

The Glen Ellyn Sun

General Primary Election: March 21, 2006: Voters shoot down Glen Ellyn Park District referendum

The Glen Ellyn Park District will have to find other ways to fund some of its projects. Voters rejected a \$12.5 million referendum measure March 21 that would have funded the construction of a new facility to replace the Main Street Recreation Center. Other projects included expanding the Lake Ellyn Boathouse, installing bathrooms at Ackerman Park and acquiring additional open space. According to unofficial results, 3,750 voters or 40 percent approved the referendum, and 5,583 or 60 percent cast a no vote.

By Ron Pazola
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"We're disappointed," said Park District Executive Director Cory Atwell. "We believe the issuing of bonds would have been a good way to pay for the projects."

Atwell said the projects will be put on hold until the park district decides what its next step will be. The district might decide to put the referendum back on the ballot in the November general election.

During a Feb. 22 tour of the Main Street Recreation Center, Atwell told reporters that the aging building, a former grade school, was in "poor shape." The building needs a new roof, windows, plumbing, electrical wiring and a heating and air-conditioning systems. Atwell also pointed out that the structure is no longer big enough to house all the park district's programs.

Critics of the referendum said that some of the projects are unnecessary. They want to see the Main Street Recreation Center renovated, not torn down. They also said their taxes would go down if the referendum were rejected.

"People with a \$500,000 home will only save \$116 a year," Atwell said. "That's not much of a savings."

The district has a yearly budget of \$4.5 million.

Contact Ron Pazola at rpazola@scn1.com or (630) 416-5283.