

Few objections to park plan voiced

Hafsa Naz Mahmood, Daily Herald Staff Writer

October 28, 2006

A few curious residents took what could be their last opportunity to learn about the Glen Ellyn Park District's referendum plan prior to the Nov. 7 election.

And if they're representative of the larger voting public, it appears there could be more support for the initiative this time around.

The district will ask voters for \$11.9 million. About \$2 million will go to renovating Main Street Recreation Center, \$2.5 million to land acquisition and \$7.4 million to the construction of a new recreation center at Ackerman Park.

If the request is approved, the tax rate would remain equivalent to what it's been since a 1999 district bond issue, but the payoff date would be 2017. In other words, the owner of a \$300,000 house would continue to pay about \$70 to the district next year.

Brant Yeager of Glen Ellyn attended the district's final referendum open house this week because he wasn't happy with last spring's failed tax request.

"I just wanted to see what the new proposal was for this referendum in hopes it was more appropriate for the community's needs," he said.

His main concern the last time around was that he didn't want to see Main Street Recreation Center torn down.

"I haven't seen anything that I'm opposed to" with the latest request, he said while leaving the open house. "Last time, I was almost immediately opposed to several things."

Christina Wilson, president of Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation, also said she was unhappy with the park district's former plan of demolishing Main Street Recreation Center.

Wilson said the group wants to make sure the outer integrity and character of the building will be maintained.

She said the group doesn't have a position on the fall referendum, but does feel there's a little room for compromise.