

The Glen Ellyn Sun

Park District asks voters for less this time

In its second attempt to obtain additional funds for its projects, the Glen Ellyn Park District will ask voters in a Nov. 7 referendum for less money than the first time. The district will ask voters to approve a bond issue of \$11.9 million to fund such plans as the renovation of Main Street Recreation Center, the addition to an indoor multipurpose facility at Ackerman Park and the acquisition of land. In March, voters shot down a referendum that asked them for \$12.5 million to replace the Main Street Recreation Center's building.

By Ron Pazola
September 1, 2006

According to Park District officials, the renovation of the recreation center will cost about \$2 million - \$5 million less than the construction of a new building. Officials said the cost of improvements to Ackerman Park won't be announced until at least later this month.

Park District Executive Director Cory Atwell believes the revised referendum has a better chance of being approved by voters. "I feel the renovation of Main Street Recreation Center is a good option for people," he said.

Vice President Sandra Minogue also remains optimistic the referendum will pass.

If residents OK the referendum request, the tax rate would remain equivalent to what it has been since the 1999 bonds were purchased, but the bonds wouldn't have to be paid until 2017. The owner of a \$300,000 house would pay about an extra \$70 to the district in 2007.

In March, voters rejected the district's request of \$12.5 million to rebuild the recreation center, buy land and fund renovations at the Lake Ellyn Boat House and Ackerman Park. Critics said some of the projects were unnecessary and their taxes would be reduced if the referendum didn't pass.

Contact Ron Pazola at rpazola@scn1.com.