

Local History
Please keep clippings in folder
subject Meadowdale Raceway
date of material 1980-1989

PARKS + RECREATION
D. TW. PARK DIST.
Da

113/127 • Elgin, Illinois

Referendum, taxes linked to raceway

By Dave Gathman

CARPENTERSVILLE — If residents want Meadowdale Raceway preserved as open space or park land, they probably will have to pass a referendum setting up a Dundee Township Open Space District, with new taxes to pay for it.

That was the word this week from the Dundee Township Park District board, as several residents asked the district to buy the raceway's 236 acres.

Board members said they see the value of preserving such an area. But the cost of buying it, at an estimated \$2 million-\$4 million, makes it a lower priority than other projects that are having trouble getting funded, Commissioner Paul Buhrmann said after the meeting.

"We don't have any positive funding for this without selling capital improvement bonds," Buhrmann said. "And that would put us in a bind so far as other projects, from the possible building of a community center to maintenance and updating of our existing parks."

The Fox Path Association, a group of residents opposed to developing the former raceway, plans to circulate petitions calling for a November referendum to create an open space district.

The referendum would authorize the district to sell up to \$15 million worth of bonds to buy and preserve open space. The bonds would be paid off by new taxes.

"We made an unofficial com-

Em
wal
noc

F
t

N.Y.
Ti
ques
that
less
than
ing
Tim
Ti
Tues

●Referendum, new tax linked to open space district

From page 1

residents that showed that most would like to see such a center built, even if that meant somewhat higher taxes.

Prepared with the help of University of Illinois researchers, the survey was returned by 34 percent of the people who received it. Of these, 65 percent said they would like to see the park district build a community center, and 52.7 percent said they would be willing to pay an extra \$20 a year in taxes for 15 years.

Twenty-eight percent said "no" on the tax raise, and the rest were undecided.

A slimmer majority—39 percent vs. 37 percent—was willing to pay \$35 more per year.

Rakow said an architect is still working on designs and cost estimates for the center, and the plan probably will be discussed by the park board this fall.

The board also plans to tour a community center being built in the north suburbs, reportedly at considerably lower cost.

"The big question about the center is how we'll pay for it," Rakow said.

The park district also is working with Carpentersville and East Dundee to see how feasible it is to get water and sewer service for the center. The land is in Carpentersville, but the only nearby utility lines are in East Dundee.

In other action this week, the park board voted to seek contractor bids for the \$150,000 repair of leaky Haeger Pool.

Buhrmann said it remains un-

certain whether the repairs will be done in time for any of this summer's swim season.

The pool repairs have been under discussion since September. Asked why it took so long to get to the point of asking for bids, Buhrmann said, "There has been no time lag. It took from January until this point for the architect to do the final drawings. This is such a specialized project, you can't just pick the plans off the shelf."

A contractor will be chosen in 30 days.

ELGIN COURIER-NEWS
59-37

Local History

Please keep clippings in folder

subject Meadowdale Raceway

date of material 1960-1989