

Harried in favor of Schuetz property option

The Village Board is scheduled to discuss and take action on the Schuetz property purchase at the Feb. 26, meeting. The board failed to exercise the option to purchase it had negotiated in good faith with the property owners at the Aug. 14, 2006 meeting. President Klar, Trustee Kenggaard and Wernet opposed exercising the option.

While Wernet and Kenggaard speak of being advocates of landowner rights, and working with eastside growth area property owners at past board meetings.

Their Aug. 14 meeting actions show they do not want to work with landowners who are willing to sell their land to the village for parkland, and they do not recognize those landowners rights or desires.

The facts are the village can acquire the Schuetz 19 acres of parkland for \$935,000, of which about \$735,000 will come from grants and the balance from fees in lieu of land dedication the village will receive from developers.

The village will be collecting about \$1,536,000 in developer park fees and \$233,000 from park impact fees from the two approved subdivisions east of Holscher Road.

These fees can only be used to purchase parkland and for park development. The village needs to commit the remaining \$200,000 purchase balance from the development fees it will receive to purchase this land.

Since the village has already committed \$163,500, only \$36,500 of additional park fee commitment is needed to not risk losing the grant money. Not one tax dollar is required to purchase this property. The village will still have \$1,569,000 to use for future park development or parkland acquisitions.

What is at risk by the continued opposition by Klar, Kenggaard and Wernet is the lost of over \$735,000

of grant money if the option is not exercised. This is money the village can use for other park projects that otherwise would not be available if this park fee money is needed for the Schuetz purchase.

What else of greater public value and benefit will you have to show for your purchase using \$200,000 in developer park fees if you fail to purchase the Schuetz property? Do not let this opportunity slip by.

My community vision includes the Schuetz parkland. That is one reason why I am running for Village President. The board needs to move forward with the immediate purchase of the Schuetz property for public parkland so all of our citizens and future generations can enjoy this great community natural asset. If elected in April, I will work to purchase this property if this board fails to do so at this time.

Mike Harried
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