

History making vote made Feb. 26

The last Monday in February was an enormous day in the history of McFarland as the village board reversed itself and approved the purchase of nearly 19 acres of beautiful land on McFarland's east side.

This was a momentous vote that will ensure that McFarland will be a community of choice for families moving to the area. It was a vote that will make McFarland a city of parks for the rest of history.

I personally would like to thank Dick and Sheila Plotkin for the enormous amount of work they devoted to educating us all, including key members of the village board, about the wisdom and cost-effectiveness of this purchase.

Unheralded in all of this are the Trustees who supported this purchase all along and never gave up the fight to do what is right for this village.

Patrick Miles, Jennifer Kushner and Jennifer Heaton-Amrhein deserve our thanks for their leadership and their steadfast belief that, ultimately, at least one more board member would see the wisdom of this purchase.

This vote was more than just a vote on a land purchase. It was more than just a common sense vote on an extraordinary one-time deal for the village.

This was a test of wisdom and leadership. It was a vote about straightforward representation of the facts.

Unfortunately, Miles and Kushner are stepping down – and Steve Jackson, whose only comment during the vote discussion was "aye" – did not take out papers to run again.

This vote changed McFarland's history. Thank you to the people who worked so hard on this issue. It is an example of how leaders truly matter in our society.

And electing thoughtful leaders who will do the right thing is crucial to a functioning society – and to a community in which we can be proud.

Mike Flaherty
McFarland