

# The Glen Ellyn Sun

## **Revised referendum pairs down some projects**

*The Glen Ellyn Park District proved the adage that says "if at first you don't succeed, try again."*

By Ron Pazola  
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Voters approved an \$11.9 million referendum measure Nov. 7 that will give \$2 million to the renovation of the Main Street Recreation Center, \$2.5 million for land acquisition and \$7.4 million for the construction of a new 45,000-square-foot recreation facility at Ackerman Park. In March, voters rejected a similar referendum that asked for \$12.5 million in bonds for projects that included the demolition of the Main Street Recreation Center building to make way for a new facility.

According to unofficial results, 6,679 voters or 54 percent OK'd the revised referendum and 5,679 or 46 percent cast a no vote.

"We're pleased the referendum passed," parks Executive Director Cory Atwell said. "We tried to work with the community, and in return, the community gave us the go ahead to proceed with some of our projects. We think the entire community will benefit from the improvements."

Many believed that the March referendum failed to pass in part because local preservationists opposed tearing down Main Street Recreation Center, a former grade school they said was historically significant. The building was constructed in 1920.

Critics of the original referendum also said it was too ambitious in scope. Besides asking for a new Main Street Recreation Center building, the March referendum called for the expansion of the Lake Ellyn Boathouse - a project that has been put on hold.

Now that the revised referendum has passed, the tax rate will remain equivalent to what it's been since a 1999 bond issue, but the payoff date will be 2017. The owner of a \$300,000 house will continue to pay about \$70 in the district next year.

If voters had rejected the referendum, taxpayers would have seen a \$23.31 drop per \$100,000 in equalized assessed valuation on the district's portion of the annual property tax bill.

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