBLIC SPEAKING

3/4/7. "I'd like all board members to agree on one particular person, male or female." — Edward L. Klocke, acting board president for the Wheeling Park District, commenting on a vacancy left by

# Commissioner says pool talks mismanaged

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

3/13/89

Working from the adage that time is money, Wheeling park board president Ed Klocke tried to harpoon Park District Director Karop Bavougin last week over the future finances of Neptune's Pool.

Saying that Bavougin had failed to keep the board informed about discussions concerning the pool. He added that without imme-

diate negotiations with High School District 214 over the use of the park district pool, the park district could end up spending an extra \$100,000 a year to operate the facility.

With students from Wheeling High School and Prospect High School using the pool, District 214 now pays the park district a yearly amount to cover initial building costs and maintenance of the facility attached to Wheeling High School.

But the school district will make

its final payment on the construction costs this year, leaving just the maintenance and capital improvements contributions. The park district said that if the agreement isn't altered, it could end up spending up to \$100,000 to operate the facility.

**DISTRICT 214 HAS** already told the park district it intends to exercise its option to extend the current agreement another 20 years. Klocke lambasted Bavougin for not getting negotiations under way

sooner, negotiations Klocke said could help the district to undercut the potential deficit situation.

After this year, when the school district makes its final construction payment of \$36,567, the park district pool deficit is expected to rise from more than \$11,000 now to between \$45,000 and \$100,000 a year, Bavougin and Klocke have estimated.

If negotiations don't begin immediately, Klocke said the park

(Continued on page 14)

## Pool

(Continued from page 5)

district could lose the opportunity to whittle away at the expected deficit by asking the school district to contribute more funding.

So far, the school district has said it is willing to negotiate the terms of the agreement, but Jack Swanson, District 214's superintendent for finance, said he has had no contact from the park district.

"**THIS IS** a serious situation and I think staff has stumbled on this one," Klocke said. He said the school board has announced its position to the park district, but that Bavougin had not responded.

Klocke said the board and the park district must establish a position, take it to the school district and attempt to change how the school district pays for its use of the pool.

At last Thursday's meeting, Klocke blamed Bavougin for delaying action on the agreement that he said could cost the park district money. Unless there is a new agreement by November, the existing pact would be locked in for • the next 20 years.

Klocke said the two bodies must conduct a series of meetings to hammer out an agreement. "November is going to come so fast," he said. "We don't have time to wait."

**AT ISSUE IS** the amount of money the school district will contribute to the park district for the use of the pool. Under the initial agreement signed in 1969 when the facility was built adjacent to Wheeling High School, the school district paid a portion of the bonds used to finance the project and paid another amount equal to 55 percent of maintenance and capital improvements.

But when the park district refinanced the pool bonds several years ago, it added the school's bond money into the pool's operation budget. With that money no longer supporting operations, the district will have to make up the difference.

Bavougin, the target of much of Klocke's scorn, agreed to take a share of the blame. Since meetings were held last year concerning the agreement, he said the issue has been put "on the back burner."

"Some of (what) was directed (at me) was somewhat fair," Bavougin said. He said he intends to work with Klocke and the board in setting up the necessary meetings between park board members and between the park district and the school district.

**AFTER KLOCKE CALLED** for an immediate meeting with the school district, park board member Tony Abruscato objected, saying the park board must first establish its own unified position before sitting down to negotiate with the schools.

"We need to have a meeting to decide what's in our best interests and what we feel is feasible to obtain," Abruscato said. Park board member Don Lark agreed, as did Klocke. The board did not, however, establish a special meeting or a workshop date before adjourning their meeting last week.

# Commuter lot plan interests park district

A request to cover eight acres of the Wheeling Park District with asphalt has the park board seeing green — with dollar signs.

When the village this month formally asked the park district to go along with a plan for a 1,000-car parking lot on the far northwestern end of Heritage Park for a commuter train station, the park board expressed an interest — so long as the district is reimbursed.

Some park board members suggested getting a daily take from any parking meters put up in the lot. Others said the request may get the park district more valuable land elsewhere.

"This is something I definitely think we should look into," park board member Don Lark said. He said the targeted area, just north of the retention pond at Heritage Park, isn't being used now. "If we can make some money off of it, I say we look into it and see what we can do."

Village planners have tapped a site at the end of Boehmer Road, south of Dundee Road, for the proposed commuter train station. If state and local planners approve the project, commuter train service to Chicago would come through Wheeling down the Wisconsin Central Railway tracks.

But in order to be a part of that plan, the village had to decide where it wants the site, and much of that hinged on parking.

## Selection procedure set

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Wheeling park board without facing the rigors of an election campaign can send in their applications and resumes now.

Park board members last week formally established the process by which they will fill the remaining two years of board member James Gallagher's term. Gallagher, 38, died Feb. 15.

Board president Ed Klocke said applicants will be interviewed by the new park board once it is established following the election. Four new park board members will be elected then. The two seats on the board vacated by incumbents Tony Abruscato and Julia Robberson will be filled and two new seats will be filled as the park board expands to seven members.

Abruscato said the process will begin within 90 days of the election. Final plans for when and where applications will be available will be announced after the April 4 election.

# Park board gives final nod to budget hike

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*The Wheeling Park District will spend roughly \$5 million on various improvement and maintenance projects after the park board approved a budget for 1989-90.*

The Wheeling Park District board last week approved spending \$5 million this year on projects ranging from new basketball courts and playground equipment to a new parking lot at the Chevy Chase golf course and club house.

While making only one change in the proposed 1989-90 park budget since it was presented, the board adopted the new budget, which represents a 6 percent jump in spending from 1988.

But while spending is up, anticipated revenues are down, forcing the park district to dig into much of its existing fund balances to pay for the proposed spending plan. Park District Director Karop Bavouugian said the reliance on the fund balances will not hurt the district.

The item most board and staff members were in greatest support of was constructing a *new* parking lot at Chevy Chase.

"(IT'S) the best thing that ever happened," park board member Don Lark said of the paving plan. The board agreed with district staff and set aside \$150,000 in golf course profits for the project. The remaining \$200,000 needed to complete the paving will be financed, the board decided.

By paving the lot, board members and staff said it will make it easier to market the 72-year-old facility and increase its profitability.

Board members only agreed on one change, directing the staff to spend more money developing Meadowbrook Park rather than spending the money on a new basketball court at Chamber Park. Instead, the district will look at adding basketball standards on the existing parking lot.

Also included in the budget was an additional \$104,000 for capital improvements that will be used for adding playground equipment. The money was made available when the district was able to pay off previous debts sooner than expected.

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# Park district reviews leasing school space

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer      *1/13/57*

Members of the Wheeling Park District advisory committee met with Community Consolidated District 21 Supt. "Bud" DesCarpentrie Monday to discuss the possibility of expanding the park district's nursery program to Hawthorn School.

DesCarpentrie said he is not sure if the space the park district is interested in will be available, but that he will look into the matter and analyze whether school space would be available at Hawthorn or other locations for use by the park district.

"This is part of ongoing discussions we're having," DesCarpentrie said. "Now is a good time to discuss Hawthorn and other facilities."

While the school district has no plans to reopen Hawthorn as a school, DesCarpentrie said District 21 officials will have to evaluate the most effective use of their facilities. He said the school district and park district share some facilities now, but most of the space surrounds school buildings.

**PRESENTLY, THE SECOND** floor of Hawthorn School is leased to a Des Plaines-based group that uses the classrooms for educating its staff.

Members of the Wheeling Park District advisory committee are looking into the possibility of expanding nursery school and other recreation programs using school district facilities that might be available.

Saying the existing nursery school facilities at Childerley and Chamber parks are inadequate for children, committee member Alberta Klocke said leasing space at Hawthorn could free up those facilities for other uses, including programs for seniors.

"I don't think the facility (at Childerley Park) is for children and I don't think the church (at Chamber Park) is for children, either," Klocke said. "If we could get that building (Hawthorn School), I really see things going."

**BESIDES USING ST.** Joan's House at Childerley and the old Community Presbyterian Church at Chamber Park, the park district also runs nursery school programs at the Heritage Park community center.

Klocke said the addition of the seven Hawthorn School classrooms and the loss of those at Chamber Park and Childerly Park would give the park district a net gain of five classrooms. She said the space at St. Joan's House and the church could be used for "middle-age teen-agers" like herself, Klocke said.

Arnie Biondo, superintendent of leisure services for the park district, echoed Klocke's thoughts but said the park district has no definitive plan at this point for expanding the nursery school program.

With more residents in the area deciding to have children, Biondo said there is a corresponding greater need for possibly expanding the nursery school program.

# Battle of newcomers in Wheeling park board

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The names of only newcomers will line the ballot Tuesday in the race for the Wheeling Park District board.

Six board hopefuls are vying for four open seats on the board. The newcomers will replace current Commissioners Julia D. Robberson and Anthony W. Abruscato, who are completing six-year terms.

Voters will be asked to choose four commissioners from the field of candidates which includes Chuck Briles, Ken Kostrzewski, Dennis R. Drake, Greg Klatecki, Thomas R. Webber and Fr2 acine Melamed.

The winners will serve four-year terms on the newly-expanded board. The number of board seats will increase from five to seven, a move recommended by a parltodistrict citizens' committee.

All six candidates are running on the platform that the board's public image needs improvement. They also point to several other areas which, they say, should be improved or considered by park officials.

The main issues include working with the village and school districts on future planning, completing a

the current board, he said. He is proposing the new board take a more active part in district activities and events and strongly consider suggestions from the park advisory board, of which he is a former member.

A critical issue for Drake, an accountant for Winchester House, a Libertyville nursing home, is open space. By working with village officials, commissioners would get a better idea of the open land available for parks, said Drake. He was appointed to the park board in 1984 and lost his bid for re-election the following year.

A Chicago insurance adjuster, Kostrzewski agrees with candidates on those issues and adds that a corn-



community survey, improving operations at Chevy Chase Country Club and reviewing open lands for future park use.

Because of their mutual involvement with park district youth sports, Briles, Klatecki and Webber are teaming up for the election and supporting the same issues.

The trio advocates a new image for the board, which, they say, should be a more visible fixture in the community.

Briles, a manager for AT&T in Chicago, suggests that commissioners meet with village leaders and school officials to improve communication between the community groups.

Klatecki, a teacher with Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, is "frustrated" with the inactivity of

**See PARK on Page 3**

munity survey also would be crucial to improving communication, determining residents' views on land acquisition and guiding the district through the next 10 years.

The district should host open houses at the Chevy Chase Country Club for local corporations and initiate an intense marketing strategy 'to push for business in the banquet hall and for other uses of the building, said Webber, an account executive for a Wheeling distribution company.

Melamed, the director of operations for a Wheeling leasing company, also is concerned about the country club. The club should be a money-making enterprise rather than a financial strain for the park district, said Melamed, who also volunteers to help with park district programs.

## Wheeling park board

When incumbents Julia Robberson and Tony Abruscato decided not to run for reelection, and when the board agreed to add two seats to the previously five-member board, it was guaranteed that a whole lot of new blood would join the park district in April.

Although 11 people announced intentions to run for the board and seven filed for placement on the ballot, only six names will appear. Candidates Chuck Briles, Dennis Drake, Greg Klatecki, Ken Kostrzewski, Fran Melamed and Tom Webber will vie for the four four-year terms. Leonard Renquin removed himself from the ballot after first filing petitions.

With the death of park board President James Gallagher Feb. 15, the park board was reduced to four members. The board is expected to appoint a seventh member to fill out the remaining two years of Gallagher's term after the election.

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Acu keeps  
By Mike Wilkinson 3/1

Since last November, when most of the candidates in the race for the Wheeling park board announced their intentions, the focus of the campaign has not been on their opponents, but on the current board.

And continuing through the April 4 election, the described inactivity of the board will remain the issue, when the winners say they will try to rejuvenate the seven-member body.

All six candidates have labled the existing four members - incumbents Julia Robberson and Tony Abruscato, board president Ed Klocke and commissioner Don Lark - inactive, and they blame that inactivity with leaving the district without direction and without a plan for improving facilities or programs.

With the addition of two new seats on the board, the park district will have a seven-member commission. Neither Abruscato nor Robberson ran for reelection, leaving the six candidates to fight for four seats. And with the unexpected death Feb. 15 of board president James Gallagher, the candidates said the board lost its only active member.

**WHILE THE CANDIDATES aren't attacking each other, they instead have saved their scorn for the current board members, two of whom aren't running for reelection and two whose terms don't run out until 1991.**

Consider these comments:

"I want a board member to be visible to the people who elect them," candidate **Greg Klatecki** said. "Because if the people who elected them have a complaint, they have a place to go."

"I haven't liked the attitude of the majority of the park district personnel," said candidate **Tom Webber**, who is aligning his campaign with those of Stan w rLei

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## Park board

(Continued from previous page)

loaf of bread is a nickel and a gallon of milk is a quarter."

Obviously, no one is picking out the character flaws of their opponents. But that hasn't stopped this campaign from being one filled with issues, although most of the candidates agree on most of them.

**ONE OF THE** obvious points of agreement is the current board. All the candidates have said there needs to be more accountability to the board and that board members, while having other interests, should be seen around the park district outside of board meetings.

Webber said there was a "total lack of accountability" by the board and said park district personnel weren't getting the direction they needed from the board or the top staff. "There has to be some support from the board," Webber said.

Briles concurs and said he wants to see greater attention paid to improving communication between the park board and park district staff. He also said he wants to see the district take more of a long-range look at its maintenance needs, particularly at Chevy Chase and at Heritage Park. He said the present board has taken a "band-aid" approach to facility upkeep.

But even though most of the candidates' fire was aimed at the board, they also have discussed other issues. All have said that the park district must work to make sure that the Chevy Chase golf course and club house is generating as much revenue as it can.

"**I WANT** Chevy Chase marketed better," Klatecki said. "I want better use of Chevy Chase than it is. That hall should be used every single Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

Getting it to that point, however, will take time - and money. Again, the current park board took some of the blame.

"The district is afraid to spend one dollar to make two dollars," Melamed said. She said the district has to agree to improve the facility and then let people know it's there.

Melamed has been the only candidate to push strongly for building a new community center to replace the Heritage Park facility. She said that building has worn out.

"**THE BUILDING** as it is now is a poor excuse for a community center," she said. "It's important to find out what we can do to provide one to the community."

She said the park district should look at surrounding districts and see how they were able to build community centers. From there, she said, the park district may come up with a way to finance one without going deep into debt.

Park board candidates for the most part also agreed that the district must identify and try to buy vacant land for future development.

**ONLY DRAKE SAID** the district should focus more heavily on maintaining its current facilities, although he has indicated a willingness to look at land banking, or storing away, new land until the district could afford to develop it.

Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee  
Leisure Service Subcommittee  
March 20, 1989  
8:30 p.m. SD# 21 Admin . Bldg.

Members in Attendance: Pat Hanley, Subcommittee Chairman  
Alberta Klocke, Alice Wargo,

Ed Klocke, Liaison to Board of  
Park Commissioners

School District #21: Bud DesCarpentrie, Superintendent

RE: Use of Hawthorn School/Other Facilities

Discussion ensued relative to the use of Hawthorn School. Mr. DesCarpentrie advised the members that the top floor of Hawthorn School has been rented to Forrest Institute of Psychology and is used as a training arm of Forrest Hospital. It was specified they could only use the area for teaching adults how to be psychiatrists and would not use the area to do client services. School District #21 was very cautious for them not to do something that would not allow S.D.#21 to use the bottom floor as they wanted.

Alice questioned if those were classrooms along side the building on the main floor? He responded the main floor has a variety of one or two regular size classrooms and a series of doubles and what would be triples with dividers between them with a large room in the center.

Mr. DesCarpentrie advised at this point, the School District is leaning toward being told they're going to have a use for the bottom floor of Hawthorn themselves, with a grant that may come through. At this time they are still waiting to hear.

Alice asked how many homes on Mayer have kids or is the school district going to open Hawthorn? Mr. DesCarpentrie advised he cannot ever see them opening Hawthorn in the next decade, primarily because of what Hawthorn is. It doesn't even have a gymnasium. He stated he was told, when they built Hawthorn, they had no intentions of leaving the school as it. is. They simply could not afford and could not get it built fast enough, so they built the part which they actually had too, to house the kids. He noted the area where it was being made ready for an additional structure which would have become the gymnasium and activity areas. He again noted there is no way they can use Hawthorn as it is except in an emergency situation.

Pat Hanley asked what was on the second floor? Bud responded originally it was one big room, then (if his history was right), two or three years after it was open, they came in and built brick wall dividers out to what would be the end of a classroom. He continued to update the members to what was done.

Mr. Klocke asked when they would know about the grant? Mr. DesCarpentrie replied within a month. He stated if it doesn't come about then, the school district is open to talk about renting the bottom floor. However, he felt it would come about. Alberta noted in other words, the park district just waited too long.

Mr. DesCarpentrie stated he felt it was not so much just waiting, because he thought both Dave and Karop examined what it would take to make that building functional. It was his understanding from what both men had told him. He also met with the CNRAC advisory committee at that time and the biggest fault was the building had no gymnasium. Had there been a gym, he felt the park district would now be the owners of Hawthorn. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Klocke questioned if there is anything in the area that the park could use? Bud responded by asking what are the needs of the park district? He knows for example, that the park district and Tarkington School are talking because there is quite a bit of land there, and it is a central location. He thinks both sides have been talking cooperatively about adding new equipment and fields. He noted the school district is more than willing to cooperate on this.

Mr. DesCarpentrie again asked what kind of space is the park looking for? Alice and Alberta mentioned the moving of the preschool classes which are now held in St. Joans House, Chamber Church and also in the two rooms at Heritage Park. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of children, timing of programs, etc. It was noted the basic programs follow the schedule of the school district and in the summer there is the camp type activities.

Pat stated at the advisory meeting, we were looking at Wheeling for potential resources for social, cultural, and physical recreation that exists, for facilities that are being under used and preschool was brought up but it wouldn't be limited to preschool. If there were either buildings or indoor/outdoor space that is not being used, trying using them prior to going to the community for new buildings like a community center, pool, etc. We need to know if we are using the existing facilities to capacity, if we are using everything we can, and are they being used properly, what are

we using in cooperation with school district? If we are still having a problem, in relationship in either turning people away in programs or having programs, then it would be time to look at new facilities. It was agreed that after all avenues have been researched, the park district would feel better going to the community.

Mr. DesCarpentrie stated one of the things we need to do cooperatively, is get the agencies to undertake some sort of systematic survey to find what space exists, how it is being used, and to what degree its's being used so that in itself is one good service we could do together.

Alice then stated there are many children on the streets and with cooperation of park district and school district, we have taken some of them off, but we need some place where these kids can go that is not programmed, but open for basketball, volley ball, ping pong, and other activities. Pat gave an example of a program started in Flint Michigan to keep kids involved.

Mr. DesCarpentrie stated one of the places he would like to look into is Stevenson and see what kinds of activities are held and also look at London into what kind of hours in the day they might be available to the park district. He knows Holmes and Whitman schools are being used constantly.

Mr. DesCarpentrie stated the one thing we really want to do and need to actively plan together is the schools in the center part of the district. We need to maintain those as viable education centers and do what it takes to have that happen and because that was the center part of the district, those buildings are the oldest. We are going to have to make some pins for the future and those plans ought to be made not by the school district alone, but with other agencies.

We have already identified the one thing we need is a systematic survey with all the agencies and coming off of that, we need to plan for the future together. There is no reason we couldn't do the same type of planning with Hawthorn, maybe some sort of arrangement there, we already have the boiler room waiting for the mechanical equipment. Maybe we want to do something together coming off that building, but something to the effect if we ever needed to turn it back into a school, then the school district would get first shot at whatever kind of gymnasium or multi-purpose area that we would put up there, then the park district or village would then down the road go build another community center. Mr. Klocke asked if the grant comes through, how long would the program be in effect? The response was three to five years.

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Mr. DesCarpentrie added the school district does not want to count on grants to survive, but needs to have a commitment to get started and show that they can do something effective in education without using open tax dollars. That is our basic purpose.

He questioned who he would talk to, to get the specifics of preschool programming and was told to talk to Superintendent of Leisure Services, Arnie Biondo.

Alberta questioned about space for evening classes for adults? Mr. DesCarpentrie felt there was no problem with that. He noted that Holmes itself should have ample space. Discussion continued. It was noted a survey would indicate if more classes and space re needed.

Mr. DesCarpentrie stated the two things he will look into at this time is 1) talk to Karop and see if we can't tie in a group of other people and do some kind of systematic survey and 2) talk to Arnie about the preschool classes.

The Latch-Key kids issue was discussed and the necessity of keeping parks open when children are not in school.

Mr. DesCarpentrie asked what else the subcommittee would like him to look into? Pat stated he basically asked his questions and stated his concerns with trying to get as much use out of existing buildings and trying to create more of a cooperative effort, basically in the village of Wheeling through all agencies. He stated it just seems like he's living here four years and all he hears is about how people do things independently, the lack of cooperation, and that things get done half way or not at all or they are overlapping. He noted it just doesn't seem like a good way for a village to work.

Alberta asked if they felt it would be humanly possible to get every agency in the town together and try to build a community center for the kids? Mr. DesCarpentrie felt there would be no problem at all of getting together if there is an identified need for something.

Mr. DesCarpentrie asked if the park survey basically would get at the general concept of the need for a community center? Pat responded it will contain all types of questions regarding facilities, open lands, programs, etc; basically approaching it from a recreational standpoint, asking what type of programs, do we need in the future, how can we use the land we do have in the future and how can we use it as productively as we can, trying to get input for decision making for the next five to ten years. It was his

feelings that there are people around that do care and have concerns and opinions but also there is many people that have recently moved into the area who are basically quite and have opinions but are not expressing them. In a survey, it would be good when decisions come up in the next two or three years, different bond issues, matters that are coming up, to have some objective data out there.

Mr. DesCarpentrie questioned who would do the survey? Pat advised the park at this point, is looking to have two to three options to pick from. Mr. DesCarpentrie stated because if the pending school referendum passes, he can really see the school district participating and perhaps helping to fund some sort of community-wide study that would help us get at "what do we need?" How much would certain things be used, where would we site them, how could we cooperate with (example) land?

Pat stated the park would like whoever is hired, to work with the park district, but also possibly interview people in the school district and also in the village in relationship to recreation and hopefully even just talking would set a feeling of "I would like to fill out that survey and give my opinion about what I think Wheeling needs in the next five to ten years."

Mr. DesCarpentrie stated he assumes they will also do some demographic and geographical studies. He stated it would be foolish to do that survey without considering where the schools are and what kinds of lands are already attached to the schools and the places where the park district and school districts own land adjacent to one another. Those might be the ideal spots to begin our planning.

Discussion ensued relative to the school buildings that are closed and those sold. It was Mr. DesCarpentrie's feelings that there is alot of cooperation out there, it's just a matter of getting it together and making it happen. He advised the subcommittee he would be quite busy until after the April 4th referendum but would get back to them in the near future.

The meeting concluded at 9:45 p.m.

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
 CANVAS OF VOTES OF THE APRIL 4 ELECTION  
 FOR BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
 TAKEN AT THE APRIL 6, 1989 BOARD MEETING

PRECINCT	CHUCK BRILES	KEN KOSTRZEWSKI	DENNIS DRAKE	GREG KLATECKI	TOM WEBBER	FREACINE MELAMED
1	94	54	68	90	86	98
9	89	74	79	85	75	77
27	107	77	107	110	113	97
30	49	21	32	53	60	62
33	101	71	88	116	116	76
37	45	25	35	44	45	44
43	3	4	2	4	3	2
48	85	45	59	87	115	70
49	131	89	88	131	129	113
50	54	37	43	59	52	44
55	39	25	32	36	37	42
74	87	72	65	105	98	85
76	37	19	26	39	34	38
79	113	82	88	136	115	101
83	51	39	48	54	53	44
93	53	33	40	54	57	46
98	18	23	16	18	12	14
107	96	50	61	81	84	89
108	74	36	68	61	81	71
116	32	25	35	27	28	32
125	54	43	38	53	40	49
127	43	27	33	44	29	38
130	145	78	112	161	144	164
133	27	16	21	23	19	26
137	127	101	111	153	141	109
138	26	15	30	31	32	35
140	36	20	23	32	39	39
Total	1816	1201	1448	1887	1837	1705
Cook County						
Lake	8	7	8	7	7	9
Total	1824	1208	1456	1894	1844	1714
Lake/Cook Counties						

The newly elected Board of Commissioners to serve a four year term are as follows:

C.BRILES, G.KLATECKI, T. WEBBER, F. MELAMED

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

The meeting of February 16, 1989 was called to order at 7:10 p.m., followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The secretary called the roll.

Vice President Klocke advised that at this time he would like to dispense with the agenda and park business set forth before us this evening and make the following statement.

"It is with deep regret and sorrow that I inform you this evening of the death of Commissioner and Park Board President, James Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher served on the park board for four years.

During his term in office, he served on various committees, was elected Vice President two years running and was also President for fiscal year 1988-1989. His service, loyalty and dedication had a positive and profound affect on this park board, the district staff, residents, volunteer groups and the Wheeling Park District as a whole. Commissioner Gallagher was an energetic individual with unique qualities enabling him to take an active role and provide input in many of our youth sports programs, special events and other activities with our district which will have a long and lasting effect.

The passing of Mr. Gallagher will be a tremendous loss to all of those who knew and worked with him. On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, children and family."

Following the statement, Vice President Klocke requested a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner Gallagher, and also requested the minutes of this meeting be recorded and a copy be forwarded to the family of the late Commissioner.

## **James W. Gallagher**

Services for James W. Gallagher, 38, of Wheeling, will be 10 a.m. Saturday at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1111 Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights.

Burial will be in Randhill Park Cemetery, Palatine.

He died Wednesday at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines.

He was a systems analyst for Amoco Oil Co. and also served as president of the Wheeling Park District board. He was pursuing his master's degree at DePaul University.

He was a member of the Boy Scout Committee, Troop No. 262, and was past cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack No. 247. He coached many intramural sports for the Wheeling Park District and was on the finance committee of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Survivors include his wife, Susan; sons, James and Steven; daughter, Kristina; parents, Robert and June Gallagher; sisters, Donna Mayfield and Patricia Gallagher; brothers John and Andrew; grandmothers Rose Goebbert and Ruth Gallagher; and father-in-law, Stanley Stanton.

Visitation is 3 to 9 p.m. today at Kolssak Golden Rule Funeral Home, 189 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, and 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

## **Town mourns park president**

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BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Friends and family of James W. Gallagher remember the late Wheeling Park District board president as "a nice guy" who "tried to make a difference."

Gallagher, 38, died suddenly Wednesday in his Wheeling home. A park district commissioner since 1985, Gallagher was elected president last year. He was a systems analyst for Amoco Oil Co. in Chicago.

"He was really well-respected and friendly to everyone," said Francine Melamed, to whom Gallagher offered advice on the April 4 park board election. "He was a nice guy. He was the kind of guy who tried to make a difference, but he didn't stick out in a crowd."

The cause of Gallagher's death is still unknown, but his wife, Sue, said he had been feeling ill for the past 1 1/4 weeks. Gallagher had blood tests taken Tuesday and was scheduled for additional tests Wednesday at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, his wife said.

"I would describe Jim as a man who cared about people and things and gave of himself," park district Director Karop Bavourian said.

A replacement will be named to finish the remaining two years of Gallagher's board term, he said.

## **JAMES GALLAGHER**

### **VISITATION**

**Friday, February 17, 1989**

**3:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

**Kolssak Funeral Home  
189 S. Milwaukee Avenue  
Wheeling, Illinois**

### **SERVICES**

**Saturday, February 18, 1989**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
1111 N. Elmhurst Road  
Prospect Hts., Illinois**

### **INTERMENT**

**Randhill Park Cemetery  
Rand Road and Route 53  
Palatine, Illinois**

**Immediately following services.**

# Village mourns passing of James Gallagher

*The Wheeling Park District lost one of its greatest friends and hardest workers Feb. 22 with the death of James Gallagher. The 38-year-old father and Boy Scout leader left behind a legacy of love and care for his family and community that defined his life for friends and colleagues.*

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

It was about 9:30 p.m. Oct. 29, and the cold air surrounding Childerley Park was damp. The last attendees of the Wheeling Park District's annual Spook Trail were winding their way through the maze of scary scenes and creepy monsters.

Most of the helpers were a little weary, wet and shivering. Many of them were from Boy Scout Troop 262 and most of them were tired. But as everyone was waiting for the long evening to end, a flashlight started making its way across the park and toward one of the spook stations.

Minutes later, James Gallagher, bundled up in his blue quilted coat, was at the scene; he was checking on the park district event, the Boy Scouts and on his son, Steve, who was one of the mock hooligans trying desperately to startle the Halloween revelers.

It was a perfect James Gallagher moment: a time when he could channel his care for his kids into concern for others: the Boy Scouts, the park district and the late-night celebrants.

**FAMILY, FRIENDS AND**  
acquaintances all draw the same



Members of Boy Scout Troop 262 stand at attention as the funeral procession for the late Wheeling Park District board president James Gallagher is led out of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Saturday. (Photo by Hank DeGeorge)

picture of Gallagher: that of him showing up to an event, his hands deep in his pockets, his hair a little mussed. And no matter where he was, his children and his wife could be found nearby.

His involvement spanned many boundaries. He was a coach, a Boy Scout leader, a Girl Scout volunteer, an active participant at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, a Republican precinct captain.

"He did so much but whatever he did it was because it was things the kids were involved with," his wife Sue said Monday. "That's how he got into it first."

(Continued on page 15)

# Gallagher —

(Continued from page 5)

Coming up with ideas, it seems, was what Gallagher was constantly doing. On a recent vacation in Florida, Sue and Jim ran across Boy Scout parent Nancy Gruthusen and her family. Gruthusen's son, along with Jamie and Gallagher's other son Steven, were all in Troop 262.

Outside of a couple hellos, Jim immediately started talking about the Boy Scouts and merit badges, Gruthusen said. Although home and the troop were over 1,000 miles away, Gallagher was thinking about merit badges. It was vintage James Gallagher.

"He's always thinking about something to help kids advance," Gruthusen said.

**GALLAGHER'S WIFE** remembers the Florida incident well. "Things would pop in his mind and I'd sit there and go 'woa, I'm not thinking about that right now.' But he would," she said.

Sometimes while at work in the Loop, Gallagher would hook up with other people active in scouting and they'd "power lunch." They'd talk about scouts, not work.

"He managed to fit everything in somehow, I don't know how he did it. He kept track of everything, not necessarily in the most organized way of filing, but on the other hand, he always knew where it was and what he was doing for the time being," his wife said.

For being so active with the Boy Scouts, the troop gave him the annual Scouters Award last year, given to the individual who has gone "above and beyond the call of duty." With his wife, Gallagher counseled scouts on earning merit badges. Both worked with the troop's 34 members on how they could

Although he wasn't much of an athlete - he bowled in the church league - Gallagher repeatedly stole time away from his other commitments to coach some of the many teams his children played on. He had coached baseball, basketball, floor hockey and even soccer. But although his knowledge of the sport was limited, he decided to coach for his son.

"**HE DID** soccer once or twice. He didn't know much about soccer, but he figured at that age - it was Jamie's (their eldest son) first or second grade team . . . if he taught the kids how to kick the ball around the field he was doing OK," his wife said.

But while his children were the impetus for most of his involvement, once in an organization or on a board, Gallagher used his energy to work to improve things. With little fanfare, and an outwardly calm manner, Gallagher would argue, cajole, and debate. He would not, however, let differences of opinion get in the way of action.

Ed Main, another Wheeling resident active in a number of village and township activities, had worked with Gallagher for nearly a decade, both with the park district **and the village. He said the community will miss Gallagher's "ability to argue . . . and then go for coffee afterward."**

"He was a genuine public servant," Main said. "Just a guy we're going to miss."

**MAIN LAUDED GALLAGHER** for always coming up with new ideas and backing them up with the information needed to justify them. But, as an unassuming politician and community member, Gallagher "never put himself in front of an issue," Main said.

(Continued on page 22)

# Gallagher —

(Continued from page 15)  
improve their rank and receive the required merit badges.

**SOMETIMES, GALLAGHER** would invite some of the scouts to his house to help them with their badges. For a merit badge on railroading, Gallagher would use his basement railroad display to complement the scouts' education.

About two months ago, at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Prospect Heights, Gallagher orchestrated a mock blast-off for the scouts seeking their space exploration merit badge.

"He went way out of his way to make it fun and educational," Scoutmaster Dan Perkins said. At every phase of the countdown, Gallagher had the script and his players ready.

"The effort he put forth was above the call of duty," Perkins said. "He tried to put a lot of fun into things, and things that weren't fun, he tried to make fun."

**GALLAGHER THREW THE** same kind of energy into the park district. First active as a coach, he later ran for the board. He was in the middle of a four-year term when he died.

As board president for the past year, and as a board member for the past four, Gallagher, like his involvement elsewhere, only looked to improve the park district, colleagues said.

"I don't think there was a bad bone in his body," park board candidate and long-time friend Greg Klatecki said. "He always listened, he always tried to

make some changes to improve things."

"He wasn't motivated by any hidden agendas, he just tried to do as much good for as many people," board member Tony Abruscato said.

**AND EVEN WITH** the park board and their twice-monthly meetings, meeting attendants would always get a good dose of what made Jim Gallagher tick. Whether it be talking about the

**"He wasn't motivated by any hidden agendas, he just tried to do as much good for as many people."**

— Tony Abruscato  
**Park Board Member**

scouts, the upcoming Up With Wheeling cleanup day, or the many teams his children played on, the names of his children and wife would come up.

"If you attended one park meeting, you would leave knowing the names of his children," Abruscato said. Sometimes, the kids would be there, working on their citizenship badges for scouts or just waiting until their dad was finished with his meeting.

"He put his family first, and his kids," Klatecki said.

Sheila Schultz first met Gallagher when he started working for the independent party started in the 1970s



This photo of James Gallagher was taken last summer outside the St. Joan's House at Childerly Park. At the time, Gallagher had suggested transforming the house for use as a nature center. (File photo)

that would eventually put Schultz on the board as trustee and later village president. As a veteran campaign worker, Schultz saw Gallagher's drive to work for improving the village.

**BEGINNING WITH THOSE** years and later working with Gallagher

through the park district, Schultz saw the family commitment that Gallagher made a priority.

"They were just such a part of each other's lives," Schultz said. "He wanted them to experience what he was experiencing."

## Delay parks selection

With the untimely passing last week of Wheeling Park District board president James Gallagher has come a void on the board that will be difficult to fill.

And while we too mourn Gallagher's death, it will soon be time for the current park board to begin assessing when to appoint a successor to serve the remainder of Gallagher's term.

Given the present political situation that exists, the current park board members should wait until after the April election before an appointment is made.

With four new commissioners coming on after the April election, these newcomers will constitute a majority of the board, which will be expanded to seven members after the votes are counted on election day. This new majority should at least have a say in the appointment process of naming Gallagher's replacement.

With only about five weeks remaining until the election, there is no pressing need for the board to rush a decision. More important, any decision that is reached before April will no doubt raise questions about whether outgoing board members are appointing a person who reflects their views and interests.

By waiting until after the election, the park board members can make a decision based on greater representation and that will perhaps allow for greater harmony in the years ahead.

## Gallagher helped shape more than parks while in Wheeling

James Gallagher, 38, of 157 Mockingbird Lane, Wheeling, died Feb. 22.

Although no cause of death has yet been announced, Mr. Gallagher had been fighting a cold when he died.

Mr. Gallagher was the president of the Wheeling park board and an active member of many civic and church organizations. Among his affiliations, Mr. Gallagher was a precinct captain for the Wheeling Township Republican organization, an awards counselor for Boy Scout Troop 262, an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Prospect Heights, an assistant leader along with his wife of the Girl Scouts and a coach in the Wheeling Park District.

Mr. Gallagher was a computer systems analyst for Amoco in downtown Chicago.

**MR. GALLAGHER IS** survived by his wife, Sue, sons James, 14, and Steven, 11, and daughter Kristina, 8.

Mr. Gallagher was born in Berwyn and grew up in La Grange. He graduated from Lyons Township High School and later received degrees from the College of Du Page and Illinois Institute of Tech-

nology in computers. He was currently working on a master's degree at DePaul University.

Mr. Gallagher, at age 21, ran for state representative in Du Page County, but was defeated in the Republican primary. He would later work for several Republican organizations and later became involved in Wheeling village politics, working for the Wheeling Independent Party in the 1970s.

In 1973, he married the former Susan Stanton. They had met while both worked for Kraft Inc. in Glenview. After living in Morton Grove for a short time, they moved to Wheeling.

**FOLLOWING A SATURDAY** morning ceremony at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Mr. Gallagher was buried in Randhill Park in Arlington Heights.

In order to replace the post left vacant by Mr. Gallagher, the Wheeling park board will appoint someone to fill the remaining two years of his seat, park district Director Karop Bavouugian said. Commissioners have not said whether that appointment will come before or after the April 4 elections that will put four new commissioners on the board.

## **COMMENTARY**

### **Recalling a true public servant**

(Editor's note: In the uncomfortable moments following the sudden passing last week of Wheeling Park District board president James Gallagher, many recalled stories of his commitment and deep love for his community and his family. At the *Countryside*, we too felt a sense of loss and our staff members who worked with Mr. Gallagher recalled their special feelings for him.)

#### **The first big press conference**

I had been working in community journalism for more than three years, but it wasn't until my first Jim Gallagher press conference that I began to understand the nature of the business.

One of my first assignments after taking over the Wheeling beat was to attend a press conference Gallagher had organized. Perplexed about the nature of the meeting, I called Gallagher for a primer. His somewhat cryptic response left me wondering what type of information he had to divulge.

I arrived at the meeting place, Grandma Sally's restaurant on Elmhurst Road, to find the bespectacled Gallagher holding court with two reporters from competing papers. Seated next to Gallagher was a young boy.

Quickly introducing me to his son and the others at the table, Gallagher asked the youngster to hand out the press releases. Scanning the computer type for the story, I remember feeling let down, almost cheated. Gallagher was announcing plans to run again for the park board.

"This is it?", I thought to myself. The election was more than four months off, an election that turned out to be uncontested.

In the ensuing months on the beat I realized what I missed at that press conference because I was too busy looking for something that wasn't there.

Jim wasn't the kind of guy to call the media together to chide an individual or group. He was too busy trying to get his points across about what he wanted to do and how he wanted to do it.

And no matter what points he had to make or what public responsibilities he assumed, they would never override his commitment to his family. They were as much a part of his public life as they were of his private life.

I don't know of many people I could say the same about, in or out of public service.

— By Bob Kehoe

#### **A vision that will be missed**

There's no question that being a member of a public board — whether it's a village board, school board or park board — is a thankless job.

It's a task that involves spending a lot of free time going over budgets, reports and other documents to prepare for the business of running a government. The only time board members typically hear from residents is when they show up at meetings to complain. And the pay — in most cases — is nonexistent.

The rewards one receives once elected to a board are few. But Jim Gallagher never asked for any rewards or recognition for being a park commissioner. As far as he was concerned, being able to contribute to the community by serving on the Wheeling park board was reward enough.

Gallagher's dedication to his job was evidenced by the fact that he rarely missed a park board meeting. He even scheduled family vacations around the meetings so the trips wouldn't conflict with his duties as park commissioner.

But Gallagher did more than just preside over meetings and work on resolving problems that came before the board. He also had a vision for the future of the park district — something that won't be easily replaced.

While other commissioners were feuding with the historical society or bickering with the district's citizens' advisory committee, Gallagher was coming up with ideas on how to better serve the recreation needs of the community. In fact, Gallagher deliberately strayed away from the sniping and backbiting that characterized park board meetings.

Someone else will no doubt be able to take his seat on the park board, but Gallagher had a special love for the community — and for the Wheeling Park District — that will never be duplicated.

— Mark Maley

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 1989 at 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room (north end of building, upstairs) of the Chevy Chase Club House.

I. Call to order

II. Agenda-Additions/Deletions/  
Corrections

III. Approval of the Minutes of  
February 8, 1989.

IV. Old Business:

I. Subcommittee Verbal Report

- a. Leisure Service Subcommittee
- b. Survey Update
- c. Open Space- Fort Sheridan

V. New Business:

1. Other

- a.
- b.
- c.

VI. Adjournment

NOTE: Please notify Ruth 537-2105 or Patti 537-1450 if you cannot be in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD FEBRUARY 8, 1989

The regular meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee was held on February 8, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Wieder. Members present were: Alice Wargo, Marge Hartmann, Ruth Wieder, Frank Wojek, Virginia Metzger, Bobby Silverstein, Daniel Conrad, Barb Dittman and Pat Hancock. Absent: Ida Hein, Pat Walsdorf, Alberta Klocke and Park Manager, Karop Bavougin. Those absent had previously notified the committee. Also present was: Ed Klocke, Liaison to the Board. Ruth advised Pat Hanley advised he would be a little late due to a change in his schedule.

Guests: Kenneth Kostrzewski, Park Candidate and Trish Lichtenstein, Reporter, Wheeling Herald. Ruth welcomed the guests present to the meeting.

AGENDA-Additions/Deletions/Corrections

The agenda was submitted for acceptance. Chairperson Wieder requested to place as item 2, under new business: Fort Sheridan Hearing. The agenda was accepted as amended.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of January 11, 1989 were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Marge Hartmann to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of Recommendation on Survey to the Board-Pat Hanley

Ruth stated thi6 item will be discussed later in the meeting when Pat Hanley is present.

2. Subcommitte Verbal Report

a. Open/Space/Public Relations- Barb Dittman

Barb Dittmann, subcommittee chairman updated the committee of the meeting held on January 31, with the Village Planner, Assistant Planner, John Piazza and members of the subcommittee.

Barb stated she felt it was a very productive and congenial meeting. We as a subcommittee had many questions we wanted answered and it seems the only ones who could give us the answers were Village Planner Bob Sullivan and his Assistant, Chris Washburn.

She advised Mr. Sullivan brought two maps and some pictures showing the park designated areas to give the subcommittee an insight to the specific areas he was talking about. He also stated what the basics should be in considering open space and what would be a good buffer area, the natural features of certain locations, etc. Barb felt it was very interesting to hear his opinion and the village's ideas on the different locations.

Frank Wojek questioned when the map was updated and Ruth advised it was a fairly new map (1988) and has not yet been presented to the village.

Also discussed was a bike path which is a part of the village's plan that would run through the village and parks and connect to other villages which is part of a larger plan that would run throughout the northwest area. It was assumed that the path would be maintained by the village except where located on park land.

Pocket Parks were discussed and it was agreed these were very beneficial to the community as a whole. Although these are made and maintained by the village, it was agreed by the subcommittee to let them know pocket parks are a necessary enhancement and we would like to see them throughout the village.

Barb advised there was discussion about the railroad station possibility and how Milwaukee and Dundee would hopefully be the central focal point of the village. The planner noted in a report received by NIPC, by the year 2010 the projected population would be 40,000. Barb felt this information is important to the subcommittee because we are looking at the future and not just the immediate needs.

Virginia Metzger questioned if the park was planning to purchase anymore land?

Ruth advised it is not known how and if any monies are available. She stated open space is a topic that is on everyone's mind these days, no matter where you seem to be because everywhere it is building and growing so rapidly, that open space is disappearing so fast and unless agencies do what they can to purchase land, it will be gone.

3.

Mr. Sullivan explained how they use a rating system which is based on a point system, to prioritize the different open space locations and stated he would sent the subcommittee a copy.

Barb again stated she felt the meeting was very productive and many of the questions were answered which gives us a better idea of what to work for.

Ruth stated she did not know how the Board of Commissioners felt about open space, but one of the things that we have been charged with is the responsibility of coming up with a recommendation to them so whatever comes from the subcommittee as a recommendation will go to the Advisory Committee and then to the Board with a request/recommendation from the committee as a whole. Discussion ensued.

Barb advised the committee, as it was explained by Bob and John, that if there is open space and a developer comes in with his plans and everything is in order, the park district has one year to the date, to either purchase the land or relinquish it.

Discussion ensued regarding the various parcels designated as open space. It was felt that Bob and Chris were very encouraging on the future of the village.

After covering the report on open space as it was presented by the planners, Ruth stated an open invitation has been extended to them and perhaps in a month or so, they come back to the entire committee to bring everyone up to date. The subcommittee has been exposed to the preliminary plan and hopefully before we as an advisory group make a final report to the Board, the planners will meet again with the group.

She went on to say what the committee has wanted for a long time to occur for some of our projects to come about, is better cooperation on the village level and that is exactly what we are seeing. The approach is there and their co-operation is there, and she felt it is a just a matter of time before all these things mesh together. She noted it's important for us to keep open attitudes and positive minds with what we do and try to blend with what the village is doing.

## 4.

### b. Report of Recommendation on Survey to the Board

Chairperson Pat Hanley who had taken his chair at 7:54 p.m., was requested to update the committee regarding the report on the survey he presented to the Board at their last meeting. He stated he did not think that any action has been taken since then. He reported the Park Manager advised at that meeting, there was \$15,000 placed in the budget for this purpose.

It was Ruth's feelings that the one point we want to be sure is made to the Board with the data that is compiled by the committee, is that it is not so important how much money is spent on the survey, but who is going to do it, how will it be done and as there are different avenues that can be taken. Pat Hanley then reiterated on his report to the Board and explained the difference between hiring out or doing an inside survey along with the recommendation that was presented.

It was advised some of the budget will be reviewed at the next Board meeting. Ruth stated as Pat did, one of the points that was felt important, was co-operation between the park district and perhaps Harper College or another local university that might want to undertake this survey, which is certainly not going to be free, we would be paying minimum costs but they could be using some monies as training tools, etc. Ruth advised it should not necessarily cost \$15,000. The recommendation has been made and rightfully now it is up to the Board process to take it from there, while each of us as taxpayers have a responsibility to the community, to keep abreast on the financial cost and progress.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Review of Membership Status

Ruth advised there are four members with terms expiring in April and with the existing two openings, there is a total of six openings altogether. She requested the members with terms expiring, to give some thought to the option to stay on for an additional three year term. She advised the members are Alberta Klocke, Marge Hartmann, Alice Wargo and Pat Hancock. It was her hope all members would remain on the committee, since they have background on what has been done and how the

committee functions. She would like to know of their decision so an effort can be made through the media to fill the vacancies. She also noted if any member knows of anyone who wishes to become a member, an application could be sent out and they would be presented to the Board and become a member of the Advisory Committee when the new year begins in May.

2. Fort Sheridan Hearing- Ruth Wieder

Ruth advised she and Park Manager Bavougian were in attendance at a the meeting of Monday, January 13th regarding the Fort Sheridan Hearing. Because of the inclement weather, they arrived an hour late and missed some of the preliminary background that she felt was very necessary since she was going through the learning process for the first time. For information for those interested, she explained Fort Sheridan is run under the Department of Defense and is on the Commission list to close some of the bases around the country. The Commission's responsibility has been charged with making up this list that Congress can either accept or reject the entire list. They cannot take anything out, it must be all or nothing. At this point the GAO is putting together a financial study that will be ready March 1st, and until that report comes out and figures become available, not much can be done as far as cost analysis, because that was one of the big things she found to be in listening to some of the people speaking at the hearing. Nobody really knows what kind of a savings this is going to be, there have been figures mentioned, but until the study is complete, there's no comparison or etc.

The whole position at the moment seems to be while Congressman Porter and others want to fight very strongly to keep the base open, the hearings are now just to give them a direction in the event that there is no way to stall this and it goes on to be closed, at least they have had some preparation in the manner which this will take place. If the fort is to be closed, all army personnel and equipment will be transferred to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. She felt this is strange because if that's the case, there are some barracks there that have never been used, a new communication center which cost approximately 2.5 million dollars that has to be relocated. She noted if this happens, schools will be closed in that area because of the children that will

6.

be taken out, the personnel and everything else leaving from that area, being relocated to Benjamin Harrison in Indiana and they will have to build new schools, homes and other facilities to accommodate them, so it was her feelings that there is a cost savings.

Ruth stated the process this will take is, since it is run under the Department of Defense, and as soon as that department says it no longer has anything to do with Fort. Sheridan and it will be closed, it goes on to the federal agencies. Any federal agency such as prisons, HUD, could step forward and claim it. If it must be closed, Ruth's personal position would be that it become a national park since in Illinois we do not have a national park. She stated it seems to her that for the size of Illinois and for all the monies that go out of Illinois, we should have something in a national park. All we have is Shawnee National Forest and Lincoln's home in Springfield which is run by the National Park Service. If it is to become a national park, as soon as the Department of Defense announces its clear, then the Department of Interior must rapidly claim it and it could go on to become a national park.

Another point of interest is that it covers 690 acres and there is approximately 206 acres of historical buildings and landmarks. Whether they stay or go depends on certain Illinois laws. Under the McKinley Act is where HUD also could claim the buildings and asked that they be set aside and used by the homeless.

Ruth advised the next hearing will be February 25th at Highland Park High School and will be an all day affair. If anyone would like to go and hear what transpires, to let her know. Discussion ensued and Ruth noted certainly people go to Florida in the winter time and other areas around the country and if some of these states were to do what towns are permitted to do along Lake Michigan, you would never see an ocean from coast to coast and the saddest thing that is occurring with Lake Michigan is the closing off it so there is no public access.

Ruth again welcomed Trish Lichtenstein, reporter for the Herald and Ken Kostrzewski, park candidate to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in attending.

7.

Ruth thanked Patti for the name tags and requested members upon leaving the meeting, to return them to Patti.

Ruth requested CoChair Pat Hanley to take next months meeting as she does not know if she will be in town. Pat accepted.

She also noted the Advisory Committee has not heard from the entire Leisure Service Subcommittee and requested that they meet with Leisure Service Superintendent Biondo for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Barb Dittman to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Carried by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

predicted that the district could grow to as much as 400 or 500 acres in the next 10 years.

The Wheeling Park District, serving about 30,000 residents, is eight years the senior of Buffalo Grove's. But it, too, is "changing all the time," says Park District Manager Karop Bavougian.

The district encompasses about 250 acres, with the Chevy Chase Golf Course and clubhouse making up half of that area, said Bavougian.

The 66-acre Heritage Park was the district's first site, developed in 1964. "Before that we didn't have much of anything," said Bavougian. An indoor pool was constructed in 1969, and is attached to Wheeling High School.

"The school uses it for physical education and we use it on weekends and in the evenings," he said.

A 1977 referendum paved the way for the district to acquire the Chevy Chase Golf Club House, 1000 Milwaukee Ave. The park includes an 18-hole course and banquet facilities inside the clubhouse.

Age of equipment is one problem facing the district, conceded Bavougian, since it "has reached a point where it's time to upgrade facilities."

The future of the district, said Bavougian, will involve "redeveloping a lot of our excellent facilities."

Along with facility and equipment improvement, Wheeling "has to look at [acquiring property for future parks] because land is becoming a scarce commodity."

Bavougian said the difference between his district and that of Buffalo Grove is that the neighboring district is "much newer" and developed in an era when money was more available.

But like Buffalo Grove, Wheeling is placing a strong emphasis on programming.

"We run between 80 and 130 programs per season," said Arnie Biondo, superintendent



Photo by Timothy Boyle

### **Buffalo Grove Parks Director Michael Rylko studies plans for the new Willow Stream Park.**

of recreation. "Last year we increased the number of programs being offered by 60 percent."

Biondo said the district's programs range from those for preschoolers to seniors. This year's increase, which included more programs being added for adults, was aimed at "better serving the needs of the residents," said Biondo.

The district, he said, tries to have neither "pie in the sky" ideas nor be "extremely passive."

Where the district needs to be active, said Biondo, is in land acquisition, development and "increased marketing efforts."

"I think we're at a point now where we've just about covered all the [feasible] possibilities," he said.

Biondo gave the district a "B" for its programming efforts, marking improvement from "a low 'C' a year and a half ago. We've made the necessary increases in quantity, now we need to make improvements in quality.

"Talk to me a year from now and hopefully we'll be doing 'A' work."



Karop Bavougian

Illustration by Sara and Michael Carlson

### **On the cover**

**Clockwise from top left: Palwaukee Airport, the water tower, a new housing development, St. Mary's steeple and the new Town Center.**

# Park board candidate leaves race

**• 4/g7**

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling Park District board candidate has pulled his name from the running, helping narrow down the list of challengers for the heavily-contested board race.

Leonard Renquin, one of the less vocal park board candidates, cites his "civilian and military obligations" as his reasons for dropping out of the race.

He was one of six board hopefuls who filed nominating petitions simultaneously on the first day papers were accepted. One more candidate filed 30 minutes later to fill one of four four-year terms on the park board.

After a lottery was held to determine the order of names appearing on the April 4 ballot, Renquin's number came up sixth. He would have been followed by Francine Melamed, who now moves up to the sixth spot

on the ballot.

Renquin informed park district director Karop Bavoogian via a letter of his decision to withdraw from the race on Wednesday night, the last day to file for an amendment to the original nominating petitions. Renquin could not be reached for comment.

In the letter, Renquin said that he "could not devote the effective time necessary to fulfill the obligations of a Wheeling park commissioner."

Those still vying for a seat on the board are Chuck Briles, Ken Koszrewski, Dennis Drake, Greg Klatecki, Tom Webber and Melamed.

Two of the seats currently are held by board members who are not seeking re-election — Anthony Abruscato and Julia Robberson. The other two openings were added in 1987 based on a recommendation by the board-appointed citizen's advisory group.

# New parks budget paves way for change

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

## plan

That study, Bavoogian said, would detail park district assets and provide the district with the basis for making decisions on resource allocation. He said the park district may hire a landscape architect to suggest improvements for the district's 250 acres of parks.

Well-heeled party-goers attending events at the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse may no longer have to slog through mud and dust as they leave their cars for reveling.

A new parking lot for the golf course and banquet hall is on the list of slated improvements proposed for the Wheeling Park District this year, according to a preliminary budget released last week.

After years of talking about paving the parking lot with asphalt, the district's administration has proposed paying for part of the work out of operating revenues, while the remainder of the expected \$300,000 cost would be financed, park district Manager Karop Bavoulian said.

All financing decisions would be made by the park board, he said. Bavougin, in conjunction with requests from department heads, drafted the budget.

**"I THINK** that the parking lot makes a large statement for the district and this facility and it's a shambles," Bavougin said. While board members have had the budget for more than a week, he said none had yet questioned the addition of the parking lot.

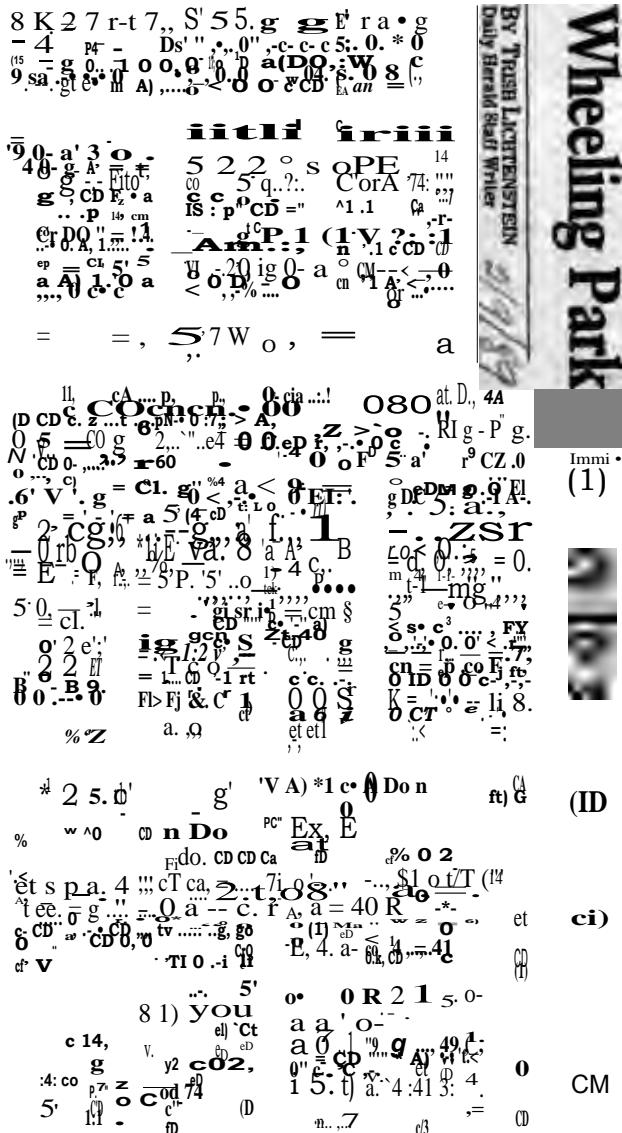
Also included in the proposed budget, which board members will discuss at their February and March meetings, are provisions for an in-depth survey of park district residents and for the completion of a park district master

"IF ONE of the concerns is that our park sites are lacking, then you have to go ahead and do something to put them (in better condition)," Bavougian said.

Park district officials, board members and members of an advisory committee have all discussed conducting a survey of district residents. After debating several different types of surveys, the advisory committee recommended the board hire an outside group to develop, distribute and analyze the data.

Also included in the proposed budget is money for purchasing 15 additional park benches and 15 picnic tables. No specific park sites have been slated to get the benches and tables, Bavougian said.

While the park district budget reflects several areas of capital improvements, the district budget also jumped between 5 and 6 percent in salary and wage costs for the district's 42 employees.



# Officials study possible sites for parks

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN P1 • 2  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although open land in Wheeling is sparse, park district officials want to identify the areas that should be used for parks.

Working with village planners, the park district advisory board's open space subcommittee is studying about a dozen undeveloped sites to determine which would be suitable for future parks.

Only about 15 percent of general open space left in the village, most of which is near creeks or industrially zoned areas, Village Planner Bob Sullivan said. The group is studying which areas are wetlands, which are buildable and which would serve as appropriate

buffers to parks.

The advisory committee expects to make a recommendation on open space to the park district board after the April 4 election.

"Open space is a topic that's on everybody's mind these days no matter where you are," committee co-chairwoman Ruth Wieder said.

The committee's recommendation will be used by the board only as a future advisory tool since there currently is no money set aside in the park district for acquiring open space.

Subcommittee member Barb Dittman said the group will narrow down the list of open space sites to about four and visit them. Then the areas will be rated "in hopes that the park district would

purchase and develop" the land, she said.

Some of the areas being considered by the committee and village include parcels along Buffalo Creek, where a bike path is being proposed, and a piece of land on McHenry road on the east side of Lexington Commons.

The open space issue is especially important to the park district, Dittman said, because Wheeling's current population of 28,000 is expected to boom to about 40,000 residents by the year 2010.

"That's a lot of people to provide park district things for," Dittman said. "We have to project into the future so that the park district runs on an even keel."

## FENCE POST

### letters to the editor

Letters must be signed and include address and telephone number; none will be published anonymously. Letters are subject to editing; a maximum length of 300 words is recommended. Send letters to: Fence post, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.

### Was merger needed?

A recent article in the Daily Herald Neighbor section announced the merger of the Wheeling Park District travel soccer program with a private organization. I do not dispute the merger, the organization that travel soccer program is joining is established and respected in the Northwest suburbs. This, perhaps, will benefit both organizations.

What does bother me, however, is

the inaccurate statements made in the article concerning the current program. My problem lies with a memo concerning this merger from Arnie Biondo, superintendent, Leisure Services, concerning the benefits. Biondo states that benefits such as skill clinics, established by laws, player selection systems and licensed coaches would be realized and "in the years it has existed, the park district program has lacked all of these."

In fact, these benefits were in place with the Wheeling program. In previous years park district staff members John Muno and Brian Smith spent several days, hours and evenings with parents establishing such guidelines. Just this past year, through the help of the parents organization, a skill clinic was offered for all players, run by a professional soccer organization.

It is unfortunate that the Wheeling

Park District believes that the hard work of these myriad people did not exist. Again, while the merger presents no problem and benefits both sides, it upsets me that the park district did not even know what kind of a program they had or what was going on. Were the programs merged just eliminate a program park district officials aren't interested in?

Gary Dobbe  
Wheeling

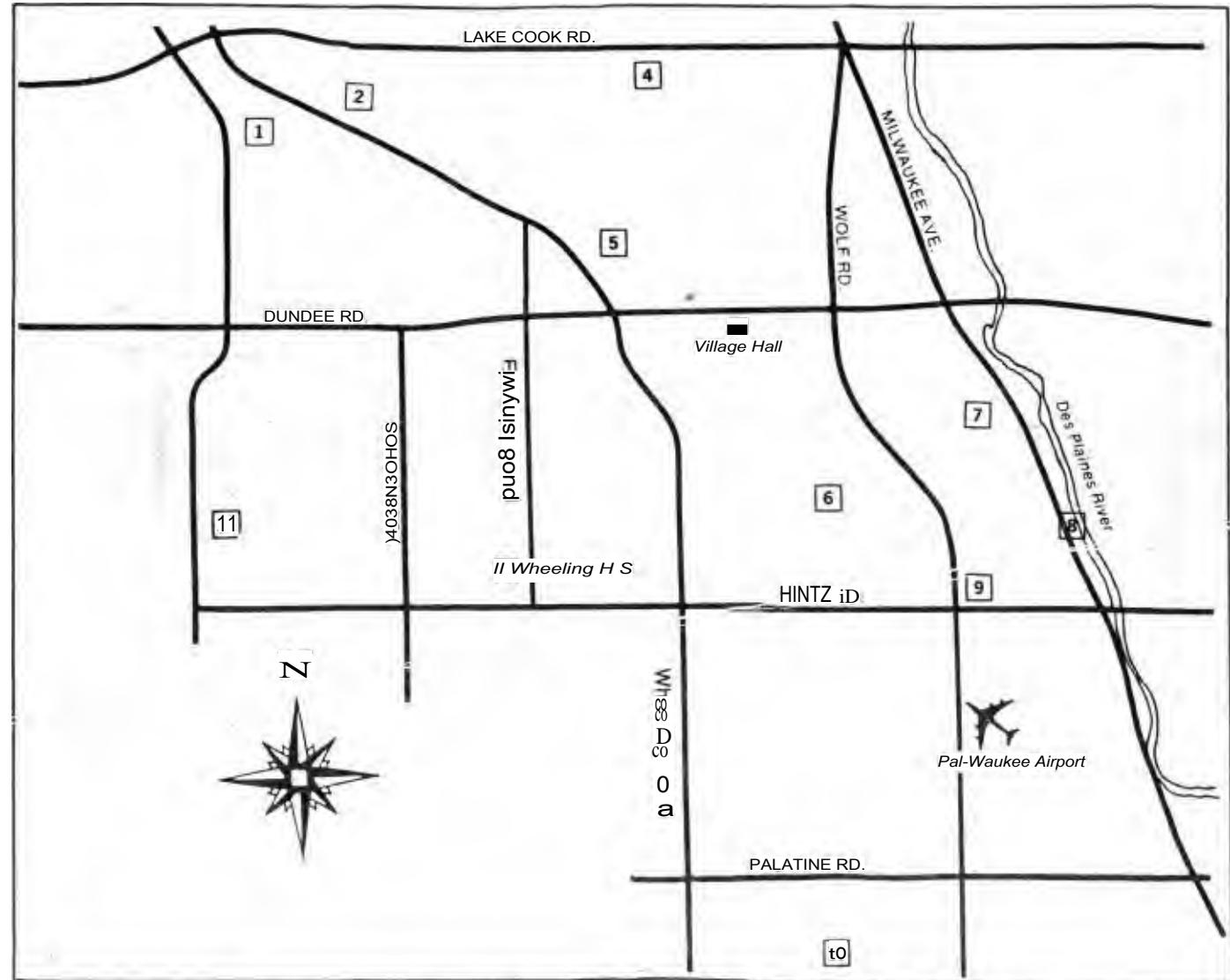
# A look at sites under review for acquisition

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

**1** Buffalo Creek south of Aptakisic Road is one of the three linear, creekside parks suggested by the village, this parcel runs along the Buffalo Grove Creek, south of Aptakisic Road. It is considered attractive because of its natural habitat, wetlands and scenery. The village proposal also includes a *bike* path through this parcel. Like the other creekside parks, the narrow strip of land surrounding it cannot be built upon, making it and the others relatively inexpensive to purchase.

**2** Site two on McHenry Road, next to Lexington, is one of the most attractive sites mentioned, Sullivan said, not because of its beauty, but because of its proximity to many residents not now served by a park. Residents of Lexington Commons must cross McHenry Road and go down to Childerley Park, more than three-quarters of a mile away, Sullivan said. Assistant Village Planner Chris Washburn said the village has received many letters from residents in the area who have requested this site be set aside and operated as a park.

This site is north of McHenry Road, west of Wisconsin Central Railway tracks. Just north of Kingsport Corn mons, the vacant parcel identified here is the largest of all those proposed. Among its benefits, the village has said is the site's scenic value, its accessibility  
*(Continued on page 23)*



This map details 11 sites under consideration for acquisition. For a description on each site, see the corresponding number in the story.

# An open invitation

## Officials eye options on saving park space

*Vacant land in Wheeling may be in scarce supply, but local officials are examining what can be done to assure that the village's few remaining open areas are preserved. This week the Countryside examines the efforts being coordinated by the village and the Wheeling Park District and what sites are under review.*

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

For years, Wheeling residents have complained that there isn't enough park space in the village. Residents have urged that the vacant parcels near them be turned into ballfields, picnic areas or passive parks.

Now, it appears a cooperative effort between the park district and the village could lead to the acquisition of some new park sites. The village has generated a list that identifies 11 sites in the village for potential park expansion.

Members of a park district advisory committee have already been briefed on the village land study and the park board is expected to study that list.

Whether any of the sites are purchased, however, depends on if the park district or the village can find funding for land acquisition.

The recent efforts respond to concerns raised since 1982, when many residents living along McHenry Road, south of Lake-Cook Road, complained that there was little open space available for them and their children.

**THEY REPEATEDLY TOLD** the village that the more than 4,000 residents in the area was the largest population in the village not serviced by a park. They said the nearest park, Childerley Park, did not offer enough active recreation area and was too far away for children to travel.

"The children of my complex, Colonial Townhomes, have nowhere to play except the parking lot," resident Anne Olson wrote in 1982 to then-plan commission chairman Tony Altieri. Altieri is now a village trustee.

Olson, like many others, asked the village to designate nearby parcels as park space. That designation would give the park district the option of buying the parcels in case a developer wanted to build upon them.

Don Kirchenberg, then president of the **Cedar Run homeowners** association, asked the village in several letters throughout 1982 to add **the park**

designations. His letters, on behalf of the association, urge the village to "do everything it can to designate, purchase and develop active recreation sites along McHenry Road."

**ALTHOUGH ALL THE** sites Olson and Kirchenberg identified were not designated as parks, two of them were. After more than 15 hearings and meetings on the comprehensive plan, trustees approved a version recommended by the plan commission.

In 1985, the village board updated the plan, which designates land use in the village, and included two areas near Cedar Run, Lexington Commons, Kingsport Commons, Colonial Townhomes and Chelsea Cove as park sites, one at 745 N. McHenry Road (site 2 on map), and another along the Wisconsin Central Railway line, just north of Kingsport Commons (site 3 on the map).

But village planners have identified another nine sites in the village that could also be acquired for park use.

**Park District Manager Karop** Bavoulian, in echoing the comments of several members of the district advisory committee, said the district must look at open space because of its scarcity. With the village filling in and its borders locked, there will be little the park district can do in the future if

the land is developed now, Bavoulian said.

**TO THOSE WHO** complain the park district isn't maintaining its current facilities and shouldn't acquire more land, Bavoulian the park district may have to "land bank" vacant space for future development.

"I do know it's (open space) a dwindling resource," Bavoulian said, "and when it's gone, there is no more."

The most current study began after new Village Planner Bob Sullivan noticed the apparent lack of park space in the village. While a federal park standard calls for one acre of park space for every 100 residents, Wheeling's 29,000 people rely on just 240 acres in the park district, of which 125 are on the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse.

With the village projected to peak at 38,000 in population, the village and park district should look at additional park space, Sullivan said, for both current and future residents.

In studying the Wheeling sites, the park district and the village will have to decide which parks are the most attractive, most affordable and most functional.

Below is a list of the sites and a map indicating their location in the village.

## Sites —

(Continued from page 16)

ty to many residents currently not served by a park, the fact that it could be tied into the proposed bike path network, and that it is a declared wetland. It would serve as a buffer between the existing high-tension wires, industrial park and the neighboring residential area. But Sullivan said a developer is now eyeing the property for continued development.

4

This site is located at Johnson Lake, south of Lake-Cook Road. With the acquisition of the land surrounding this man-made lake, the park district may be able to offer limited boating, while potentially creating a nature area on the site. A bike path is suggested to be tied into the park and the diversionary channel the village is planning. The channel will take overflow water from the Wheeling Drainage Ditch at Northgate Parkway, just north of Dundee Road, to the Des Plaines River near Lake-Cook Road.

5

This site includes a retention lake behind the Lynn Plaza shopping center at Dundee Road and McHenry Road. This retention area and surrounding land, already used by trespassers as a fishing hole, could be developed into the same use for all park district residents. Sullivan suggested it could also be attached with the network of bike paths. The site was also considered attractive because it is very visible and includes natural areas that could be set aside as a passive recreation.

6

A meadow area along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch behind the Foxboro apartments, this site is another one of the linear parks. Straddling the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, this park site could connect with an existing lot to the north, Sullivan said. It is labeled a natural area with a meadow geography.

7

This large, vacant parcel is now a play site to the east of Whitman School and is maintained - but not owned - by Community Consolidated District 21. It is now primarily used by students. It also is in a very dense residential area and is designated as a park area in the village's comprehensive plan.

8

This site is east of Milwaukee Avenue, south of a trailer home park. One of Sullivan's own ideas includes looking at the land along the Des Plaines River, south of Manchester and looking to develop a portion of it into a more attractive entrance into the village. Now occupied by an abandoned gas station, a used car dealer and a body shop, the land is not "the correct use of a riverfront," Sullivan said. If acquired, Sullivan said the property could be tied into the existing Cook County Forest Preserve across the river.

9

This site is located near the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads. When this intersection is moved to make room for a larger clear zone at the north end of Palwaukee Airport's longest runway, village planners say this site could tie in with the proposed bike path network. Given the site's high profile, Sullivan said it would contribute to the

(Continued on next page)

## Sites —

(Continued from previous page)

image of the park district.

10

This site sits along McDonald Creek in the far southern portion of the village. The only site to not carry a park designation on the village comprehensive plan, this site is the third suggested creekside linear park.



This site is located in the Mallard Lake Apartment complex, off Old Buffalo Grove Road. The suggested site is near a dense residential area that needs a park site, Sullivan said. Its access to potential users and its visibility make it an attractive site, he said.



# Pool negotiations may be costly

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Upcoming negotiations over Wheeling's only indoor pool could decide who pays for its operation and if it will continue to serve Wheeling Park District residents.

Park district officials say the current financial agreement with High School District 214, if continued, could make Neptune's Pool a "financial liability." They add that in a worst-case scenario the park district will have to evaluate whether it can afford to operate the facility located at Wheeling High School.

The negotiations could determine whether the park district will pay up to \$50,000 more a year in pool operation costs. That is money the park district says it does not now have in its budget.

Under the initial agreement, signed in November, 1969, the school district agreed to pay off a portion of the debt incurred with the pool's construction. But after the park district refinanced the **pool and other capital** improvements, the park district began to channel the school district's bond payment into the pool's operation budget.

**IN FISCAL YEAR** 1988, the park district spent nearly \$12,000 to operate the pool. Park District Manager Karop Bavougian said that in 1990, without the school district's \$34,000 bond payment, the pool could cost the district between \$45,000 and \$60,000 to run.

Bavougian said the park district must decide to what degree the park district will be able to underwrite pool costs.

The school board has told the park district that it will take its option and extend the pool agreement for another 20 years. When drafting a

counter-offer, Bavougian and Gallagher said the park district may have to ask for a larger contribution from the school district.

Although the school district is not obligated to renegotiate terms of the agreement, District 214 Assistant Supt. for Business Jack Swanson said the school district would listen to any proposals.

"**WE'RE WILLING** to look at anything that will reduce costs and improve services," Swanson said.

Because students and athletes at Wheeling High School use the pool, the

***"Unless we come up with a different way of handling the cost, the pool becomes somewhat of a liability."***

— James Gallagher  
**Wheeling Park Board President**

school district now pays about 55 percent of the pool's maintenance cost, and through 1989, a portion of the original construction cost.

But the school district will make its last bond payment this year on the pool facility. When that happens, the park district says that "lost" revenue will leave it in a financial lurch.

For the past several years, that money has been diverted to help cover the cost of operating the pool, rather than going toward bond payments. Park board president James Gallagher said that "unless we come up with a different way of handling the cost, the pool becomes somewhat of a liability."

**BUT, GALLAGHER SAID,** "I've talked to Dr. (Tom) Shirley (Wheeling High School principal) and we're

committed to keeping the pool open."

Now that the school district has indicated it wants to retain the current pay schedule for the next 20 years, the park **district must make a** counter-offer, Bavougian said. He said the district's offer may be based upon the "equity of use" between the park district and the school district.

"So there may be some parameters that may or may not be available," Bavougian said. "If not, we have to make a decision whether or not to operate the pool."

Swanson said the school district will look to keep the current contract if the

two sides cannot reach a compromise agreement.

"**WE HAVE** a contract with the park district to run the pool for 20 more years and for us to use it," Swanson said. "We would expect them to honor that agreement (**unless there is a** compromise)."

"Right now we're looking for them to make a proposal to us," Swanson said. "The fact that they've used the bond money to fund operations is their problem, not ours. But we're willing to look at whatever they propose."

Besides the final \$34,000 bond payment the school district is expected to make in 1989, the district is also expected to contribute another \$80,000 in operating reimbursement.

Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee  
Open Space Subcommittee  
January 31, 1989  
6:30 p.m. Devonshire Rm.

Members in Attendance: Barb Dittman, Subcommittee Chairman  
Ruth Wieder, Committee Chairman  
Pat Hanley, Committee Co-Chairman  
Bobby Silverstein, Pat Walsdorf

Staff: John Piazza

Guests: Bob Sullivan, Village Planner  
Chris Washburn, Asst. Village Planner  
Mike Wilkinson, Reporter Countryside Reminder

Barb Dittman, Subcommittee Chairman, thanked Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Washburn for attending the meeting and stated she hoped many of the questions discussed at the subcommittee's meeting would be answered and clarified.

She stated the date of the last Comprehensive Master Plan map which the committee looked at was done in 1985 and questioned if there was an updated version? She also stated one of the questions was, what open space has been designated as park district to date and still available? Mr. Sullivan noted the map shown was the existing one plus anything and whatever else the village is thinking of. He also noted the sites that are still designated on the map but so far have not been declared by the park district.

Mr. Sullivan suggested to establish some parameters by which to evaluate each property so they can be compared on a equal basis and maybe prioritized. He suggested going through the list, site by site, and advised the map presented included each site that the village is proposing as potential park sites and open space development as well as a proposed bike path.

He also indicated the preservation of natural features are an important factor they are looking at such as a lake or creek, wet lands, prairie land, wooded areas, etc. The flood plain has also been taken into consideration.

Mike Wilkinson of Countryside Reminder arrived and Mr. Sullivan reiterated what was being discussed and stated we were just going through the parameters that we established by which we can compare potential park sites and following that, we are going to discuss each site that has been designated as a possibility for park and open space.

2.

He noted that there had been discussion to parameters and proximity of users to existing parks, preservation of natural features, scenic value and flood plain.

He advised the map being used shows both the bicycle paths being considered and open space and also stated nothing has been approved as this is only preliminary and is being reviewed and discussed.

He advised the next parameters are recreation opportunities and what can it do? Can it give us a recreational lake, playing fields, a bike trail path, etc? All of these things are to be considered. Along with that is a good part of a larger network, its part of a linier green space that we might have along Buffalo Creek or McDonald Creek where there is a part of a bike path which we will try to connect.

Another thing that the village considers is enhancement. If its on a very visible street or corner and its got something nice that we can upgrade, we would like to see that become so.

Ruth stated that is similar to "pocket parks" which was discussed by the sub-committee and felt that was very important to have as many as those that can be had, certainly visible to everybody and usable to all especially senior citizens. John noted the one park maintained by the village at Dundee and Milwaukee Avenue and stated that pocket parks are generally found in the center of town.

Barb advised discussion had ensued of perhaps a pocket park at the corner of Dundee and #83. Chris noted that was another designation the village has. Mr. Sullivan advised negotiations are going on now with K-Mart as they have been told some updating must be done. He advised they have agreed in principle so far. Ruth noted the more people that are aware, could probably help that cause along.

Mr. Sullivan stated in the capital improvement plans along the southwest corner where the transmission wires are, is a plan for screening on that corner. Ruth felt that is really great because more and more we find people are walking, and there should be a places to rest along the way.

Pat Walsdorf advised of signage on the bike path through Lexington which states "Do 10 pushups here." John stated

3.

those are "exercise stations" and studies have proven that they are not utilized by those biking or jogging. Mr. Sullivan indicated excercise stations could be placed throughout a park area.

Pat Walsdorf stated at one time there was talk about a bike path along the river as part of the forest preserve and questioned if this were true? Mr. Sullivan advised he had called to find out what the status was and was told they don't really have anything designated, however, they said they were interested and if the village was really interested and pushed for it, they could put it in some kind of plan and shoot for it, so that is what the village is going to try to do possibly with help from other towns.

Mr. Sullivan advised the next parameter is the designation of the comprehensive plan. He noted if its designated, it a big plus.

He also stated next item is the general recreation needs of the residents. He advised the village has received a chart from the park district that indicates what's at each park and he feels the park district knows more than the village as to what is missing and would be better to shoot for.

He stated also that cost has been added. If its something we can just use with an easement, or if there's development going on, the land can just be donated or they can give us an easement or lease for \$1.00/99 years.

His last parameter was the likelyhood of losing a site. If it looks like someone is coming in and build on it, then the park district might want to jump in there sooner before they normally would.

Mr. Sullivan then passed pictures of the various designated sites for the committee members to see and which would provide a better understanding when an area is pointed out on the map and discussed.

Ruth stated the committee is as concerned about open space throughout the community and not just park sites and also felt if there are some other areas like the one shown with a bike path, that the planner needs to give it a boost. She stated she would be happy to participate in anything it would take to move that along.

4.

Ruth questioned how much open space there is available in the village? Mr. Sullivan responded by saying there is approximately fifteen percent of undeveloped land. He said these were spotted areas the bulk being in industrial areas.

They continued to review the map and sites referred to are in the attached copy of the article which appeared in the Countryside Reminder dated February 2, 1989.

Discussion then ensued regarding the farm land west of the village hall. Mr. Sullivan stated the idea has been tossed around that this area could be used for possibly farming (an educational program) to retain a natural heritage and cultural use. Ruth stated this idea should be put in the report as a recommendation.

Pat Hanley noted the articles which appeared in the news and questioned if the Soo Line is to come through as discussed, where the village would see a potential site for a train station? Mr. Sullivan advised it would possibly be located down Palmer behind Wickes and Heritage Park. Ruth questioned if the park district could own the parking meters? In response, Mr. Sullivan advised this could be feasible but first we must be sure the Regional Transportation Plan keeps the village in the top of the list.

Ruth stated if and when the Soo Line goes through, she foresees that the development in this area is going to change completely. Pat Walsdorf felt the idea was fine but had concerns for Wheeling is always left out.

Ruth stated that at tonights meeting she has been more encouraged by seeing two young faces and when you have been around this community as long as she has and seen everything she has, she is seeing now in the last 6 months or year, things that are so positive to this community that we are in for a whole new atmosphere and change to the area that is worth pursuing because in the past there were negative feelings and now she sees with new faces, those things are going to work. The new people are going to offer to the community new ideas that are going to be very positive. She noted the area doesn't change until the attitudes change.

Ruth questioned if the village has a population projection for future years? He responded there would be approximately 36,000 residing in the area by the year 2000.

Ruth then questioned what other unknown factors are there at this point that the village is aware of, such as what would happen to this area that would again change the complexity of the density or our projection of parks, etc? Mr. Sullivan advised he felt they had a pretty good handle on it.

Following lengthy discussion, Ruth thanked Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Washburn for attending the meeting and she advised the subcommittee to again meet with the planner and assistant before they make any final recommendation to the Advisory Committee, which will then go into a report and given the board.

Mr. Sullivan advised the village's draft plan must be typed up and sent to the Park District.

Pat Walsdorf stated any report this committee makes should state that we feel very positive about the future of Wheeling.

Ruth noted the other part of this subcommittee's area is public relations and communications for the park district and certainly that would fall under communications.

Ruth felt what we have done tonight is very special and its something that the Advisory Committee has been trying to accomplish for a long time and that is, better communications between the park district and the village. She felt this is a great start and hopes it will occur on other levels because it is very important.

She stated it is also important for the village planner's job to know what is happening within the park district and certainly for the park district to know and be able to communicate with the village.

Pat Hanley addressed the planner and stated hopefully we can get back to the concept on how you prioritize. If the village uses it and the park uses it also, (a similar form) it leaves a position of common ground to talk, a kind of a liaison type of formula that both will use, so when you do meet, both the park district and village will be using common terms and common language.

Ruth advised the guests that the Advisory Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month and if there is anything they think the Advisory Committee should be made aware of, the committee would be happy to have them attend any of our meetings.

# • Village reviews sites for saving open space

*Although there is still a long way to go before sites are acquired, Wheeling officials are moving forward with plans to save open space in the village for parks and other recreational uses.*

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer



J7

Plans for preserving open space in Wheeling were unveiled Tuesday as members of the village planning staff identified 10 sites where bike paths, ball fields or passive recreation areas could be developed.

At a sub-committee meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee (WPDAC), Village Planner Bob Sullivan and Assistant Planner Chris Washburn provided the committee with a list of properties they have identified as potential sites for open space development.

Areas along McDonald and Buffalo Grove creeks, vacant land in several dense subdivisions and the lake that lies south of Lake-Cook Road, west of Milwaukee Road were included on the recommended list.

Before any sites are acquired, however, both the village and the park district must find funding for the project. The village is investigating whether federal and state grants are available for such projects.

**SULLIVAN SAID A** lack of open space in the village sparked the study. With only about 15 percent of the village left undeveloped, **the park district and the village should cooperate in acquiring some of the remaining open space before other plans are made for the property**, Sullivan said.

The community development department's study resulted in the preliminary proposal shown to WPDAC members Tuesday. It could be revised

once the park district and village board review the plan.

After seeing the proposal, WPDAC members lauded the efforts of Sullivan and Washburn and said the plan could result in a dramatic change in the direction the village and park district take.

"I've seen now in the last six months some changes that are so positive to this community that I think we've brought a whole new atmosphere to the area," WPDAC co-chairman Ruth Wieder said. "I see with new faces that those things are going to work."

**AMONG THE SITES** recommended for park space, Sullivan identified land:

- To the east of the Walt Whitman School, south of Center Avenue.
- Running along Buffalo Grove Creek, just, south of Aptakisic Road.
- Surrounding the lake south of Lake-Cook Road, west of Milwaukee Avenue.
- **ON THE corner of Wolf and Hintz roads.**
  - **North of McHenry Road, just north of the Kingsport Commons** apartment complex.
  - Southeast of the Lexington Commons subdivision.
  - Surrounding a lake north of Lynn Plaza on Dundee Road, west of the Wisconsin Central Railway tracks.
- **ALONG THE McDonald Creek, south of Palatine Road.**
- **On Milwaukee Avenue, south of Manchester Drive**, on the east side of the street.

• Off Buffalo Grove Road, just south of Lakeview Drive.

Several of the parcels, including the ones near Lexington Commons, Kingsport Commons and the Mallard Lake subdivisions were suggested to ease the current lack of accessible park space in those densely populated areas.

**A MAJOR PART** of the plan recommended tying together a bike path network between the existing and future parks. That network, which covers miles of proposed paths in the village, could be linked with paths in Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Forest Preserve, Sullivan said.

Tuesday's meeting was held to brief WPDAC's open space sub-committee on the village's preliminary findings. A full report is expected to go to the park district this week, Sullivan said.

WPDAC's open space sub-committee is also expected to make a recommendation to the entire committee on the village open space plan.

# Inland bids \$52.4 million for Fort Sheridan

Inland Real Estate Corp. has submitted a bid of \$52.4 million for the 698-acre Fort Sheridan — slightly less than the \$56 million selling price the government has placed on the century-old lakefront military base.

Inland President G. Joseph Cosenza said he was heartened by the similarity of his offer to the valuation by the U.S. Department of Defense.

"I didn't know before what price they'd accept," he said. "If everything goes right, it would be an ex-

tremely profitable venture."

Should Inland acquire the land, a third would be developed into single-family dwellings, a third along Sheridan Road into commercial use, and the balance into higher-density condominiums and multi-family units, Cosenza said.

County officials and those in neighboring communities are asking that most if not all of the base be preserved as open space.

David Kohn, a spokesman for Rep. John E. Porter of Wilmette whose

10th District takes in the fort, said he was surprised to learn of the offer "because no one's absolutely certain whether Fort Sheridan and the other bases will be closed."

Beginning Wednesday, Congress will have 45 legislative days to pass a "joint resolution of disapproval" of the entire list of 86 targeted closings.

Inland is the first bidder to approach the Pentagon with an offer for the fort and said its bid is all cash, with no mortgage contingencies.

Cosenza said the offer is not contingent on any annexations or zoning variances.

The corporation, the largest property manager in the Chicago area, is giving the government two years to close the base and the transaction and has asked for the rights to the name "Fort Sheridan" in its future development.

Of the buildings on the property, 94 are listed in the National Registry of Historical Places, and Inland said it intends to maintain them as such.

# Local waters stir on Ft. Sheridan

*A tide of support is rolling in from Wheeling and Buffalo Grove park district officials who want to see Fort Sheridan beach front property opened up for public recreational uses.*

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

3/2/89

Although the waters of Lake Michigan lap at the shoreline more than eight miles to the east, waves of support for retaining open beaches and open space at Fort Sheridan are sweeping through local communities.

lake front group pushing for the preservation of open space at the Army base targeted for closure has received unlikely support from park districts and municipalities far removed from the day to day life of the 695-acre facility.

What Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Deerfield and Vernon Hills officials and residents are saying is that the lake front, while far away, is an asset inland dwellers can also utilize.

"I grew up on Lake Michigan," Buffalo Grove park board president Karen Larson said. "I want to see it remain open to the public. Being 40 minutes away is not a deterrent to being interested in it."

THE BUFFALO GROVE park board has already come out in support of the stated position of the Advocates for the Public Interest in Fort Sheridan, which is seeking to preserve 40 acres of lakefront property. And at Larson's

urging, the Buffalo Grove village board Is expected to discuss the issue at its board meeting Monday.

With most North Shore lakefront communities protecting their lake frontage by charging astronomical non-resident fees, many Fort Sheridan open space advocates say keeping the base's lakefront open to the public would give water lovers an alternative to driving to Chicago, Zion or Wisconsin to enjoy one of the area's finest natural resources.

Ruth Wieder, a member of the Wheeling Park District's advisory committee, said if the base doesn't remain open, it should be protected from the developers "who lock the lake in."

"To get to the lake you have to go to Illinois state park (in Zion) or to Oak Street Beach (in Chicago)," Wieder said. "That's an awfully long way to go."

THE DEERFIELD PARK board and the Vernon Hills park board have both supported the Advocates position of preserving the fort's recreational, environmental and historical resources.

Although much of the Fort Sheridan focus has been on the three communities that surround the base — Lake Forest, Highland Park and Highland Park, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. John Porter (R-10th), of Wilmette, said the congressman will solicit and listen to the input of all affected residents.

Porter will look for "the input of all the people in the area . . . not just the people next to the fort. Everyone's

voice must be heard," spokesman David Kohn said Tuesday.

In order for Porter to be a successful mediator in the resolution of the fort issue, Kohn said the congressman, who represents Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, will try to form a consensus among all the groups.

A. **COMMISSION APPOINTED** by the secretary of defense recommended the closure of 86 bases nationwide to reduce defense costs. The commission said it would save \$40.8 million a year if the fort were closed.

Congress has 45 legislative days to review the recommended action and whether it wants to intervene.

Wieder, while saying she wants the base to continue doing business for the Army, said if it is closed, protections have to be made to allow the public an opportunity to use the facility. She said the national park service should consider buying the base.

"In light of all the travel people in the Midwest do to get to the ocean," Wieder said, "wouldn't it be a shame if those states that border the ocean did the same things these communities have done to the lake?"

**PORTER, IN** A statement Monday, said the defense department has said the value of the fort is \$56.6 million. A group of developers last week already made an offer, to acting Defense Secretary William Taft, to buy the property for \$52.2 million.

By law, federal agencies have first dibs on the land, followed by state and local governments. Developers are last in line.

Dear Subcommittee Members:

Please excuse any errors, sentence structure, etc.  
as I am rushing the typing because of other priorities.

Patti



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## conmatee

Parade Committee—Wheeling Jaycees P.O. Box 7 Wheeling, IL 60090

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### Entry Form

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THEME: Stars and Stripes Forever

COLORS: Red, White, and Blue

Thank you for your participation in the 1988 4th of July parade and if you were unable to participate, you are most welcome to join the festivities for 1989. This form will help us organize the parade and your organization/group will receive complete details as we get closer to the day of the event. Please return this form to: Wheeling Jaycees P.O. Box 7, Wheeling, IL 60090 Attn: Parade Committee. If you have any questions you can call Mike Lynch, Chairman Wheeling Jaycees at 459-6549 or Judy Abruscato President 4th of July Committee at 459-4000 (day) 541-8783 (night).

() **YES:** We are interested in entering a unit.

() **NO:** We are not interested in entering a unit.

Name of Organization -----

Contact Name(s) -----

Street Address -----

City                          Zip                          Phone

#### Type of Entry:

Float	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marching Band	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drill Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	Color Guard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marching Unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Antique Auto	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decorated Auto	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description			

NOTE: This year we are looking for a bigger and better parade that will emphasize our "Red, White and Blue" colors and hope your group/organization will start early so that we might have more floats and interesting entries. The number of decorated cars and antique cars will be limited this year!

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## **Not too late - , $\frac{1}{4}$ NY**

It may appear to be an afterthought in light of the fact Wheeling is nearly fully developed, but ongoing attempts at saving what little open space remains in the village are encouraging for a number of reasons.

The program initiated by village officials shows that sites some might consider to be isolated pockets of unusable land may in fact be able to serve the recreational needs of a growing population.

At what cost this transformation could take place remains to be seen, but through joint cooperation with the park district and by applying for grants, it is realistic to expect that at least some of the 11 sites under consideration could be obtained at minimal cost to local taxpayers.

What it will take for the acquisitions to go through is something that at times appeared lacking in recent years — a cooperative relationship between park district and village officials.

Based on the developments to date, however, both governmental bodies seem to be on the same wavelength with regard to the speed and priority this important project deserves.

# Village hopes to corral dwindling open spaces

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

While open space advocates in Lake County successfully push for the conservation of undeveloped land, a somewhat similar, yet far less grandiose, plan is being considered in Wheeling.

With the village's amount of open space far below a set national standard, the village's community development department is now completing a study that will identify undeveloped land in the village that could be used to supplement what now exists.

Accompanying that study will be an outline for a bike path network through the village that could tie into both the forest preserve and village parks.

A completed study, indicating potential open space sites, is expected to be sent to the Wheeling Park District for consideration next week, village planner Bob Sullivan said.

**SULLIVAN SAID THE** village and park district are working on a cooperative effort aimed at identifying sites that could be acquired or leased. Sullivan said the study is focusing on identifying possible open space sites and giving them a priority ranking for acquisition, donation or leasing.

"Open space and the environment - most people are for it," Sullivan said. "Features like that can enhance the appearance of Wheeling and the quality of life in Wheeling."

Currently, the village has about 125 acres of park space within the village, excluding the 125 acres of land at the Chevy Chase Golf Course. The standard as proposed by the American Parks and Recreation Association states a community should have 10 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents.

With the village being the home to more than 10,000 people, that standard is far from met, Sullivan said.

MUCH OF THE study, Sullivan said, centers on land along the village's creeks and the proposed diversionary channel, which is expected to take water 8,000 feet from the Buffalo Grove Creek to the Des Plaines River. Bike paths and other more passive land uses could be set aside in those areas to augment the playing fields and parks already found in the village.

Waterfront sites are attractive targets for addition to the existing park system because they are visible, aesthetic and are easily accessible to residents, Sullivan said. And unlike larger parcels of undeveloped land, they are cheaper because their building potential is limited by the waterway that makes them attractive.

The village might also consider larger parcels, including the one surrounding the lake south of Lake-Cook Road, east of Northgate Parkway, Sullivan said.

Park District Manager Karop Bavoouian said the park district and the village should engage in active pursuit of additional open space. "I think it's something we're going to have to grapple with," Bavoouian said. "Because if we don't do it now, it'll be gone."

**AT THE MOMENT,** however, because of the preliminary status of the project, no funding has been set aside by the park district for new land acquisition, Bavoouian said.

Although the project is in its early

phases, support for the study came from Village President Sheila Shultz, who said one of the goals of her next four years in office will be green belt development.

Shultz is running unopposed in the April 4 election. Without a challenge from a write-in candidate, Shultz will serve her third four-year term as village president.

"Open space is a quality of life issue," Shultz said. "You want to keep a little bit of the country and a little bit of the suburbs as you develop."

**AS FOR HER** fellow trustees, Shultz said the study, and its eventual implementation, would have their sup-

***"I think (open space is) something we're going to have to grapple with, because if we don't do it now, it'll be gone."***

***— Karop Bavoouian  
Director  
Wheeling Park District***

port. "I think they'd be amenable to protecting land like that (open space)," Shultz said.

Funding for such acquisitions is the biggest stumbling block, and the one the community development department is now studying. Sullivan said federal and state grants are being investigated to determine if monies can be secured from those sources.

Once a list of potential properties is identified, Sullivan said the village would work with the park district to determine how to implement the plan while seeking park district support.

Several different avenues could be pursued to secure use of the targeted properties, Sullivan said, including outright purchase. He said the parcels could be leased, or conservation easements to waterfront properties could be granted to the village.

**A CONSERVATION EASEMENT** would allow the village access to a property in which the village would "conserve" the natural feature of the property while not owning it.

There are no estimates how much the entire project could cost the village or the park district, Sullivan said.

"I think we need to look at acquiring more property, otherwise we're going to be what we are now and that's it," Bavoouian said.

The village is now waiting for funding for the construction of a diversionary channel set to run from the Buffalo Grove Creek near Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road to the Des Plaines River.

**WITHIN THE EASEMENTS** the village is negotiating for the channel, the village is hoping to save enough space for a bike path. That path, Sullivan said, could conceivably be connected with other waterfront paths into Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Forest Preserve along the Des Plaines River.

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayside Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Agenda-Additions/Deletions/  
Corrections
- III. Approval of the Minutes of  
January 11, 1989.
- IV. Old Business:
  - 1. Report of Recommendation on  
Survey to the Board.
  - 2. Subcommittee Verbal Report
    - a. Open Space/Public Relations-  
Barb Dittman
- V. New Business:
  - 1. Review of Membership Status  
2, rze k Sht-Kii;JA,N 14E-Aiti IV
- VI. Adjournment

NOTE: Please notify Ruth 537-2105 or Patti 537-1450 if you cannot be in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD JANUARY 11, 1989

The regular meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee was held on January 11, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Devonshire Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Wieder. Members present were: Alice Wargo, Ruth Wieder, Frank Wojek, Ida Hein, Pat Walsdorf, Bobby Silverstein, Patrick Hanley, Alberta Klocke, Daniel Conrad, Barb Dittman, and Patti Hancock. Absent: Marge Hartmann, Virginia Metzger. Also present were Liaison to Board, Ed Klocke, Park Manager, Karop Bavougian and former member and Board candidate Tom Webber.

AGENDA-Additions/Deletions/Corrections

The agenda was submitted for acceptance. Ruth added a welcome to Barb Dittman who was presented to the Board the 17th of November and is now a part of our committee. She thanked Barb and welcomed her aboard. The agenda was accepted as presented.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of November 9, 1988 were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Pat Walsdorf, seconded by Alice Wargo that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Survey Update- Subcommittee Chairman Pat Hanley gave a verbal update regarding a survey. He advised he had done a comparison on surveys made inhouse as in Schaumburg and Belvidere Park Districts and surveys made by outside professional/educational groups which were made in Glen Ellyn and Glenview Park Districts. He stated the inhouse surveys were made on a much smaller basis while the ones completed by the outside groups were quite extensive. He also gave background as to how the surveys were made, produced and distributed and the end results.

Following lengthy discussion a motion was made by Alberta Klocke, seconded by Barb Dittman that this committee recommend to the Wheeling Park Board, that a survey be made in the community by an outside professional group for the purpose of compiling data to further help inform and improve the Wheeling Park District. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

Chairperson Ruth Wieder advised that the recommendation will be presented at the next park board meeting.

2. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Chevy Chase Subcommittee-Chairman Frank Wojek advised the committee did meet and he thought it was very encouraging and feels some of the goals that were suggested, be looked into. Vern came up with some short and long term goals that Frank thought were very good and not out of line. He felt in all due respect to what was brought up, suggested or recommended, that when the full committee gets these recommendations together they should be given consideration, take further steps and come up with some priorities.
- b. Leisure Service Subcommittee- Stated in the survey update. Ruth requested the subcommittee meet as soon as they can and come up with some kind of recommendations pertaining to recreation and leisure services before the next Advisory Committee meeting of February 8th.
- c. Open Space/Public Relations Subcommittee- Ruth advised we have been meeting with the Chevy Chase Subcommittee and are in the process of coming out with a recommendation pertaining to public relations and communications. She stated we would also like to sit in on the meetings with leisure services and see what kind of public relation and communication problems we can come up with so we can also put our recommendations together and hopefully at the February meeting, all subcommittees will have a written report.

3. Open Meeting Act

Ruth advised she had requested from Mr. Bavougin to get an opinion regarding the meeting of subcommittees in member's homes. In reply to his inquiry, a response was received from Peter Murphy, Legal/Legislative Council for Illinois Association of Park Districts.

It advised that an Advisory Committee of an Illinois unit of local government does fall within the perview of the Open Meetings Act. Its not a case of where you meet providing the press and public is given notification.

Chairperson Wieder suggested in the best interests, that all committee and subcommittee meetings be held at Chevy Chase Clubhouse and that when a subcommittee is planning a meet to notify Ruth or Patti so the press and public will be made aware of the meeting and our subcommittee will also know.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Park District Safety Award

Mr. Bavougian gave the committee background regarding liability insurance and the PADERMA program and advised how the safety award was received. Ruth advised the committee she wanted them to all be aware of this because it is quite an honor for this park district to be the first recipient of this award and it signifys great team cooperation which is very important. She also referred back to the days of CNRAC and Frank was Chairman of the Safety Committee. She feels a great deal stemmed from that committee to get us in the position we are now with receiving the safety award. She thanked Frank and all those who served with him. Frank stated much credit should be given to the Safety Director and staff. Ruth advised letters from the Advisory Committee had previously been sent to JoAnn and John commending them and their efforts.

Barb Dittman questioned what subcommittee she was on. She was requested to serve on Open Space/Public Relations and Communications Subcommittee. So done.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee motion was made by Frank Wojek, seconded by Alice Wargo to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

February 2, 1989

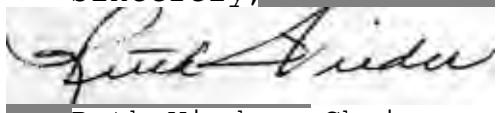
Mr. Bob Sullivan  
Village Planner  
Village of Wheeling  
255 W. Dundee Rd. Box V  
Wheeling, IL. 60090

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Many thanks for your time and effort attending our Sub-committee Resource meeting on open space. We thank you and Christine for being available to us and we are very grateful for the information you shared with us on park sites and open spaces.

We hope this is just the beginning of working together to accomplish shared goals.

Sincerely,



Ruth Wieder, Chairman  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

RW/ph

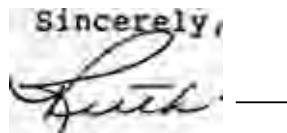
February 2, 1989

Ms. Chris Washburn  
Assistant Village Planner  
Village of Wheeling  
255 W. Dundee Rd. Box V  
Wheeling, Il. 60090

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Thank you very much for taking the time to attend our Subcommittee Resource meeting on open space this week.

We appreciate your taking the time to share information with us and hope we can do this again in the near future with our entire group so they too, will better understand the whole picture on open spaces and park site development.

Sincerely,  


R th Wieder, Chairman  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

RW/ph

Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee  
January 25, 1989  
7:30 p.m. Lounge

Members in attendance: Bobby Silverstein, Barb Dittman  
Ruth Wieder, Patti Hancock

Staff: John Piazza

John presented the existing Wheeling Park District boundary map which was last updated in approximately 1985. This map indicates the boundaries, public parks and schools, commercial/industrial, residential, open space, etc. The boundaries basically conforms to the Village of Wheeling boundaries but also extends beyond those boundaries in certain areas. John pointed out some of the changes that have taken place since the time the map was completed and it was agreed that the #1 priority now, is to update the park district boundary map.

John also advised the new Village Planner is willing to work with the park on this. He noted the village is also interested in putting a bicycle path throughout Wheeling which would link up with other communities for a continuous path throughout the state and would like to work in cooperation with the park district on this matter.

Discussion ensued regarding properties still open and possibly available for park sites also the problem of crossing Old McHenry Road to get to Childerley Park for the lack of a crossing light.

John also presented a copy of the Village of Wheeling's Comprehensive Plan which indicates designated park sites. John explained what designated park sites means, is if a developer comes in the village and wants to build, if there is a designated park site on the property, he would also have to negotiate an agreement with the park district. The park district may choose to drop the designated area and take money in lieu of land. If the district does not want to drop the designated area and the developer decides to go ahead, from the date the developer files his plat with the village, the park district has one year to purchase the land. If they do not, the designated area is lost.

2.

Discussion ensued relative to a land dedication ordinance. John referred back when the park district went to the village on several occasions requesting an ordinance similar to Naperville and was turned down.

Discussion ensued regarding some open space areas and the utilization of certain areas for recreation such as a golf practice range. Also discussed was the land already owned by the park district and if it was being used to its potential by residents. Barb Dittman had concerns about Husky Park. and Ruth advised she write a memo to Leisure Service Sub-committee expressing her concerns.

John pointed out on the Village Master Comprehensive Plan there are presently 8 open space areas designated as park sites available which doesn't mean much, unless the park has the money to purchase the land. He also noted that possibly some of the areas that are designated as park may not serve any purpose and the park may not want the area.

Ruth asked John to find out from the village planner how many of the eight designated parcels are still available, what properties are available even though they are not designated that might be suitable for park sites and if these properties may be jointly negotiated and pursued.

Discussion ensued regarding if land were available within an industrial area. The pros and cons were discussed on the feasibility of a park site.

Discussion ensued regarding a community center and the expansion of Heritage Park center. Ruth stated there are so many things that could be done at Heritage that we are not doing and feels this should be explored on open spaces. Let's take into consideration of what we can do with what we have. Barb reflected back to the proposal which was presented when CNRAC was active in regards to Heritage Park.

Horizon Park was discussed and it was questioned if anything is being negotiated with the library relative to the parking situation?

Ruth requested John to set up a meeting with the Village Planner with himself and members of the committee as she feels there are major questions that have to be answered which are good enough for 1985 that we can't progress unless we know what the current answers are.

She stated she felt we need to sit down with the Planner and have him answer some questions, for instance what the potential population of this area could be in perhaps twenty years?

She stated we (the committee), need to make a statement on open space, a message to the park district but cannot do so until we know the answers to some of the facts in relation to open space. We need to let the park district know that somewhere along the line they must always think of the future by trying to acquire open land whenever available by getting financial aid or whatever means because as the density changes, more open space is needed, etc. We need to know other things that might come into play that we are not aware of is sure the planner is on top of these matters.

She questioned what if there is some areas that go multi-family and could change the population or triple it in the next twenty years? What does that do then to our thinking of how to provide on a long range for this park district? These are the questions that we need answered and when they are, then we can go back to our whole group and get answers to the other things.

Discussion ensued to "pocket parks" such as the area located on Dundee and Milwaukee Avenue which consists of bushes, flowers and two benches. This is a resting area for those walking, jogging, biking, etc. These areas are an absolute must and should be at such places a like the on a corner of Wolf and Dundee, Dundee and Route 83, etc. Although John stated there is not space, Ruth stated at some time there might be an opportunity to put one in and the Village Planner is the only one in the position to know and do that.

Ruth asked John to set up a meeting with the Village Planner as soon as possible to review the Comprehensive Master Plan and to obtain some information such as projected population in 20 years, actual available park site designations and any other open space within the area which has changed? She noted this would determine goals for the park district, not only for 5 or 10 years down the line and the Village Planner holds the key to some of the questions.

Ruth stated because of the responsibility she carries, requested Barb Dittman to become the Open Space/Public Relation/Communication SubCommittee Chairperson. Barb responded she would. She also noted at another time PR and communication will be discussed, but at this time we should pursue open space and get this right down to a philosophical statement.

# Candidates flood Wheeling park board race

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The largest number of candidates in "recent memory" have thrown their hats into the ring for the Wheeling Park District election.

Voters will elect four board members April 4. Two seats are now held by incumbents, and two other seats are newly created positions.

So far, 10 newcomers and one incumbent have picked up nominating petitions for the board — the largest number of candidates in "recent memory," Parks Director Karop Bavouguian said. Petitions must be turned in between Jan. 16 and 23.

Many candidates may be seeking office to correct what they perceive as a lack of visible improvements in the park district, Bavouguian said. Park board members often work behind the scenes on projects — such as personnel manuals — that are not well known to residents, he noted.

"We're getting to the point where some of the more visible changes should be coming soon," he said.

Incumbent Tony Abruscato, who has picked up a petition, said he will announce his intentions within a week. Incumbent Julia Robberson said she has not decided whether to run.

Meanwhile, a number of residents



**Karop Bavouguian**

have picked up nominating positions. They are: Mike Kohen, Scott Thornholm, Francine Melamed, Leonard Renquin, Dennis Drake, Ken Kostrzewski, Chuck Briles, Alberta Klocke, Tom Webber and Greg Klatecki.

Klatecki, one of the more vocal candidates, predicts that all the newcomers will not follow through with their plans to seek election to the park board.

"I'd be surprised if all of them turn (their petitions) in," he said.

Bavouguian noted that more than half of the new candidates have been involved in park district activities

for several years.

Webber, Briles and Klatecki have all coached youth sports for several years. Drake is a former board member. Melamed has been involved in numerous park district activities, as has Alberta Klocke, the wife of current board member Ed Klocke. She has not decided whether she will run for a seat on the park board, although she has gathered signatures for petitions.

"They've had a lot of interest over the years," Bavouguian said of the candidates.

In addition to being the largest group of candidates the park board has seen in years, the group is also quite vocal, particularly those people who have been active members of the district.

Park board meetings are beginning to take on debate-like flavor, with candidates interjecting their opinions loudly from the audience.

"It doesn't surprise me that they are attending the meetings," Bavouguian said. "It's a wise thing to do, so they are aware of what's being considered."

Still, Bavouguian said he is sometimes surprised by the "ranting and raving" and interruptions from the candidates.

At the last park board meeting, Klatecki got into a shouting match with Abruscato over who had the

floor during a discussion about insurance.

Klatecki is a long-time park district coach and member of the district citizen's advisory committee.

Of his run-in with Klatecki, Abruscato said later, "You know, a soap box in the aisles can be a fire hazard."

Park board meetings often include plenty of discussion from the audience, Bavouguian said.

"Ideally, it's nice to have meetings that are not so rigid," he said. "But when they (the audience) start ranting and raving, I don't know. You have to remember that the business is supposed to be conducted at the front table."

Said Klatecki: "I think a lot of people are dissatisfied. I'm involved with youth sports, and most of the changes in that program have come from the parents."

"I want something behind my voice, I want some authority," he added. "I was on the citizen's advisory committee. The changes to make the terms four years instead of six, the change from five to seven members on the board, those came from us, not from the board."

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## News briefs

# Board agrees to solve soil erosion problem

After several months of finger-pointing over responsibility for soil erosion at Pleasant Run Park, the Wheeling park board last week agreed to fix the problem.

Because of extensive use of a grass entrance at the north end of the park, formerly called the Last Four Acres park, the grass was reduced to dirt and subsequent rains brought mud and water into the adjoining streets.

Park commissioners had complained that the project's initial architect did not adequately design the entrance to the park. Later discussions found that the Hinsdale architect, William Rose and Associates, was not at fault, park district Manager Karop Bavoulian said.

The district has tapped Pedersen Construction Inc. to do the work. The firm will be paid no more than \$18,000 to create a water-diverting swale, to reduce the slope of the entrance and to improve the asphalt entrances to the park, Bavoulian said.

The work will begin in the spring and should be done by the summer, he said.

—O—

**Plans to conduct** a traffic engineering study of Lake-Cook Road, with primary emphasis on Buffalo Grove and Wheeling, will be largely funded by the Cook County Highway Department, Buffalo Grove officials announced Monday.

Village Manager William Balling said 70 percent of phase one of the engineering study aimed at finding

ways to improve traffic flow along the busy thoroughfare will be paid for by the highway department.

The study, which is being coordinated by the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC), will require area municipalities taking part in the study to pay for a portion of the project.

Buffalo Grove's fee will amount to about \$75,000, according to Balling, who added that Wheeling's share of the project will be about \$28,000.

—O—

**Owners of a Wheeling** liquor store are taking the village to court over the September revocation of their liquor license.

Following a state liquor commission ruling that upheld the penalty, the owners of J.C. Liquor Store, in the Lexington Commons shopping plaza, have filed suit in Cook County Circuit Court and asked that the penalty be reviewed.

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes said the village has been notified that EGP Enterprises, owners of the store, are asking the court to review the village's Sept. 26 decision to revoke the license. Once the village is formally notified of the case, it will have 35 days to turn over a transcript of that hearing, Rhodes said.

EGP Enterprises' liquor license, which allowed J.C. Liquor Store to sell packaged liquor, beer and wine, was revoked Sept. 26 following a village liquor commission hearing at which trustees were told the store had sold

alcohol to minors on two occasions during the summer.

The charges marked the fourth time since January that store employees had been cited for selling alcohol to minors, according to village officials. The store had been fined \$1,000 and ordered to close for 10 consecutive days in May.

—O—

**After a couple** weeks of haggling over when the Buffalo Grove Park District's burned-out, but brand new, maintenance garage would be repaired, approval for most of the repairs is expected next week.

Park District Director Mike Rylko said the general contractor's insurance carrier will likely approve the money for clean-up of the smoke-damaged facility and the labor and parts necessary to finish the job.

A Dec. 11 fire caused between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in damage to the \$858,000 facility that was expected to be finished last November. The blaze started when a worker dropped a cigarette ash on some paint thinner.

Major parts needed for the repairs, including structural steel and steel roof trestles, were pre-approved by the insurance company, Rylko said. Complete approval of the repair work waited until the carrier's fire adjuster could file a complete report.

The garage was designed to house the park district's tractors, mowers and trucks, while creating a work space where maintenance employees could perform general upkeep of district

equipment, Rylko said.

While the district waits until the repairs are finished in the spring, the tractors and mowers have been stored in a local self-storage facility, Rylko said. The contractor is expected to pay for that storage cost, Rylko said.

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**The Wheeling park** board decided to go with experience in its decision to award the yearly audit of the district's finances.

Although the board did not approve a requested three-year deal, it agreed to pay Garrison, Byrne, Jansey & Trinarc \$6,125 to perform an audit, render an opinion on the district's financial statements, create an audit report for the Illinois state comptroller and provide a management letter.

Tom Busby, district superintendent of finance and personnel, recommended going with Garrison's bid, even though it was the third lowest offered. Busby said the two lower bids either did not budget enough hours to do the job or were too new.

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# Soccer teams to join new league

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

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They shoot, they score!

Soccer players from the Wheeling Park District and their counterparts in the Mount Prospect-based American Soccer Club (ASC) will be playing together under a new league tentatively formed this week.

After five years on their own, the two clubs will reunite beginning with the fall-1989 outdoor season. The Wheeling park board agreed to support the merger that was previously approved by parents in the league in a December vote.

"It's the only move. We were in a position where we didn't have anyone to head-up our club," said Fran Melamed, a member of the Wheeling travel soccer club's interim committee. "What we wanted to achieve is where the American Soccer Club is today."

**IN JOINING THE ASC,** the Wheeling soccer club will gain better trained coaches, have access to an already-existing administrative structure, have a standardized try-out and player selection system, while creating a larger, more economically viable club, said Arnie Biondo, Wheeling Park District's superintendent for leisure services.

Currently, there are about 68 boys on four teams in the Wheeling club and there are more than 120 players in the ASC's seven teams. Both clubs play in the Youth Sportsmen's Soccer League, which has 65 teams in the northwest suburbs.

Biondo, also the acting club administrator, said the club began studying the merger and other options in October. The official merger will not take place until Memorial Day weekend, he said, with joint try-outs and registration occurring in late May and June.

"I see nothing but good to come out of this," Biondo said. "We were floundering."

**A JOINT MEETING** of the ASC board and the Wheeling interim soccer committee began the process of fine-tuning the agreement that will formally combine the two *groups*. A meeting of parents from both clubs has been scheduled for Jan. 25.

Left to be decided is whether the club would maintain an affiliation with the park district, Biondo said. Such an affiliation would allow the club to use park district facilities and have access to the park brochure for recruitment.

One of the most attractive benefits to merging with the ASC was the coaching, Melamed said. Although the Wheeling park district recently required that all its coaches get national certification, the ASC has conducted numerous coaches clinics and requires state licensing.

"It's the different between going to a general practitioner or an orthopedic surgeon when you break your arm," Melamed said of the coaching requirements of the two clubs.

**SEVERAL PARENTS HAD** opposed the merger, Melamed said, because they thought the program might move out of the park district. In fact, probably more games will be played on park district fields than at the ASC's current field at Prospect High School.

"When people realized we're not leaving Wheeling, they said 'oh, this is a good move,'" Melamed said.

Melamed said the Wheeling club was faltering, and the number of teams the club fielded had fallen from five to four, with another club on the verge of disbanding. By joining the ASC, the new club will have at least 10 boys travel teams competing in the YSSA.

When parents voted in December, they were given the choice to merge with ASC, remain with the park district or become an independent club responsible for all its own funding and administration.

**TWENTY OF THE** 32 ballots cast were in favor of the merger. Another 10 wanted to remain with the park district.

No changes in cost are expected because of the merger, both Melamed and Bill Schmidt said. Schmidt is the current president of the ASC. Both clubs put teams in the fall and spring outdoor seasons and the winter indoor season.

The ASC clubs home field is located at Prospect High School. The merger will not affect that location; there will, however, now be extra space at Wheeling fields, Biondo said.

# Wheeling County

## Park district socked with insurance hike

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

With health care costs skyrocketing, the Wheeling Park District will pay 13 percent more to support employees health insurance this year, while out-of-pocket costs to most of those employees will drop.

Park board members agreed to increase the district contribution on health care by \$100, to \$325 for each employee per month. The increase will cost the park district \$20,777 more in premium contributions this year, or 13 percent more than last year.

That increase, an attempt to offset *premium* cost increases for one of the district's three health plans, will mean the premiums on the other two plans, which **did** not show as dramatic of increases, will fall substantially.

Park district employees faced substantial premium hikes for their Blue Cross/Blue Shield Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) family coverage if the park board did not approve the raise in district contributions. Without adding \$100 extra to each employee's monthly premiums, employees enrolled in the PPO would have seen their costs go from \$55.12 a month to \$236.02.

BUT THE \$100 the park board agreed to add to all premiums meant employees in the PPO plan would pay premiums of \$136.02, still a 68 percent increase.

However, those employees enrolled in the district's two health maintenance organizations (HMOs) would see their costs drop from \$55.12 and \$87.58 a month to \$17.32 and \$23.59, respectively, according to cost schedules supplied by the park district.

While the health insurance premi-

ums for the PPO rose from \$237.80 a month to \$418.88, the two HMO plans went from \$242.55 and \$245.01 to \$300.18 and \$306.45 a month, respectively. With the extra \$100 added in, the employee cost of the HMOs' dropped between \$23 and \$38 a month.

Park commissioner Tony Abruscato said that although the employees in the PPO plan would pay more, they would still get the program they wanted while still being able to enroll in the cheaper programs if they wanted.

**BECAUSE LOSS RATIOS** in the PPO plan far exceeded the premiums paid to the PPO, the scheduled rise in premiums was substantial, Park District Manager Karop Bavoulian said.

He said the district had to pull out of its previous PPO plan last year because of similar premium hikes. To keep premiums down last year, Bavoulian said, the district changed its PPO coverage to one that included higher deductibles and higher employee costs.

This year, however, the park board decided to hike the district's contribution.

"What is considered the normal inflationary spiral is 20 to 25 percent," Bavoulian said. "That's frightening."

**CURRENTLY, ABOUT 20** of the district's 40 employees are enrolled in the PPO. Because of the sharp rise in employee premiums, Bavoulian said that number will likely fall even with the district's increased support in the premiums.

If fewer than five employees are left in the PPO, the *plan* will dissolve and those employees would have to select one of the other two plans, he said.

For every \$1 the PPO was paid, it spent \$1.62 in claims, causing the

*(Continued on page 24)*

# Competition arrives early for park board race

After a couple months of talk, posturing and petitioning, it looks like the promise of an exciting campaign for the Wheeling park district board will be fulfilled.

Seven candidates filed Monday to vie for four open seats on the April 4 ballot. Six of those filed simultaneously and will face a lottery run-off for the top spots on the ballot.

Filing on Monday were Charles Briles, Greg Klatecki, Tom Webber, Leonard Renquin, Dennis Drake, Kenneth Kostrzewski and Fran Melamed. Melamed filed after the other six and will not compete in the lottery for the top spot on the ballot.

Several other park district residents have expressed interest in running for the board, but had not filed their petitions as of Tuesday. Neither of the two incumbents, Tony Abruscato and Julia Robberson, has yet filed. Both have not yet made public a decision to run for the board.

**BESIDES ABRUSCATO'S AND** Robberson's seats, the board moved earlier in the year to expand total membership to seven. At that time the board also moved to shorten the length of commissioners' terms from six years to four years.

When the petition season unofficially opened last November, several of the candidates announced their intentions for the board while taking a swipe at its current members, calling them "inactive" and lacking planning.

Park District Manager Karop Bavourgian said Tuesday the interest in the park board would help make for a

(Continued from page 9)  
better race.

"I think that it's showing that there is some interest out there," Bavourgian said. "And when you have interest, that's healthy."

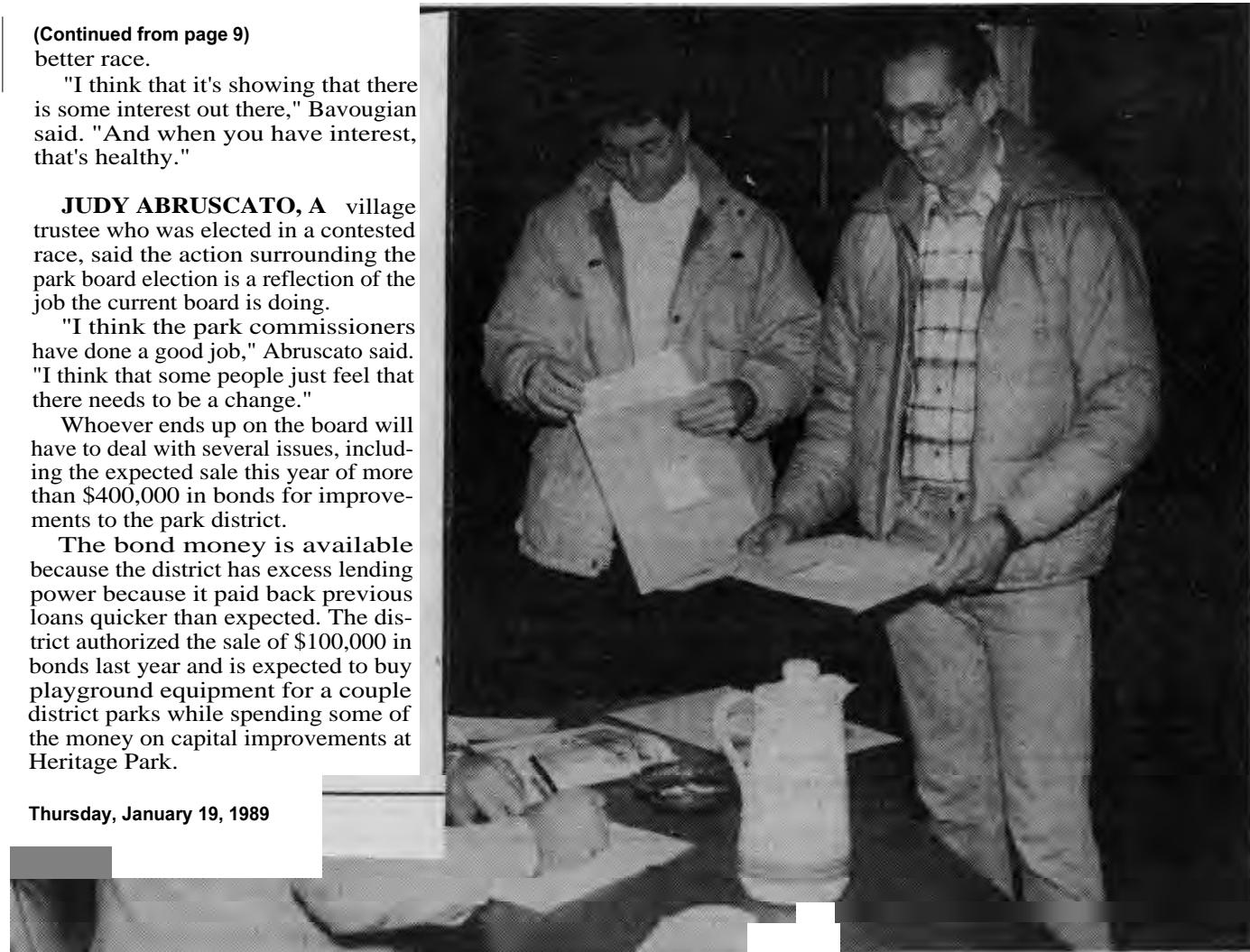
**JUDY ABRUSCATO,** A village trustee who was elected in a contested race, said the action surrounding the park board election is a reflection of the job the current board is doing.

"I think the park commissioners have done a good job," Abruscato said. "I think that some people just feel that there needs to be a change."

Whoever ends up on the board will have to deal with several issues, including the expected sale this year of more than \$400,000 in bonds for improvements to the park district.

The bond money is available because the district has excess lending power because it paid back previous loans quicker than expected. The district authorized the sale of \$100,000 in bonds last year and is expected to buy playground equipment for a couple district parks while spending some of the money on capital improvements at Heritage Park.

Thursday, January 19, 1989



(From left to right) Wheeling Park District Director Karop Bavourgian and park board president James Gallagher accept nominating petitions Monday morning from park board candidates Tom Webber and Leonard E. Renquin. (Staff photo by Richard Bajjalieh)

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# Group urges hiring expert for park study

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

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In a slight reversal of its position, the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee (DAC) is encouraging the park board to authorize an outside, professional group to survey district residents.

After previously considering an in-house survey that was sharply criticized by a professional statistician, the committee last week agreed the district should pursue a survey that could provide more "valuable" data.

"It seemed to me that if we took our time . . . our end result would be more valuable," committee co-chairman Pat Hanley said.

Members of both the committee and the park board have been pushing for a residents' survey to aid in future decisions on programming and facilities. Hanley said an accurate and well-done survey could guide the district for five to 10 years.

**"IT (A survey) would tend to make the decisions that are made have some weight (rather) than be one single person's opinion," Hanley said. "You get a better representation of what people want rather than speculate on what the people want based on your own biases."**

Park board president James Gallagher, in supporting a survey, echoed Hanley's concerns and said the survey would only help the district if the information was collected correctly.

"It's very important that the information we get is valid because we're going to start spending some money which is going to benefit the park district," Gallagher said Monday. "When we do spend the money, it will be right."

Park district manager Karop Bavoulian said Tuesday he has set aside \$15,000 in his preliminary 1989-90 budget for the survey. That figure, and the survey's direction, will be decided by the board.

A SURVEY RECENTLY conducted by the Buffalo Grove Park District cost

about \$12,000. Following a positive response on that survey, the park district is planning to ask voters to approve a tax hike for a new outdoor pool.

DAC members will make their formal recommendation at Thursday's park board meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Golf and Club House.

Hanley, along with other committee members, studied other park district surveys in making their recommendation. He said the survey proposal the committee made could include using a local university's graduate program to help with the design, implementation and compilation of the data.

In those other surveys, a random sample of district residents were asked a variety of questions about future facilities, land acquisition, programming and quality of service.

**SEVERAL CITIZENS, ADVISORY** committee and board members have been discussing the merits of conducting a survey they say will provide programming and planning information that district staff can use as they chart the district's course over the next decade.

DAC member Alberta Klocke, the wife of park board member Ed Klocke, lauded the committee's recommendation to go with an outside group instead of asking committee members to conduct the survey.

"I'm a believer; you've got to spend money to make money," Klocke said. "If it's done professionally, we're going to get what we want out of that survey. We can ask questions, but will they be the right questions? I know we have enough people (to conduct a survey), but I don't know if we'd get what we'd want out of it."

According to DAC secretary Patti Hancock, the committee's formal recommendation reads: *"This committee recommends to the Wheeling park board a survey be made in the community by an outside professional group for the purpose of compiling data to further help inform and improve the Wheeling park district."*

# Lottery picks park district ballot positions

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BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Chuck Briles will head the list of candidates on the April 4 ballot for a seat on the Wheeling Park District board.

A lottery was held to determine the ballot line-up because six board hopefuls filed their nominating petitions at the same time — at 9 a.m. Jan. 16.

The order in which the names will appear on the ballot is: Briles, Ken

Kostrzewski, Dennis Drake, Greg Klatecki, Tom Webber, Leonard Renquin and Francine Melamed, who turned her petitions in at 9:30 a.m. Monday.

The candidates are vying for four four-year terms on the park district board. Nominating petitions may be filed until 5 p.m. today.

Lotteries won't be necessary in other Wheeling races, where there are fewer candidates than in the park district.

Four incumbents and one newcomer filed petitions for Wheeling

village president, village clerk and three trustee seats. Those positions are for four years.

Village President Sheila Schultz is seeking re-election on a slate with incumbent Trustees Elizabeth Hartman, Joseph Ratajczak and William Rogers.

Ratajczak and Schultz are seeking their third term in office. Hartman, a former village clerk, is going for a second term.

Village clerk candidate Lois Gaffke, a plan commission member,

is the only newcomer on the slate.

Candidates slated by the Wheeling Township Republican Organization, who filed nominating papers last Monday, include: Supervisor Ruth Grundberg, Township Clerk Paula Ulreich, Township Assessor Delores Stephan and Township Highway Commissioner Joseph Ayres. Trustee candidates on the slate include Edward Main, Wayne Wagner, Samuel Listopad and Thomas Mead. Newcomer Jerry Sadler will make a bid for tax collector on the slate.

# Officials eye replacing Heritage Park bridge

By Mike Wilkinson /  
Staff Writer  
**it-4M**

Cascading waters seeking a spot downstream during the August 1987 rains were stopped short of their goal at a spot along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch in Heritage Park, creating flooding along Wolf Road.

As workers from the Wheeling operations and maintenance department worked to pump out basements and streets, they noticed that part of the problem could be solved by rebuilding the park district's bridge over the ditch.

That bridge, with its pre-cast concrete supports restricting the path of floodwaters, is now targeted for demolition and replacement, at a cost of up to \$75,000. The village and the park dis-

trict are considering funding for the design and eventual construction of the bridge, which the village hopes can be done by 1991.

However, plans to rebuild the bridge were temporarily sidelined last week when the park board asked for a more detailed cost estimate for replacing the structure.

**FOLLOWING A REQUEST** by the village to share in the design - and eventually the construction - of a new bridge over the Wheeling drainage ditch, the park board decided to delay approving preliminary funding.

"I would like to postpone the design until we can get some kind of figure as to what it's going to cost," park board member Ed Klocke said last week. "I

would like to come up with . . . something that's more than a ball park figure."

The village, in a letter from Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance, said the bridge design could cost about \$15,000. Both the village and the park district are expected to split that cost evenly. Shirley said building a new bridge could cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

Shirley asked for the funding consideration because the village is trying to determine how much money to set aside in the 1989-90 budget for the design. After hearing the park board had delayed a funding commitment, Shirley said Monday he has drafted another letter that he hopes will convince the board to approve partial

funding.

**IF BUILT, THE** village would be getting a bridge that alleviates flooding problems. "It should help us in the future to keep down maintenance costs when there is a lot of rain," Shirley said. "It is one improvement that will help the (flooding) situation."

The park district would get a bridge that replaces an aging one that would need to be replaced anyway, Park District Manager Karop Bavougan said.

Bavougan said there is room in this year's proposed budget to accommodate funding the project's design phase. He said monies for building the bridge have not yet been set aside.

# Abruscato bows out of park board election

**By Mike Wilkinson**  
**Staff Writer**

1/20/89

After six years on the Wheeling park board, and after being the youngest member of an Illinois park board, "veteran" Tony Abruscato has decided not to run for re-election.

Abruscato, 24, said his commitments to his Chicago Job and his education would not allow him to spend enough time with the park district.

"I feel the time required for the board, to do it well, I won't have it," Abruscato said. "It's not fair to me and it's not fair to the park district. It (the decision) was very hard to do."

Part of his decision was based on the fact that his career has taken him into Chicago, where he is a manager at First Security Bank of Chicago. He is also a business student at Loyola University at the Water Tower campus in the city.

Abruscato had circulated petitions for the election and had enough to get on the ballot. But he said other business opportunities out of the Wheeling area caused him to reconsider running for the board.

"I don't think I'd be able to give all that I can for four years," he said. "I wouldn't want to make a one-year stand and then resign."

For those that follow where he once trekked, Abruscato warned the new board members will have to realize there are hundreds of different things going on in the district at all times. Most importantly, he said the park board should function in the role it was designed for: making policy, not kings.

"It's not about authority, it's a policy-making body," Abruscato said. The board employs the park manager and he is the one given the authority to follow policy and run the day-to-day operations of the park district.

Whenever the new - and current - members make a decision, however, they should always consider the benefits to the entire district, Abruscato said.

"You've got to do the best thing for the community as a whole," he said. "I made some decisions that weren't the most popular, but they were the best decisions."

hiring experts for park survey

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Wheeling Park District Director Karop Bavoulian and park board member Anthony Abruscato conduct a lottery last Thursday to determine ballot positions for the seven candidates who have filed for the park board election. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

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# Frosh majority assured in park board election

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

1/24/89

As of April 5, the Wheeling Park District will have its own version of the Four Freshmen. There are no guarantees, however, the quartet will bring harmony to the park board.

With the biggest surprise being there were no more candidates, the field for the Wheeling park board elections was set Monday when no incumbents or newcomers added their names to the ballot.

As it stands, the park board will find four freshmen - a majority of park commissioners - among its ranks when it convenes following the April 4 election.

With incumbents Julia Robberson and Anthony Abruscato electing to end their terms with the park district, and with the park board expanding from five to seven members, the seven candidates for the board will put four new faces in the 1989 park district portrait.

**WHILE THE MAJORITY** of the board will be new to governing the park district, park district Manager Karop Bavoulian said that shouldn't hinder their ability to have an immediate impact.

"Some people have said you can't be productive board member until after two years," Bavoulian said. "I don't believe that."

But one bit of advice came from

Abruscato, who bowed out of the contest because of personal commitments. He said those candidates who are focusing on single issues should retain an open mind when looking at the entire park district.

"It's great to have a central issue that you are concerned about," Abruscato said, "but you have to be open minded, flexible and be able to open yourself up to the workings of a government agency.

"IT'S A business as well as a government agency, and you sometimes have to make *business* decisions," he said.

Bavoulian said the prior relationships the candidates have had with the district, either as previous board member, or as coach or parent, will help the park board, whoever wins the election.

"I think it's nice that they have had some tie to our park district; that they've used our programs," Bavoulian said. "But I don't know if that's a criteria."

At the top of the ballot, and decided by a lottery conducted prior to last week's park board meeting, will be Charles Briles. He will be followed by Kenneth Kostrzewski, Dennis Drake, Greg Klatecki, Tom Webber, Lawrence Renquin and Fran Melamed.

**THE FIRST SIX** candidates filed simultaneously on the first day of filing, Jan. 16. A lottery was conducted to determine ballot position.

Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee  
Open Space Subcommittee  
January 31, 1989  
6:30 p.m. Devonshire Rm.

Members in Attendance: Barb Dittman, Subcommittee Chairman  
Ruth Wieder, Committee Chairman  
Pat Hanley, Committee Co-Chairman  
Bobby Silverstein, Pat Walsdorf

Staff: John Piazza

Guests: Bob Sullivan, Village Planner  
Chris Washburn, Asst. Village Planner  
Mike Wilkinson, Reporter Countryside Reminder

Barb Dittman, Subcommittee Chairman, thanked Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Washburn for attending the meeting and stated she hoped many of the questions discussed at the subcommittee's meeting would be answered and clarified.

She stated the date of the last Comprehensive Master Plan map which the committee looked at was done in 1985 and questioned if there was an updated version? She also stated one of the questions was, what open space has been designated as park district todate and still available? Mr. Sullivan noted the map shown was the existing one plus anything and whatever else the village is thinking of. He also noted the sites that are still designated on the map but so far have not been declared by the park district.

Mr. Sullivan suggested to establish some parameters by which to evaluate each property so they can be compared on a equal basis and maybe prioritized. He suggested going through the list, site by site, and advised the map presented included each site that the village is proposing as potential park sites and open space development as well as a proposed bike path.

He also indicated the preservation of natural features are an important factor they are looking at such as a lake or creek, wet lands, prairie land, wooded areas, etc. The flood plain has also been taken into consideration.

Mike Wilkinson of Countryside Reminder arrived and Mr. Sullivan reiterated what was being discussed and stated we were just going through the parameters that we established by which we can compare potential park sites and following that, we are going to discuss each site that has been designated as a possibility for park and open space.

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He noted that there had been discussion to parameters and proximity of users to existing parks, preservation of natural features, scenic value and flood plain.

He advised the map being used shows both the bicycle paths being considered and open space and also stated nothing has been approved as this is only preliminary and is being reviewed and discussed.

He advised the next parameters are recreation opportunities and what can it do? Can it give us a recreational lake, playing fields, a bike trail path, etc? All of these things are to be considered. Along with that is a good part of a larger network, its part of a linier green space that we might have along Buffalo Creek or McDonald Creek where there is a part of a bike path which we will try to connect.

Another thing that the village considers is enhancement. If its on a very visible street or corner and its got something nice that we can upgrade, we would like to see that become so.

Ruth stated that is similar to "pocket parks" which was discussed by the sub-committee and felt that was very important to have as many as those that can be had, certainly visible to everybody and usable to all especially senior citizens. John noted the one park maintained by the village at Dundee and Milwaukee Avenue and stated that pocket parks are generally found in the center of town.

Barb advised discussion had ensued of perhaps a pocket park at the corner of Dundee and #83. Chris noted that was another designation the village has. Mr. Sullivan advised negotiations are going on now with K-Mart as they have been told some updating must be done. He advised they have agreed in principle so far. Ruth noted the more people that are aware, could probably help that cause along.

Mr. Sullivan stated in the capital improvement plans along the southwest corner where the transmission wires are, is a plan for screening on that corner. Ruth felt that is really great because more and more we find people are walking, and there should be a places to rest along the way.

Pat Walsdorf advised of signage on the bike path through Lexington which states "Do 10 pushups here." John stated

those are "exercise stations" and studies have proven that they are not utilized by those biking or jogging. Mr. Sullivan indicated exercise stations could be placed throughout a park area.

Pat Walsdorf stated at one time there was talk about a bike path along the river as part of the forest preserve and questioned if this were true? Mr. Sullivan advised he had called to find out what the status was and was told they don't really have anything designated, however, they said they were interested and if the village was really interested and pushed for it, they could put it in some kind of plan and shoot for it, so that is what the village is going to try to do possibly with help from other towns.

Mr. Sullivan advised the next parameter is the designation of the comprehensive plan. He noted if its designated, it a big plus.

He also stated next item is the general recreation needs of the residents. He advised the village has received a chart from the park district that indicates what's at each park and he feels the park district knows more than the village as to what is missing and would be better to shoot for.

He stated also that cost has been added. If its something we can just use with an easement, or if there's development going on, the land can just be donated or they can give us an easement or lease for \$1.00/99 years.

His last parameter was the likelihood of losing a site. If it looks like someone is coming in and build on it, then the park district might want to jump in there sooner before they normally would.

Mr. Sullivan then passed pictures of the various designated sites for the committee members to see and which would provide a better understanding when an area is pointed out on the map and discussed.

Ruth stated the committee is as concerned about open space throughout the community and not just park sites and also felt if there are some other areas like the one shown with a bike path, that the planner needs to give it a boost. She stated she would be happy to participate in anything it would take to move that along.

4.

Ruth questioned how much open space there is available in the village? Mr. Sullivan responded by saying there is approximately fifteen percent of undeveloped land. He said these were spotted areas the bulk being in industrial areas.

They continued to review the map and sites referred to are in the attached copy of the article which appeared in the Countryside Reminder dated February 2, 1989.

Discussion then ensued regarding the farm land west of the village hall. Mr. Sullivan stated the idea has been tossed around that this area could be used for possibly farming (an educational program) to retain a natural heritage and cultural use. Ruth stated this idea should be put in the report as a recommendation.

Pat Hanley noted the articles which appeared in the news and questioned if the Soo Line is to come through as discussed, where the village would see a potential site for a train station? Mr. Sullivan advised it would possibly be located down Palmer behind Wickes and Heritage Park. Ruth questioned if the park district could own the parking meters? In response, Mr. Sullivan advised this could be feasible but first we must be sure the Regional Transportation Plan keeps the village in the top of the list.

Ruth stated if and when the Soo Line goes through, she foresees that the development in this area is going to change completely. Pat Walsdorf felt the idea was fine but had concerns for Wheeling is always left out.

Ruth stated that at tonights meeting she has been more encouraged by seeing two young faces and when you have been around this community as long as she has and seen everything she has, she is seeing now in the last 6 months or year, things that are so positive to this community that we are in for a whole new atmosphere and change to the area that is worth pursuing because in the past there were negative feelings and now she sees with new faces, those things are going to work. The new people are going to offer to the community new ideas that are going to be very positive. She noted the area doesn't change until the attitudes change.

Ruth questioned if the village has a population projection for future years? He responded there would be approximately 36,000 residing in the area by the year 2000.

5.

Ruth then questioned what other unknown factors are there at this point that the village is aware of, such as what would happen to this area that would again change the complexity of the density or our projection of parks, etc? Mr. Sullivan advised he felt they had a pretty good handle on it.

Following lengthly discussion, Ruth thanked Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Washburn for attending the meeting and she advised the subcommittee to again meet with the planner and assistant before they make any final recommendation to the Advisory Committee, which will then go into a report and given the board.

Mr. Sullivan advised the village's draft plan must be typed up and sent to the Park District.

Pat Walsdorf stated any report this committee makes should state that we feel very positive about the future of Wheeling.

Ruth noted the other part of this subcommittee's area is public relations and communications for the park district and certainly that would fall under communications.

Ruth felt what we have done tonight is very special and its something that the Advisory Committee has been trying to accomplish for a long time and that is, better communications between the park district and the village. She felt this is a great start and hopes it will occur on other levels because it is very important.

She stated it is also important for the village planner's job to know what is happening within the park district and certainly for the park district to know and be able to communicate with the village.

Pat Hanley addressed the planner and stated hopefully we can get back to the concept on how you prioritize. If the village uses it and the park uses it also, (a similar form) it leaves a position of common ground to talk, a kind of a liaison type of formula that both will use, so when you do meet, both the park district and village will be using common terms and common language.

Ruth advised the guests that the Advisory Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month and if there is anything they think the Advisory Committee should be made aware of, the committee would be happy to have them attend any of our meetings.

# Village reviews sites for saving open space

*Although there is still a long way to go before sites are acquired, Wheeling officials are moving forward with plans to save open space in the village for parks and other recreational uses.*

By Mike Wilkinson  
Stuff Writer

Plans for preserving open space in Wheeling were unveiled Tuesday as members of the village planning staff identified 10 sites where bike paths, ball fields or passive recreation areas could be developed.

At a sub-committee meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee (WPDAC), Village Planner Bob Sullivan and Assistant Planner Chris Washburn provided the committee with a list of properties they have identified as potential sites for open space development.

Areas along McDonald and Buffalo Grove creeks, vacant land in several dense subdivisions and the lake that lies south of Lake-Cook Road, west of Milwaukee Road were included on the recommended list.

Before any sites are acquired, however, both the village and the park district must find funding for the project. The village is investigating whether federal and state grants are available for such projects.

**SULLIVAN SAID** A lack of open space in the village sparked the study. With only about 15 percent of the village left undeveloped, the park district and the village should cooperate in acquiring some of the remaining open space before other plans are made for the property, Sullivan said.

The community development department's study resulted in the preliminary proposal shown to WPDAC members Tuesday. It could be revised

once the park district and village board review the plan.

After seeing the proposal, WPDAC members lauded the efforts of Sullivan and Washburn and said the plan could result in a dramatic change in the direction the village and park district take.

"I've seen now in the last six months some changes that are so positive to this community that I think we've brought a whole new atmosphere to the area," WPDAC co-chairman Ruth Wieder said. "I see with new faces that those things are going to work."

**AMONG THE SITES** recommended for park space, Sullivan identified land:

- To the east of the Walt Whitman School, south of *Center Avenue*.
- Running along Buffalo Grove Creek, just south of Aptakisic Road.
- Surrounding the lake south of Lake-Cook Road, west of Milwaukee Avenue.
- ON THE corner of Wolf and Hintz roads.
- North of McHenry Road, just north of the Kingsport Commons apartment complex.
- Southeast of the Lexington Commons subdivision.
- Surrounding a lake north of Lynn Plaza on Dundee Road, west of the Wisconsin Central Railway tracks.
- **ALONG 111E McDonald Creek, south of Palatine Road.**
- **On Milwaukee Avenue, south of**

Manchester Drive, on the east side of the street.

- Off Buffalo Grove Road, just south of Lakeview Drive.

Several of the parcels, including the ones near Lexington Commons, Kingsport Commons and the Mallard Lake subdivisions were suggested to ease the current lack of accessible park space in those densely populated areas.

**A MAJOR PART of the plan** recommended tying together a bike path network between the existing and future parks. That network, which covers miles of proposed paths in the village, could be linked with paths in Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Forest Preserve, Sullivan said.

Tuesday's meeting was held to brief V/PDAC's open space sub-committee on the village's preliminary findings. A full report is expected to go to the park district this week, Sullivan said.

WPDAC's open space sub-committee is also expected to make a recommendation to the entire committee on the village open space plan.

# Vifrage hopes to corral dwindling open spaces

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

While open space advocates in Lake County successfully push for the conservation of undeveloped land, a somewhat similar, yet far less grandiose, plan is being considered in Wheeling.

With the village's amount of open space far below a set national standard, the village's community development department is now completing a study that will identify undeveloped land in the village that could be used to supplement what now exists.

Accompanying that study will be an outline for a bike path network through the village that could tie into both the forest preserve and village parks.

A completed study, indicating potential open space sites, is expected to be sent to the Wheeling Park District for consideration next week, village planner Bob Sullivan said.

**SULLIVAN SAID THE** village and park district are working on a cooperative effort aimed at identifying sites that could be acquired or leased. Sullivan said the study is focusing on identifying possible open space sites and giving them a priority ranking for acquisition, donation or leasing.

"Open space and the environment - most people are for it," Sullivan said. "Features like that can enhance the appearance of Wheeling and the quality of life in Wheeling."

Currently, the village has about 125 acres of park space within the village, excluding the 125 acres of land at the Chevy Chase Golf Course. The standard as proposed by the American Parks and Recreation Association states a community should have 10 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents.

With the village being the home to more than 3,000 people, that standard is far from met, Sullivan said.

MUCH OF THE study, Sullivan said, centers on land along the village's creeks and the proposed diversionary channel, which is expected to take water 8,000 feet from the Buffalo Grove Creek to the Des Plaines River. Bike paths and other more passive land uses could be set aside in those areas to augment the playing fields and parks already found in the village.

Waterfront sites are attractive targets for addition to the existing park system because they are visible, aesthetic and are easily accessible to residents, Sullivan said. And unlike larger parcels of undeveloped land, they are cheaper because their building potential is limited by the waterway that makes them attractive.

The village might also consider larger parcels, including the one surrounding the lake south of Lake-Cook Road, east of Northgate Parkway, Sullivan said.

Park District Manager Karop Bavooulian said the park district and the village should engage in active pursuit of additional open space. "I think it's something we're going to have to grapple with," Bavooulian said. "Because if we don't do it now, it'll be gone."

**AT THE MOMENT,** however, because of the preliminary status of the project, no funding has been set aside by the park district for new land acquisition, Bavooulian said.

Although the project is in its early

phases, support for the study came from Village President Sheila Shultz, who said one of the goals of her next four years in office will be green belt development.

Schultz is running unopposed in the April 4 election. Without a challenge from a write-in candidate, Schultz will serve her third four-year term as village president.

"Open space is a quality of life issue," Schultz said. "You want to keep a little bit of the country and a little bit of the suburbs as you develop."

**AS FOR HER** fellow trustees, Schultz said the study, and its eventual implementation, would have their sup-

***"I think (open space is) something we're going to have to grapple with, because if we don't do it now, it'll be gone."***

***— Karop Bavooulian  
Director  
Wheeling Park District***

port. "I think they'd be amenable to protecting land like that (open space)," Schultz said.

Funding for such acquisitions is the biggest stumbling block, and the one the community development department is now studying. Sullivan said federal and state grants are being investigated to determine if monies can be secured from those sources.

Once a list of potential properties is identified, Sullivan said the village would work with the park district to determine how to implement the plan while seeking park district support.

Several different avenues could be pursued to secure use of the targeted properties, Sullivan said, including outright purchase. He said the parcels could be leased, or conservation easements to waterfront properties could be granted to the village.

**A CONSERVATION EASEMENT** would allow the village access to a property in which the village would "conserve" the natural feature of the property while not owning it.

There are no estimates how much the entire project could cost the village or the park district, Sullivan said.

"I think we need to look at acquiring more property, otherwise we're going to be what we are now and that's it," Bavooulian said.

The village is now waiting for funding for the construction of a diversionary channel set to run from the Buffalo Grove Creek near Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road to the Des Plaines River.

**WITHIN THE EASEMENTS** the village is negotiating for the channel, the village is hoping to save enough space for a bike path. That path, Sullivan said, could conceivably be connected with other waterfront paths into Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Forest Preserve along the Des Plaines River.

# An open invitation

## Officials eye options on saving park space

*Vacant land in Wheeling may be in scarce supply, but local officials are examining what can be done to assure that the village's few remaining open areas are preserved. This week the Countryside examines the efforts being coordinated by the village and the Wheeling Park District and what sites are under review.*

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

For years, Wheeling residents have complained that there isn't enough park space in the village. Residents have urged that the vacant parcels near them be turned into ballfields, picnic areas or passive parks.

Now, it appears a cooperative effort between the park district and the village could lead to the acquisition of some new park sites. The village has generated a list that identifies 11 sites in the village for potential park expansion.

Members of a park district advisory committee have already been briefed on the village land study and the park board is expected to study that list.

Whether any of the sites are purchased, however, depends on if the park district or the village can find funding for land acquisition.

The recent efforts respond to concerns raised since 1982, when many residents living along McHenry Road, south of Lake-Cook Road, complained that there was little open space available for them and their children.

THEY REPEATEDLY TOLD the village that the more than 4,000 residents in the area was the largest population in the village not serviced by a park. They said the nearest park, Childerley Park, did not offer enough active recreation area and was too far away for children to travel.

"The children of my complex, Colonial Townhomes, have nowhere to play except the parking lot," resident Anne Olson wrote in 1982 to then-plan commission chairwoman Tony Allier. Allier' is now a village trustee.

Olson, like many others, asked the village to designate nearby parcels as park space. That designation would give the park district the option of buying the parcels in case a developer wanted to build upon them.

Don Kirchenberg, then president of the Cedar Run homeowners association, asked the village in several letters throughout 1982 to add the park

designations. His letters, on behalf of the association, urge the village to "do everything it can to designate, purchase and develop active recreation sites along McHenry Road."

ALTHOUGH ALL THE sites Olson and Kirchenberg identified were not designated as parks, two of them were. After more than 15 hearings and meetings on the comprehensive plan, trustees approved a version recommended by the plan commission.

In 1985, the village board updated the plan, which designates land use in the village, and included two areas near Cedar Run, Lexington Commons, Kingsport Commons, Colonial Townhomes and Chelsea Cove as park sites, one at 745 N. McHenry Road (site 2 on map), and another along the Wisconsin Central Railway line, just north of Kingsport Commons (site 3 on the map).

But village planners have identified another nine sites in the village that could also be acquired for park use.

Park District Manager Carol Bavoogian, in echoing the comments of several members of the district advisory committee, said the district must look at open space because of its scarcity. With the village filling in and its borders locked, there will be little the park district can do in the future if

the land is developed now, Bavoogian said.

TO THOSE WHO complain the park district isn't maintaining its current facilities and shouldn't acquire more land, Bavoogian 'he park district may have to "land bank" vacant space for future development.

"I do know it's open space) a dwindling resource," Bavoogian said, "and when it's gone, there is no more."

The most current study began after new Village Planner Bob Sullivan noticed the apparent lack of park space in the village. While a federal park standard calls for .25 acre of park space for every 100 residents, Wheeling's 29,000 people rely on just 240 acres in the park district, of which 125 are on the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse.

With the village projected to peak at 38,000 in population, the village and park district should look at additional park space, Sullivan said, for both current and future residents.

In studying the Wheeling sites, the park district and the village will have to decide which parks are the most attractive, most affordable and most functional.

Below is a list of the sites and a map indicating their location in the village.

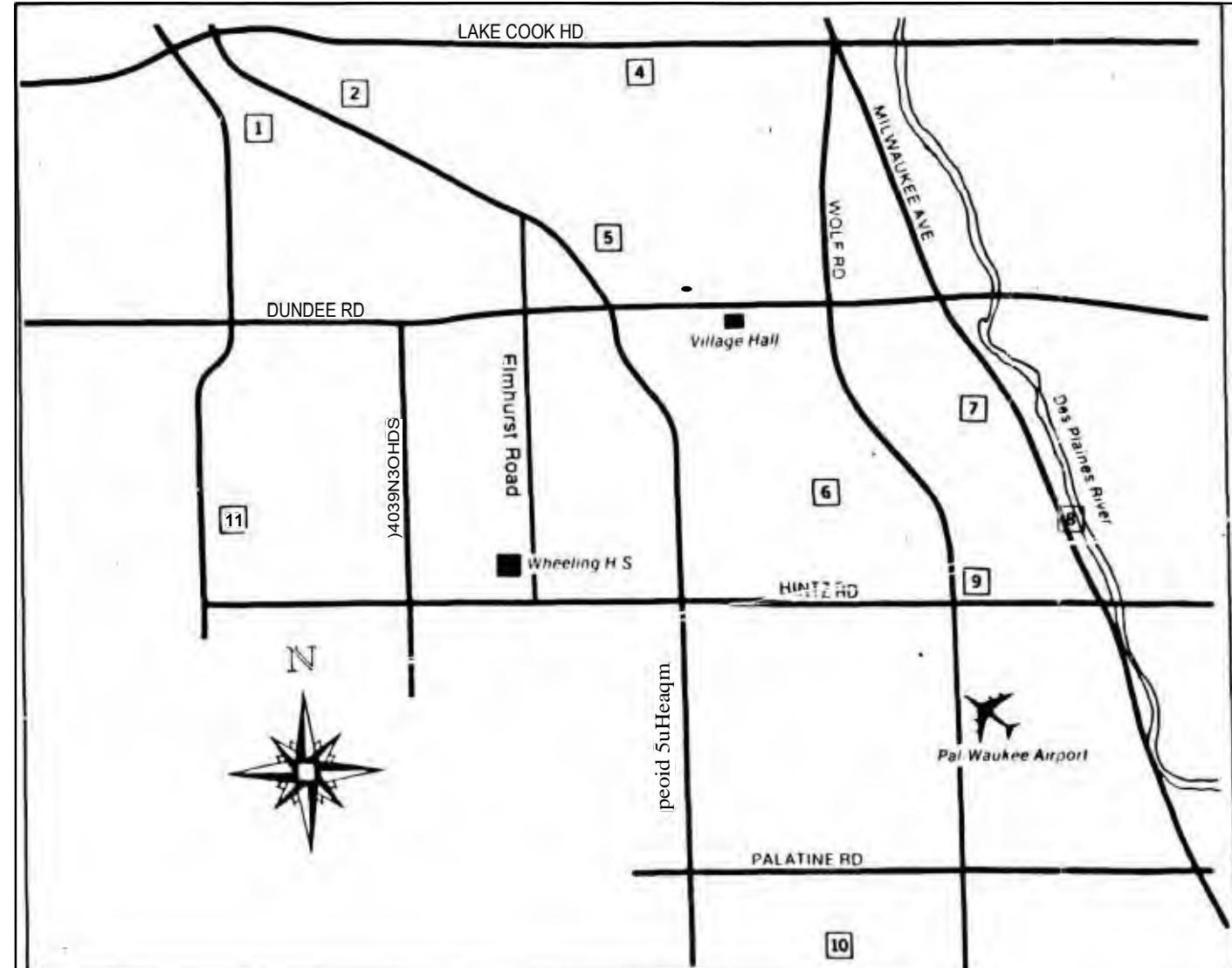
# A look at sites under review for acquisition

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

**1** **Buffhlo Creek south of Aptakisic Road** Is one of the three linear, creekside parks suggested by the village, this parcel runs along the Buffalo Grove Creek, south of Aptakisic Road. It is considered attractive because of its natural habitat, wetlands and scenery. The village proposal also includes a bike path through this parcel. Like the other creekside parks, the narrow strip of land surrounding it cannot be built upon, making it and the others relatively inexpensive to purchase.

**2** Site two en McHenry Road, next to Lexington, is one of the most attractive sites mentioned, Sullivan said, not because of its beauty, but because of its proximity to many residents not now served by a park. Residents of Lexington Commons must cross McHenry Road and go down M Childerley Park, more than three-quarters of a mile away, Sullivan said. Assistant Village Planner Chris Washburn said the village has received many letters from residents in the area who have requested this site be set aside and operated as a park.

**This site** Is north of McHenry Road, west of Wisconsin Central Rail.vay tracks. Just north of Kingsport Commons, the vacant parcel identified here is the largest of all those proposed. Among its benefits, the village has said is the site's scenic value, its accessibility.  
(Continued on page 23)



This map details 11 sites under consideration for acquisition. For a description on each site, see the corresponding number in the story.

## Sites —

(Continued from page 16)

ty to many residents currently not served by a park, the fact that it could be tied into the proposed bike path network, and that it is a declared wetland. It would serve as a buffer between the existing high-tension wires, industrial park and the neighboring residential area. But Sullivan said a developer is now eyeing the property for continued development.

**Ni** This site is located at Johnson Lake, south of Lake-Cook Road. With the acquisition of the land surrounding this man-made lake, the park district may be able to offer limited boating, while potentially creating a nature area on the site. A bike path is suggested to be tied into the park and the diversionary channel the village is planning. The channel will take overflow water from the Wheeling Drainage Ditch at Northgate Parkway, just north of Dundee Road, to the Des Plaines River near Lake Cook Road.

**8** This site includes a retention lake behind the Lynn Plaza shopping center at Dundee Road and McHenry Road. This retention area and surrounding land, already used by trespassers as a fishing hole, could be developed into the same use for all park district residents. Sullivan suggested it could also be attached with the network of bike paths. The site was also considered attractive because it is very visible and includes natural areas that could be set aside as a passive recreation.

**L6J**

A meadow area along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch behind the Foxboro apartments, this Is site is another one of the linear parks. Straddling, the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, this park site could connect with an existing 'tot lot to the north, Sullivan said. It is labeled a natural area with a meadow geography.

**7**

This large, vacant parcel is now a play site to the east of Whitman School and is maintained but not owned - by Community Consolidated District 21. It is now primarily used by students. It also is in a very dense residential area and is designated as a park area in the village's comprehensive plan.



This site Is east of Milwaukee Avenue, south of a trailer home park. One of Sullivan's own ideas includes looking at the land along the Des Plaines River, south of Manchester and looking to develop a portion of it into a more attractive entrance Into the village. Now occupied by an abandoned gas station, a used car dealer and a body shop, the land is not "the correct use of a riverfront," Sullivan said. If acquired, Sullivan said the property could be tied into the existing Cook County Forest Preserve across the river.



This site is located near the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads. When this intersection is moved to make room for a larger clear zone at the north end of Palwaukee Airport's longest runway, village planners say this site could tie in with the proposed bike path network. Given the site's high profile, Sullivan said it would contribute to the

(Continued on next page)

## Sites —

(Continued from previous page)

image of the park district.

**10**

This site sits along McDonald Creek in the far southern portion of the village. The only site to not carry a park designation on the village comprehensive plan, this site is the third suggested creekside linear park



This site is located in the Mallard Lake Apartment complex, off Old Buffalo Grove Road. The suggested site is near a dense residential area that needs a park site, Sullivan said. Its access to potential users and its visibility make it an attractive site, he said.



WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. in the Abbey (adjacent to the main ballroom) of the Chevy Chase Club House, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Il.

- I. Call to order
- II. Agenda- Additions/Deletions/  
Corrections
- III. Approval of the Minutes of  
November 9, 1988.
- IV. Old Business:
  - 1. Survey Update
  - 2. Subcommittee Verbal Report
    - a. Chevy Chase Subcommittee
    - b. Leisure Service Subcommittee
    - c. Open Space/Public Relations
  - 3. Il. Open Meetings Act
- V. New Business
  - 1. Park District Safety Award
  - 2.
- VI. Adjournment

NOTE: Please notify Ruth 537-2105 or Patti 537-1450 if you cannot be in attendance.

Memo To: Wheeling Park District  
Board of Park Commissioners

From: Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

Re: Survey Recommendation

Date: January 11, 1989

At the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee meeting of January 11, 1989 discussion ensued regarding a survey.

This committee recommends to the Wheeling Park District Board that a survey be made in the community by an outside professional group for the purpose of compiling data to further help inform and improve the Wheeling Park District. This was unanimously approved by the members.

Rationale and background information will be presented by Co-chairman Pat Hanley.

HERITAGE PARK  
222 S. WOLF RD., WHEELING, IL  
60090                   (312) 537-2222

# WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

WHEELING, ILLINOIS

CHEVY CHASE  
1000 N. MILWAUKEE, WHEELING, IL  
60090                   (312) 537-2930

December 30, 1988

Mrs. Ruth Wieder, Co-Chairperson  
Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee  
111 S. Willie  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

Dear Ruth:

You had previously requested clarification as to whether or not subcommittees of the Advisory Committee could meet in private residences and/or if they fell within the application of the Open Meetings Act.

I have contacted the Illinois Association of Park Districts and enclosed is the reply from Peter Murphy who is the Legal/Legislative Counsel for the Association.

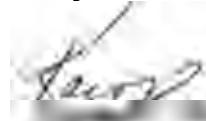
To summarize Peter's letter, the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees fall within the purview of the Open Meetings Act. Thus, the application of the Open Meetings Act is in effect anytime there is a meeting which consists of a majority of a quorum of the Advisory Committee. In the case of the Advisory Committee, as it is presently constituted, there are thirteen members. A quorum would be seven members. Thus a majority of a quorum would be four members.

Anytime a subcommittee meets with four members it would be considered a public meeting and proper notice of such meeting must be given. The location of the meeting is not relevant, i.e. a private residence, as long as the meeting is open to the public.

I have obtained copies of the Guide To The Illinois Open Meetings Act from the Illinois Attorney General's office which is enclosed for your use.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

  
Mary Vouglan  
Park District Manager

Enc: As stated

cc: Board of Commissioners  
Wheeling Park District



# ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS

*The Voice of Illinois Park, Forest Preserve & Conservation Districts*

211 East Monroe Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-523-4554

December 12, 1988

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O

OUR 60th YEAR  
OF SERVICE TO YOU

Mr. Karop T. Bavooulian, Manager  
Wheeling Park District  
1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Wheeling, IL 60090

Dear Karop:

This is in response to your inquiry as to whether an advisory committee of an Illinois unit of local government falls within the purview of the Open Meetings Act and, further, whether the meetings of such body can be held in a private residence.

The Ill.Rev.Stat. 1987, ch. 102, par. 41.02 defines public body to include all municipal corporations and any subsidiary bodies of the forgoing including but not limited to committees and subcommittees which are supported in whole or in part by tax revenue.

This language has been interpreted to bring within the purview of the Open Meetings Act advisory committees or subcommittees which do not spend or use tax revenue. The Act, however, does not apply to meetings of an informal advisory committee appointed by a public official, as distinguished from one appointed by or accountable to a public body.

In a 1982 opinion on the application of the definition of "meeting," then Attorney General Fahner opined that, "The Act is applicable anytime there is a gathering of a majority of a quorum of the members of such subsidiary body held for the purposes of discussing public business." The application of the Act is not dependent upon the total number of members of the principal public body.

The Act, therefore, comes into play when a quorum of the subsidiary body is gathered. Further, the specific location as to a meeting is not relative if such meeting is open to the public, and proper notice has been given.

Karop, if I can provide you or the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners any additional information in regard to this matter, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Murphy  
*Legal/Legislative Counsel*

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD NOVEMBER 9, 1988

The regular meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee was held on November 9, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. in the Devonshire Room of the Chevy Chase Club House.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Wieder. Members present were: Alice Wargo, Marge Hartmann, Ruth Wieder, Virginia Metzger, Ida Hein, Pat Walsdorf, Patrick Hanley, new member, Daniel Conrad and Pat Hancock. Absent: Bobby Silverstein, Frank Wojek, new member, Alberta Klocke, Liaison, Ed Klocke and Park Manager, Karop Bavougian. The committee was notified of their absence.

Guests: Cliff Bird, former member.

Chairperson Ruth Wieder welcomed the committee's newest member Dan Conrad. She advised Dan was present and appointed to our committee at the Board Meeting of November 3rd. Introductions were then made.

AGENDA-Additions/Deletions/Corrections

The agenda was submitted for approval. Chairperson Ruth Wieder requested Mr. Cliff Bird be placed on the agenda under Old Business. The agenda as amended was accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of October 12, 1988 were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Dolly Hein, seconded by Alice Wargo to approve the minutes as presented. Carried by Voice.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Recognition- Chairperson Ruth Wieder took this time to present Cliff Bird with a Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution to the committee and the fulfillment of his term and explained to the new members Cliff's commitment to the committee from its inception.

A. Recap - Goals, Direction, etc.

Ruth advised the members she was not really sure what to say about direction. At the Board meeting of last week, she questioned the Board where they wanted the committee to go? She stated she personally felt that as far as long range went, it was pretty difficult for anybody on the committee to try to guess what the community needs might be. She questioned the Board on the committee doing a survey because we sit in the middle of other park districts surrounding us that have come up with some pretty good recreation facilities and it was her feeling that a direction is needed for the group as to how could we seek out from the community, what is their feelings and thoughts and what do they see this park district look like 25 years from now? She felt it would be hard to determine what their needs might be without hearing from them.

Pat Walsdorf advised she requested a copy of Buffalo Grove's survey and was advised it is on the way. The members felt a survey is an excellent way to find out what the community's needs are.

Discussion ensued. Ruth stated since this falls under the recreation subcommittee, perhaps the members of the committee would want to work out something and bring back to the committee as a whole.

Following a lengthly discussion, suggestions were made as to various ways a survey could be made up and submitted to the public.

Chairperson Wieder advised Dan Conrad was not yet on a committee.

A review of subcommittees was made. It was agreed the subcommittees be amended as follows:

Open Space/Public Relations/Communications- Bobby Silverstein, Chair, Pat Walsdorf, Ruth Wieder, Pat Hancock

Chevy Chase-(To encompass clubhouse and golf course)  
Marge Hartmann, Frank Wojek, Chair, Ida Hein.

Leisure Services-(To encompass parks and recreation)-  
Alice Wargo, Virginia Metzger, Pat Hanley, Chair,  
Alberta Klocke and Dan Conrad.

Ruth advised one of the questions asked her was if a sub-committee could meet in member's homes and she could not really give an honest answer. She referred the question to the park manager for his opinion and he had none, so until this can be clarified, she felt in the best interests, subcommittee meetings should be held at the park district. Park Manger Bavougian was requested to contact attorney and todate, no response has been received.

A memorandum from K. Bavougian to the Board regarding the use of bond money was distributed to the members for their information.

Ruth requested when members meet with department heads to give them all the support they need in seeking information needed. It is the intent of this committee to really help this park district to progress and the only way to do that is to work cooperatively with board and staff, compile the information and report back to the board.

At 9:25 p.m. the members broke into subcommittees.

At 9:55 p.m. the regular meeting resumed.

#### Committee as a Whole

Chairpersons were picked as reflects in the above listing of subcommittees.

#### 1. Evening Progress Report

Leisure Services subcommittee chairperson Pat Hanley advised regarding a survey.

Virginia and Dan are to meet with Supt. Leisure Services  
Virginia is to check with School district #21  
Dan is to check with School District #23  
Alice is to check with park districts, private facilities  
regarding programming for teenagers.  
Pat to check with park districts regarding surveys.

Ruth advised the Open Space/Communication/Public Relations subcommittee asks since we feel that public relations and communications is something we have to learn through the Chevy Chase and Leisure Service findings, it is requested that when a meeting is held with a department head, someone from this committee be included.

4.

It was unanimously agreed by the members not to hold a regular meeting of the Advisory Committee in December. The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 11, 1989 at 7:30 p.m.

Ruth announced any person desiring to run for the Board of Commissioners, packets and petitions will be available after the 15th of November.

It was requested that Tom Webber be placed on our mailing list for an agenda and minutes. So done.

Adjournment

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There being no further/business to come before the committee motion was made by Virginia Hartmann, seconded by Dolly Hein to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. Carried by Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hancock, Secretary  
Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

To: Board of Park Commissioners  
Wheeling Park District

From: Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

Re: New Member

Date: November 14, 1988

The name of Barbara Dittman as a new applicant to serve on the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee for a three year period has been received, and is submitted to the Board of Park Commissioners for approval and acceptance.

mtg of 11/19/88

TO: Board of Park Commissioners  
Wheeling Park District

FROM: Wheeling Park District  
Advisory Committee

RE: New Member

DATE: November 2, 1988

The name of Daniel Conrad as a new applicant to serve on the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee for a three year term has been received, and is submitted to the Board of Park Commissioners for approval and acceptance.

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## News briefs i/Sir?

# New candidates may join park board election

Three more people have decided to enter the fray for seats on the now-coveted Wheeling Park Board.

Fran Melamed, of 464 Harmony, Leonard Renquin, of 775 N. Dennis, and Scott Thorholm, of 745 Highgoal, have all taken out nominating petitions from the park district.

With the addition of these three prospective candidates, nine people have announced their intention to run for the four available seats on the board. Ironically, no one has yet announced a challenge to the incumbent members of the village board.

Melamed, Renquin and Thorholm, along with incumbent Tony Abruscato and five others, have taken out nominating petitions. The actual field will be set when petitions are filed between Jan. 16 and Jan. 23.

Two board seats expire this year, those of Abruscato and Julia Robberson. Robberson has not yet said if she will seek another four-year term on the board.

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## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Wheeling park to get erosion control work

BY KERI WYATT  
*Daily Herald Staff Writer / 6' Sr.*

When it rains, walking into Pleasant Run Park in Wheeling is anything but pleasant. The Wheeling Park District is trying to correct erosion problems caused by foot and bicycle traffic at the park entrance.

After considering proposals from four contractors, the park board awarded a contract to Pedersen Construction Inc. for \$17,275, the lowest bid.

The company will put in asphalt sidewalks at the park entrance, which park officials say will reduce the erosion problem.

"They'll put in asphalt at the entrance by the sign," John Piazza,

superintendent of resource management, said. "They'll also put in a swale with a gradual slope down to the ditch area."

A swale is a shallow depression in the ground designed to guide runoff water.

The renovation is expected to begin in the spring.

Pleasant Run, formerly Last Four Acres park, has been the source of headaches for the district for some time. For a long time, the park had no equipment or ballfields, and the ground there had not been leveled or planted with grass.

Extensive work was done this summer, and the park now sports ballfields and a playground.

The park, located at Honeysuck-

le and Pear Tree lanes, was designed by William Rose and Associates architectural firm.

The entrance to the park is on a slope, and rainwater washed dirt into nearby streets. This summer, dry weather combined with heavy traffic to make growing grass just about impossible.

In November, park board members awarded a \$1,950 contract to Rose & Associates to design a system to control erosion where foot traffic has killed the grass.

The company also recommended that Pedersen do the work.

Piazza also recommended that the board set up a \$725 contingency fund to cover costs for permits and supervision of the project by the architect.

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## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Park district to pay more for insurance

BY KERI WYA T  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 7/7/27

In order to help their employees cope with higher medical insurance bills, Wheeling Park District officials have agreed to increase their share by nearly \$21,000.

The park district offers three insurance plans to its 40 employees. Twenty of those employees currently opt for the "Preferred Physician Option," a traditional health plan.

The cost of the PPO plan has increased 76 percent over last year. Parks Director Karop Bavourgian attributed the increase to a 160 percent claim rate. That is, for every dollar paid into the program, \$1.60 was paid in claims.

"The most frightening thing is that a 20 percent to 25 percent bump is expected every year," Bavourgian said.

The higher premiums convinced park board members to increase the district's share of the insurance bills.

"If the park district doesn't make an adjustment to the amount we subsidize, some people won't be able to afford to work for us," board President James Gallagher said.

The park district also is planning to investigate joining other districts in an insurance pool, similar to one now used for liability coverage.

Until now, the district has paid \$225 a month of each employee's

health insurance premium. In 1988, the employee contribution ranged from \$50.37 for the PPO to \$87.58 for Prudential's Health Maintenance Organization plan.

Now board members have agreed to increase the district's subsidy to \$325 a month for each employee. With that subsidy, the employee contribution for the PPO plan would be \$136. The two HMO plans would cost \$17.32 a month and \$23.59 a month.

"I'd hope you'd be more generous to employees," said resident Greg Klatecki, who is running for a seat on the park board in April. "This district should be on the forefront of finding ways to work with other districts to solve this problem."

# Soccer travelers to merge with larger club

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer 17/21

The Wheeling Park District traveling soccer club plans to merge with a larger regional club.

Wheeling's current teams will continue as they are but become part of the American Soccer Club.

Parents of children involved in the Wheeling Wildcats traveling soccer club were asked to vote last month on the future plans for the club.

Twenty parents voted in favor of joining ASC, while 10 voted to remain a park district program. Only two parents favored becoming an independent club.

"We would be sharing facilities, but all the Wheeling teams would remain the same," said superintendent of Leisure Services Arnie Biondo.

Biondo said the merger would improve the quality of the soccer program.

In a memo on the change, Biondo

said the benefits included training for coaches, established bylaws, skill development clinics, a coaching evaluation system, licensed coaches and a standardized try-out and player selection system.

Such benefits are "vital to the health, happiness and development of young soccer players," Biondo said. "In the years it has existed, the park district program has lacked all of these."

Jim Schwoebel, a member of the traveling soccer committee, told the

board he was "really in favor" of the merger.

"At first, I was in favor of maintaining our current soccer program," he said. "But we have a good working relationship with American Soccer Club. There are already quite a few Wheeling kids, maybe 30 or 40, in their program."

Biondo said that leaders in the current Wheeling soccer program would be able to assume leadership positions in the merged club.

# Park District awards auditing firm a one-year contract

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District board members have agreed to retain the auditing firm that has reviewed the district's books since 1981.

However, the board overruled a recommendation from its superintendent of finance to award a three-year contract to Garrison and Byrne. Instead, they granted the firm a one-year contract. It will cost the park district \$6,125.

The service provided by the firm for the past seven years has been "excellent," said Tom Busby, superintendent of finance. He said he col-

lected bids from other auditing firms only to be sure the park district was getting a good deal.

Busby had recommended a three-year contract, which would cost \$20,125. But board members said they preferred to retain the firm for one year.

"The only reason for a three-year contract is because you have the price guaranteed for three years," board member Tony Abruscato said. "You're locked into a price, whereas if you don't get a three-year contract it could go up in price next year."

"You would usually only award a three-year contract to a new auditor, to provide continuity," resident

Dennis Drake told park board members. "This firm has been your auditor since 1981. There is no real advantage to a three-year contract."

Drake is planning to run for a seat on the park board in April.

**Board member Ed Klocke** said he

also opposed a three-year commitment.

Karrison and Byrne will be responsible for preparing an audit report, an opinion on financial statements, an audit report to the state comptroller and a management letter, Busby said.

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## MISSION OF THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

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# Certificate of Appreciation

presented to

for

*OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICES in participating and serving an appointed **Wun to** the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee and **Pt** commitment to providing better park and recreation .to the residents of Wheeling Park District and the citizens of Wheeling.*



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Chairman  
Wheeling Park  
Advisory Committee

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WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMM.

JANUARY 89 - SEPT. 89