

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Cohen at 7:35 p.m. in the Administrative Offices of the Deerfield Park District located in the Jewett Park Community Center. Attendance was taken and the following were:

Present: Antokal, Caron, Cohen, Lapin, Patinkin (5)  
Absent: None (0)

And there was a quorum in attendance. Also in attendance were Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Jeff Harvey, Jay Zahn, Tony Korzyniewski, staff members; Renee Cohen, Bonnie Kolton, Bruce Kolton, residents.

**Matters from the Public**

President Cohen welcomed visitors and guests to the meeting.

**History of Deerfield Park District 1951-1969**

Director Nehila provided a brief overview before beginning the PowerPoint presentation. The Deerfield Public Library has been offering numerous programs relating to the integration issues Deerfield realized in 1959. As this year is its 60 year “anniversary,” the programs have created awareness of the proposed integrated neighborhood a developer attempted to bring to Deerfield in 1959 and a peripheral issue of the naming of Mitchell Park after the Park Board President James Mitchell.

As there have been mentions of persons desiring to change the name of Mitchell Park because of the integration issue, Director Nehila felt it was important to present additional information in relation to the community as a whole, the park district’s involvement in this issue and the body of work Mr. Mitchell produced while serving on the park board.

The presentation uses sources that include a Timeline of Events published by the Deerfield Public Library and a paper from college student Graham Ambrose. Also utilized were park board meeting minutes and a chronological history of Deerfield Park District. The first section of the presentation is the complete timeline published by the library. The second section includes both the timeline and information gathered from park board minutes. Director Nehila felt it was important to understand, in detail, that the library’s timeline only presents a portion of the events and occurrences within that timeframe as well as before and afterward.

Director Nehila elaborated with some additional information when going through the second section of the presentation. The end date of the presentation of 1969 coincides with when Mr. Mitchell left the park board. The park was named after him after he was off the board.

The PowerPoint presentation – History of Deerfield Park District 1951-1969 is attached and made a part of these minutes.

**Other**

**Legislative Conference**

Commissioner Caron provided an update on the Legislative Conference held in Springfield April 30-May 1, 2019.

Workshop Meeting  
May 2, 2019  
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Motion made by Commissioner Antokal, seconded by Commissioner Caron, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 8:47 p.m. Voice vote as follows:

AYES: Antokal, Caron, Lapin, Patinkin, Cohen (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Nehila', is written over the printed name.

Jeff Nehila, Secretary

## **History of the Deerfield Park District 1951-1969**

- As published by the Deerfield Public Library

### **TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

**Deerfield Public Library: The Fight to Integrate  
Deerfield – 60 Year Reflection**

## History

In November 1959, residents of Deerfield, IL learned a housing development planned to sell homes in the village to black buyers as well as white buyers. Many residents of the all-white Chicago suburb opposed the development. Some residents opposed integration altogether or cited fears that their home values would decline after integration. A smaller group of residents supported the development, forming the group Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights.

In the context of the civil rights movement, the crisis in Deerfield quickly became a national fight over integration in the post-war suburban housing boom. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke on the issue, saying "I have no doubt that integration will work in Deerfield." Eleanor Roosevelt visited the village and said, "Deerfield is the Little Rock of housing."

During the weeks that followed, the Deerfield Park Board pushed for a referendum to condemn the developer's land for new parks. Though previous referendums had failed earlier that same year, in December 1959, the new referendum passed two-to-one. The developer and village officials clashed in court over the legality of the land condemnation and the developer's rights. Ultimately, in 1963, the courts found no proof of concrete racial animus on the part of the village, and the land became public parks that stand today.

## Timeline of Events

**Progress Development Corp. formed*****1956-1958***

American Friends Service Committee and Dr. Homer Jack, pastor of Evanston Unitarian Church, met with Morris Milgram, a builder from Philadelphia. Milgram founded Modern Community Developers and had already completed integrated projects in Philadelphia and Princeton. They formed Progress Development Corp. as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Modern Community Developers in order to bring integrated housing to the Chicagoland area.

**An initial search for suitable sites in the Chicago area began*****1959***

Max Weinrib, Executive Vice President of Progress Development Corp., began the search for sites which included Deerfield.

**Weinrib entered contracts to purchase two sites in Deerfield*****February 1959***

Weinrib saw "for sale" signs on two unimproved sites in Deerfield: Floral Park and Pear Tree. After initial inquiries, he entered into negotiations and signed contracts to purchase the two sites.

**Weinrib attended Village Board, Planning Commission, and School Board meetings*****February-August 1959***

During the school board meetings, the school board requested that \$350 be contributed to the school district for each home built. Weinrib agreed. The proposed Floral Park subdivision was across the street from Wilmot School.

**The Village of Deerfield approved the purchase and building plans*****July-August 1959***

Floral Park was the largest of the two sites at 15 acres, while Pear Tree was smaller at seven acres.

**Construction began in Floral Park*****September 24, 1959***

Water and sewer connections were installed, and construction started on two model homes.

**News of the integration plans began to spread through faith leaders*****November 9, 1959***

Progress Development Corp. sought to prepare the people of Deerfield for integration by reaching out to community faith leaders because religious leaders were generally seen as being in favor of integration. Jack D. Parker, a local minister from St. Gregory Episcopal Church, was informed about the intended integration plans. He shared the information with the church's vestrymen, one of whom then informed the village president.

**Roofs were put on the two model homes in Floral Park*****November 10, 1959*****The Village Board was informed of the integration plans*****November 11, 1959*****The village building commissioner stopped construction at the Floral Park site*****November 13, 1959***

The commissioner claimed he found several violations at the two model homes. For example, the official stamped set of building plans was not at the site, though an exact duplicate was on site.

**Chicago area news outlets broke the news of the planned integrated housing*****November 15, 1959***

**The Park Board met and heard the testimony of the Deerfield Citizens' Committee**

***November 17, 1959***

Joseph Powell, head of the Deerfield Citizens' Committee, a local advocacy group, offered to draw up a report on park needs.

**Progress Development Corp. and the Village Board held a meeting, but it didn't go as planned**

***November 17, 1959 (evening)***

The Village Board originally intended to meet privately with Progress Development Corp. But people got wind of the meeting and insisted that it be public. 35-40 people came to the meeting. Many raised concerns regarding the methods of this social change.

**The Village Board held a regular meeting**

***November 18, 1959***

More than 150 people came to the meeting. The village manager read a statement recognizing the concerns of the citizens, stated that they were studying the matter, and asked for calm and confidence. Many people stayed after the meeting to discuss Floral Park. People began talking about circulating a petition to stop the integrated housing initiative.

**Six leading ministers issued their support for the project**

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Minister Jack D. Parker also issued a separate statement saying he approved of integration in theory but did not approve of the builders' methods. He proposed they start an indemnity fund for people who could potentially lose value on their homes.



**The Village Board met to hear from Progress Development Corp. officials**

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The focus of the meeting was to allow the Progress Development Corp. officials a chance to reassure residents. There was an overflow crowd with reporters from Chicago.

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After the Village Board Meeting, approximately 500 people went to the American Legion Hall and formed the North Shore Residents Association with Harold Lewis of Riverwoods as the chairman to fight the integrated housing project. This was the first time that the idea of condemning the building sites and turning the land into parks was brought up in a public setting.

**The Village Board met to hear from concerned citizens**

***November 24, 1959***

The Village Board President and Harold Lewis gave speeches to a crowded school auditorium at the Deerfield Grammar School. While some did speak out in favor of integration, including local high school teacher, Ted Repsholdt, there were many in opposition.

**Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights founded**

***November 29, 1959***

The board consisted of eleven people with Deerfield resident Adrien Ringuette as the chairman.

**North Shore Residents Association conducted a poll about the integrated housing project**

***December 5-6, 1959***

The unofficial poll of Deerfield residents resulted in a vote of 8-1 against the project. North Shore Residents Association then made the findings public. There was some question afterward about whether the poll intentionally skipped local integration supporters.

**The Park Board voted to hold a referendum**

***December 7, 1959***

After hearing the Deerfield Citizens Committee present about park needs, the Park Board sought to hold a referendum to obtain citizen approval to acquire the sites proposed for integrated housing. Two previous park referendums had failed earlier that same year. The new referendum would take place in two weeks, the minimum amount of time required by law to post and hold a referendum.

**The referendum for the Park Board to acquire the sites passed**

***December 21, 1959***

With 86 percent voter turnout, the referendum passed by a 2-1 majority.

**Progress Development Corp. and Modern Community Developers filed a federal civil rights lawsuit**

***December 22, 1959***

Progress Development Corp. and Modern Community Developers charged the Village Board with harassment and the Park Board, North Shore Resident Association, Joseph Powell, and Deerfield Citizens' Committee of conspiracy to deprive them of their civil rights.

**The Park Board filed a land condemnation suit in the Lake County Circuit Court for park and school properties, including Floral Park and Pear Tree**

***December 24, 1959***

**A temporary injunction was denied to Progress Development Corp. in the federal civil rights suit**

***January 4, 1960***

U.S. District Court Judge J. Sam Perry did not grant Progress Development Corp. a temporary injunction to prevent village officials from impeding the progress on the Floral Park model homes.

**The federal civil rights suit against Deerfield Village officials was dismissed**

**Progress Development Corp. appealed**

***March 4, 1960***

After a preliminary hearing, U.S. District Court Judge J. Sam Perry dismissed the \$750,000 civil rights suit and threw out MCD as a co-defendant.

**The injunction against the Park Board was dismissed in the county land condemnation suit**

***March 17, 1960***

Lake County Circuit Court Judge Bernard M. Decker ruled that the land condemnation proceedings could continue even though the federal civil rights case was still being appealed.

**The Lake County Circuit Court ruled that Deerfield Park District could condemn Progress Development Corp.'s land**

**Progress Development Corp. appealed the decision to the Illinois Supreme Court**

***May 25, 1960***

The Lake County Circuit Court ordered the Park District to pay Progress Development Corp. \$168,500 for the condemned Floral Park and Pear Tree properties.

**The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a full hearing for the federal civil rights suit**

***January 4th, 1961***

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals determined that Judge Perry didn't give Progress Development Corp. the full extent of their right to a trial by jury and ordered him to retry the case.

**The Illinois Supreme Court ordered a rehearing on the land condemnation verdict**

***April 26, 1961***

The Illinois Supreme court ruled that a public body's right to condemn property cannot overrule fundamental rights granted by the U.S. Constitution and sent the case back to Lake County Circuit Court.

**Judge Perry asked to be removed from the federal civil rights case**

***May 9, 1961***

Judge Perry indicated that he wanted someone “fresh” to look at the case because he was afraid that if he ruled the same way again he would be criticized.

**Eleanor Roosevelt visited Deerfield**

***May 24, 1961***

The former first lady came to Deerfield while in town for an award ceremony. She visited the sites of the model homes and the home of one of the members of Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights, lauding the members for fighting for integration.

**Lake County Circuit Court upheld Deerfield Park District's right to condemn the land  
Progress Development Corp. appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court**

***October 18, 1961***

Judge Decker upheld his previous decision that the land can be condemned due to the fact that Progress Development Corp. was unable to prove a conspiracy by the Park Board to keep African-Americans out of Deerfield.

**The retrial date for the federal civil rights suit was set after requested delays**

***September 21, 1962***

Progress Development Corp. had requested a delay in the start of the federal civil rights trial because some of the documents were being used for the case were being used in the land condemnation suit in the Illinois Supreme Court.

**The Illinois Supreme Court upheld Deerfield Park District's right to condemn the land through eminent domain**

**Progress Development Corp. appealed to the United States Supreme Court**

***November 30, 1962***

**The federal civil rights retrial was postponed again**

***December 12, 1962***

U.S. District Court Judge Edwin A. Robson postponed the retrial until April 1963 after Progress Development Corp. decided to appeal the Illinois Supreme Court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**CORE protest: Camp-in and fast**

***May 6, 1963***

Two members of the Congress of Racial Equality, including Freedom Rider participant, Rev. B. Elton Cox, slept overnight at the building site, fasted, and handed out pamphlets to oppose segregation.

**CORE protest: March and rally**

***May 18-19, 1963***

Protests led by the Congress of Racial Equality were held all day in Deerfield at the Pear Tree site. 50 marched from Morton Grove to Deerfield where they met another 150. Many stayed overnight and services were held in the park in the morning, attended by local clergy.

**The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the land condemnation case  
Progress Development Corp. appealed the ruling**

***June 10, 1963***

**The U.S. Supreme Court refused to grant a rehearing to Progress Development  
Corp. over the land condemnation dispute**

***June 10, 1963***

**Judge Robson dismisses federal civil rights suit**

***June 28, 1963***

Judge Robson's decision states that "where there is a trial of the issue in the state court, there is no need for a retrial of the same issue in federal court" and cites the Illinois Supreme Court decision in the land condemnation case as the final one.

### **Additional Information From 1947 – 1969**

Sources:

- 1) Chronological History of Deerfield Park District
- 2) Deerfield Park District Park Board Meeting Minutes 1955 – 1969
- 3) *"Little Rock of the North" Senior Paper Graham Ambrose*

**1947**

Jewett Park Association was formed  
Jewett Park purchased by association

**1951**

Deerfield Park District formed  
First Park Board of Commissioners elected  
First budget approved = \$13,600

**1952**

Park Board passed ordinance to purchase Jewett Park from association  
Park/school cooperative agreement passed  
First employee hired

***December 1951***

- *National Brick Company petitioned for zoning classification for heavy industry to the village.*
- *Deerfield Citizens' Committee opposed based on village-wide financial ruin.*
- *Chamber of Commerce and public school districts passed resolutions against rezoning.*
- *The arrogant attempt to bring heavy industry and slums to Deerfield, wrote the editor of the Deerfield Review, had aroused "a unanimity never achieved on anything." For the next 8 years the dispute continued.*

*Source: "Little Rock of the North"*  
*Ambrose, Senior Essay*

**1953**

Park Board called for first referendum, which was defeated. Referendum was for land acquisition for \$100,000.

First citizens' recreation committee formed.

First agreement between district and baseball association adopted.

**1955**

Fieldhouse built in Jewett Park.

Coordination with D109 and D110 school districts began. Potential sites identified included Woodland Park Section, SW Section near County Line and Wilmot, surplus land at Wilmot School site, NE Section near Warwick Road, Southeast Section, SW Section near Cadillac Subdivision.

James Mitchell elected to Park Board.

**Progress Development Corp. formed**

**1956-1958**

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**1956**

Park Board considered purchasing Briargate Golf Club based on a number of citizens requesting the purchase.

**1957**

Community passed a bond issue for land acquisition.  
Land purchased at Woodland Park and Wilmot Elementary.

**March 1958**

Briargate supporters requested referendum to purchase course. Park Board suggested a petition. Supporters provided a petition signed by 577 residents.

**May 1958**

James Mitchell elected Board President and assumed position on June 6, 1958.

**1958**

First land swap made with District 110 for Woodland Park and a joint usage agreement was reached with District 109 for future Walden School site.

**1958**

There was much deliberation over acquisition of Briargate Golf Club. Concerns were cost, fees to be charged and ability to pay back bonds.

**September 1958**

Citizens' Committee recommended acquisition of Briargate be dropped or postponed based on (1) initial cost too high; (2) if acquired, no other expenditures would be possible, (3) acquisition would benefit only limited group, and (4) the added cost of a pool and other facilities would increase the cost. The Citizens' Committee recommended a referendum be held to acquire additional parkland. Resulting decision was to set a referendum to acquire Briargate and a referendum to charge a Recreation tax.

\* Mitchell stated two new schools would be needed within the next year and a half, and that acquisition of 75 acres would be of greater benefit to the whole community and was personally opposed to the purchase of the golf course.

**\*September 17, 1958 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 17, 1958**

\* "It was the consensus of the Board that needs of the Park District for acquisition of land and a recreation tax be studied, with the idea of promoting a referendum early next year." **\*November 17 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**An initial search for suitable sites in the Chicago area began**

**1959**

Max Weinrib, Executive Vice President of Progress Development Corp., began the search for sites which included Deerfield.

**Weinrib entered contracts to purchase two sites in Deerfield**

**February 1959**

Weinrib saw "for sale" signs on two unimproved sites in Deerfield: Floral Park and Pear Tree. After initial inquiries, he entered into negotiations and signed contracts to purchase the two sites.

**February 17, 1959**

\*School District's 109 and 110 indicated need for school sites and suggested Park District hold referendum for recreation tax and land acquisition in May at same time as school elections.

There were still a group of citizens interested in acquiring Briargate Golf Club as a park for community. The group renewed action to date, stating a petition had been signed by 850 residents and filed with Park Board last year. The matter had been dropped when it was found that the bonding power of the Park District would not permit such acquisition.

It was still the position of the Park Board that small park sites and a recreation tax must be submitted to the voters at the same time.

**\*February 17, 1959 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**February, March 1959**

\*Park Board set referendum date of April 21, 1959 for recreation tax and two propositions of increase of bonding power up to 5% and the bond issues (for acquisitions). Acquisitions would be for parkland and Briargate Golf Club.

**\*February 19 and March 17, 1959 Park Board Meeting Minutes****March 24 Board set ballot questions:**

- 1) Acquisition of Briargate Golf Club \$1,700,000
- 2) Acquisition of park lands \$250,000
- 3) Recreation Tax
- 4) Increase indebtedness to 5%

**April 21 Election Results:**

- 1) Briargate = No (2,267 -1,259)
- 2) Park lands = No (1,805 -1,703)
- 3) Recreation Tax = Yes (1,960-1,543)
- 4) Increase indebtedness = No (1,910-1,562)

**May 1959**

Park Board approved \$300 for a pool site survey for possible pool sites.  
Jewett Park selected as best site.

**June 1959**

Estimated cost for pool = \$205,000

Board approved 2 bond issues for next election in August:

- 1) \$205,000 for Pool
- 2) \$295,000 for Land Acquisition

**August Election Results**

Pool	Yes	670
	No	736

Land	Yes	584
	No	710

### **Weinrib attended Village Board, Planning Commission, and School Board meetings**

***February-August 1959***

During the school board meetings, the school board requested that \$350 be contributed to the school district for each home built. Weinrib agreed. The proposed Floral Park subdivision was across the street from Wilmot School.

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***July-August 1959***

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### **The Village Board was informed of the integration plans**

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**November 17, 1959**

Joseph Powell, head of the Deerfield Citizens' Committee, a local advocacy group, offered to draw up a report on park needs.

**November 17, 1959**

\* Discussion of recent loss of D109 referendum for land led to citizen inquiries into land acquisition.

"Audience members expressed the opinion that such land acquisition programs would be supported by the voters if the election was not connected with other controversial subjects, such as Briargate Golf Club or the swimming pool, which were both subjects of considerable disagreement of opinion."

A citizen committee, (DCC), volunteered to make a comprehensive study of the needs of the entire district. Estimate was 75-80 acres would be needed to provide a balanced park program to serve the entire district.

**\*November 17 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

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**December 7, 1959**

\*Discussion held included board members expressing that they had been approached by many people in the community who felt the need was great to acquire more park land. The opinion of the board regarding the April and August elections "was that in each case the land acquisition had been defeated because it was in with other issues that the voters did not favor i.e. Briargate Golf Club and swimming pool, and that if presented as a separate issue the program would have carried."

continued -



**- Park Board Meeting Minutes continued**

The board agreed that the three parcels which they had been trying to acquire, should be acquired, (Pottinger Nursery, Adkins Builders and Jardine property). "It was noted that considerable opposition had developed to the swimming pool proposal because of the proposed location in Jewett Park. A decision was reached that two smaller pools, one in the east section and one in the west section, would be more acceptable to the residents." The board agreed the Pear Tree subdivision parcel and the old high school site on Waukegan Road were ideal sites and decided to include said properties as additional park sites. The board then reviewed the Wilmot Park site and decided additional land be acquired in that area and agreed the Floral Park subdivision should be acquired.

**\*December 7, 1959 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

For December 21 referendum, Park District identified 6 locations, including the Floral Park and Pear Tree subdivisions.

Plans and Estimate of Costs – Cost of acquisition, including all fees

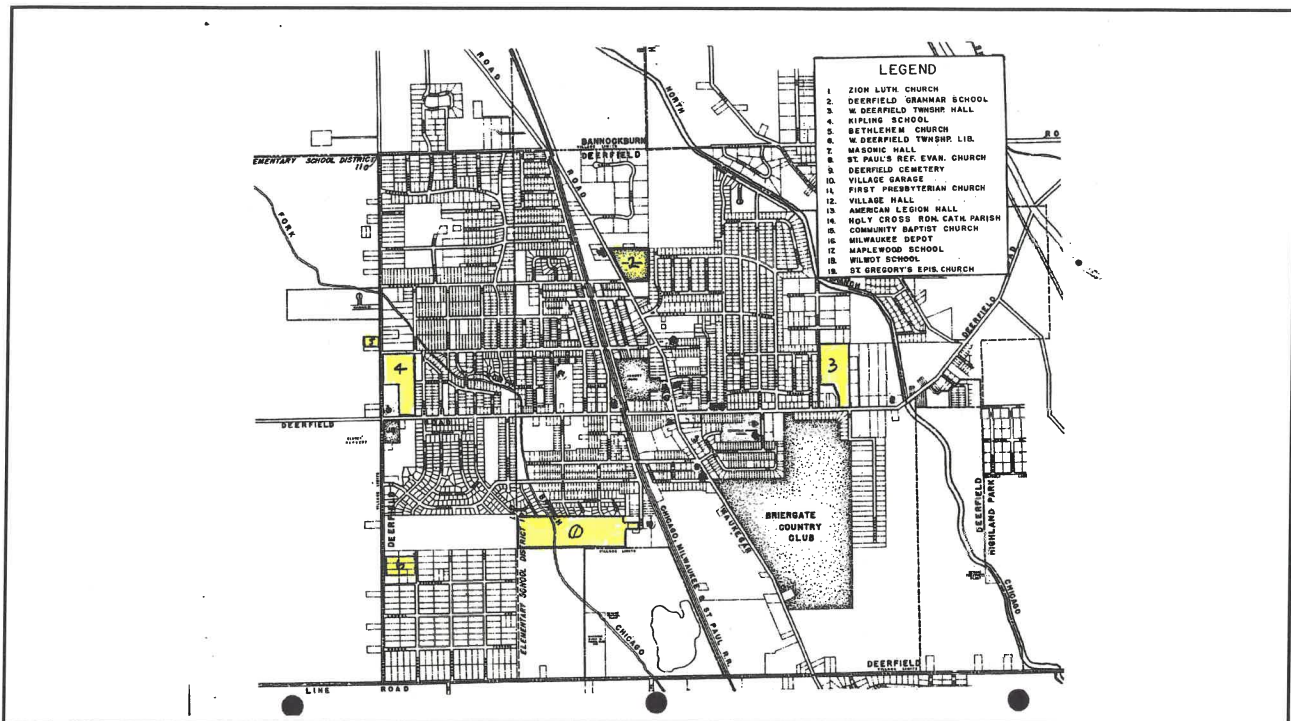
**A. Property to be acquired and costs**

1. Franklin Bros. Nursery property approximately 30 acres running approximately 600 feet just south of Brookside Subdivision and west of the south end of Elm Street. **\$115,000**      **Shepard Park**
2. Old high school site, approximately nine and one-half acres located on the east side of Waukegan Road at the east end of Greenwood Ave. **\$55,000**      **Northwoods subdivision**
3. Lowell Adkins property approximately 15 acres in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 20, Township 43 North, Range 12, located on the North side of Deerfield Road and South of Landis Subdivision. **\$100,000**  
**Deerspring**
4. Floral Park Subdivision, approximately 15 acres, located on Wilmot and Deerfield Roads, Northeast Corner (except Church site). **\$150,000**      **Mitchell Park**
5. Weinrib's Pear Tree Subdivision, approximately six and one-half acres located on the West side of Wilmot Road a short distance North of Hazel Avenue. **\$25,000**      **Jaycee Park**
6. Jardine property, approximately five acres, located on the east side of Wilmot Road a short distance south of Hackberry. **\$40,000**      **South Park**

**TOTAL \$485,000**

**B. Costs of improving sites, landscape architect's fees, and other costs. \$ 65,000**

**TOTAL OF A AND B \$550,000**



**December 15, 1959**

Park District issued a Statement of Policy:

#### Statement of Policy

The Deerfield Park Board has always stood for one proposition, i.e., an adequate system of well-run parks for the benefit of the residents of the Park District. It has been a matter of public knowledge for a considerable period that the Park Board was not satisfied with the amount of park area available in the district. The Park Board has worked continuously to make the citizens aware of the needs and has presented to the voters of the district on different occasions, propositions to secure funds to acquire more park lands. It has cooperated with the school districts in the area to combine park and school grounds, so as to reduce the total costs to the taxpayers in the district. It has not backed down from its duty because its action might result in a controversy nor because the owner of some proposed park property did not want to part with the land, and whenever a sizable segment of the population of the Park District believed that a good park program required an acquisition of certain property, the Board has presented the question to the voters to let them decide the matter. The recent Briargate Golf Course referendum is an example of a controverseal question and a landowner who violently opposed the land acquisition.

continued -

- Statement of Policy continued

Pursuant to the request of many voters in the district, the Park Board has called an election for December 21, 1959 to permit the voters of the area to determine whether they wish the Park District to move to acquire six parcels of land which are needed to round out a comprehensive system of parks for Deerfield. Each site has been carefully selected to fill the park needs of Deerfield. In at least three instances, the proposed sites are the only vacant land of sufficient size in the immediate area. On most of the sites proposed, a builder is planning to construct homes. As each day goes by, there is less vacant land in Deerfield. Unless action is taken promptly, the areas required for parks will be built up and no longer available. Every voter is urged to review the location of these sites and to determine for himself or herself, whether they are intelligently located and whether they will serve the park needs of Deerfield.

**12/15/59 Board of Park Commissioners  
Deerfield Park District  
Lake County, Illinois**

**The referendum for the Park Board to acquire the sites passed**

***December 21, 1959***

With 86 percent voter turnout, the referendum passed by a 2-1 majority.

**December 21, 1959 Election Results**

Proposition to issue \$550,000 Bonds for Park purposes:

Yes	2,635
No	1,207

3,865 out of 4,500 eligible voters voted

**Progress Development Corp. and Modern Community Developers filed a federal civil rights lawsuit**

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***January 4, 1960***

U.S. District Court Judge J. Sam Perry did not grant Progress Development Corp. a temporary injunction to prevent village officials from impeding the progress on the Floral Park model homes.

**February 16, 1960**

Park District issued \$300,000 in bonds to acquire land.

Mitchell, Dewey & Walchli voted not to use this money to buy Floral Tree and Pear Tree properties.

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Progress Development Corp. appealed**

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Lake County Circuit Court Judge Bernard M. Decker ruled that the land condemnation proceedings could continue even though the federal civil rights case was still being appealed.

**The Lake County Circuit Court ruled that Deerfield Park District could condemn Progress  
Development Corp.'s land  
Progress Development Corp. appealed the decision to the Illinois Supreme Court**

***May 25, 1960***

The Lake County Circuit Court ordered the Park District to pay Progress Development Corp. \$168,500 for the condemned Floral Park and Pear Tree properties.

**June 29, 1960**

Park Board approved settlement of \$168,500 for acquisition of Pear Tree and Floral Park subdivisions in the condemnation suit.

Yes = Mitchell, Peterson, Walchli, Dewey  
Keller absent

**March 1960**

Park District purchased Franken Bros. property for \$115,000.

Park District set offer to purchase Lowell Atkins tract for \$115,000.

**April 1960**

Park District purchased Atkins property for \$114,750.

**May 1960**

James Mitchell voted president of Park Board (by other Park Board members).

**1960**

Park district and village purchased land for joint maintenance garage.

**The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a full hearing for the federal civil rights suit**

***January 4th, 1961***

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals determined that Judge Perry didn't give Progress Development Corp. the full extent of their right to a trial by jury and ordered him to retry the case.

**January 17, 1961**

\*"The question of names for the parks acquired by the Park District was discussed, to be taken up at a later meeting for further consideration."

**\*January 17, 1961 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 1961**

Mitchell suggested a 4<sup>th</sup> of July program might be successful in Deerfield and could be combined with Family Day event (Jaycees considered the idea).

**1961**

Began planning and estimating for a footbridge over the drainage ditch to get to Shepard School.

Shepard property sold to District 109 and joint usage policy developed for that property and the future Cadwell site.

Examined feasibility of parking lot for 189 cars at Floral Park site to serve Wilmot School.

**The Illinois Supreme Court ordered a rehearing on the land condemnation verdict**

***April 26, 1961***

The Illinois Supreme court ruled that a public body's right to condemn property cannot overrule fundamental rights granted by the U.S. Constitution and sent the case back to Lake County Circuit Court.

**Judge Perry asked to be removed from the federal civil rights case**

***May 9, 1961***

Judge Perry indicated that he wanted someone "fresh" to look at the case because he was afraid that if he ruled the same way again he would be criticized.

**Eleanor Roosevelt visited Deerfield**

***May 24, 1961***

The former first lady came to Deerfield while in town for an award ceremony. She visited the sites of the model homes and the home of one of the members of Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights, lauding the members for fighting for integration.

**Lake County Circuit Court upheld Deerfield Park District's right to condemn the land  
Progress Development Corp. appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court**

***October 18, 1961***

Judge Decker upheld his previous decision that the land can be condemned due to the fact that Progress Development Corp. was unable to prove a conspiracy by the Park Board to keep African-Americans out of Deerfield.

**1962**

Estimate for parking lot at Floral Park was \$8,515.

Park Board Commissioner Donald Keller passed away.

Identified rough estimate of costs of acquisition of property, golf course, swimming pool and recreation building. Appeared that the district would need a referendum to raise levy of the corporate fund.

Idea of old National Brick Company property as a park surfaced.



**The retrial date for the federal civil rights suit was set after requested delays**

***September 21, 1962***

Progress Development Corp. had requested a delay in the start of the federal civil rights trial because some of the documents were being used for the case were being used in the land condemnation suit in the Illinois Supreme Court.

**The Illinois Supreme Court upheld Deerfield Park District's right to condemn the land through eminent domain**

**Progress Development Corp. appealed to the United States Supreme Court**

***November 30, 1962***

**The federal civil rights retrial was postponed again**

***December 12, 1962***

U.S. District Court Judge Edwin A. Robson postponed the retrial until April 1963 after Progress Development Corp. decided to appeal the Illinois Supreme Court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**CORE protest: Camp-in and fast**

***May 6, 1963***

Two members of the Congress of Racial Equality, including Freedom Rider participant, Rev. B. Elton Cox, slept overnight at the building site, fasted, and handed out pamphlets to oppose segregation.

**CORE protest: March and rally**

***May 18-19, 1963***

Protests led by the Congress of Racial Equality were held all day in Deerfield at the Pear Tree site. 50 marched from Morton Grove to Deerfield where they met another 150. Many stayed overnight and services were held in the park in the morning, attended by local clergy.

**The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the land condemnation case**

Progress Development Corp. appealed the ruling

*June 10, 1963*

**The U.S. Supreme Court refused to grant a rehearing to Progress Development Corp. over the land condemnation dispute**

*June 10, 1963*

**Judge Robson dismisses federal civil rights suit**

*June 28, 1963*

Judge Robson's decision states that "where there is a trial of the issue in the state court, there is no need for a retrial of the same issue in federal court" and cites the Illinois Supreme Court decision in the land condemnation case as the final one.

**1963 District News**

Suggested annexation of Riverwoods area and Bannockburn be pursued.

Enhanced partnership with Deerfield Boys Baseball for shared costs of maintenance and improvements of ballfields within the parks.

Keller Park was named for donated Friedman tract.

1963 Election – James Mitchell voted in again to serve on Park Board.

Lighting ballfields at Shepard School considered.

Passed resolution regarding the district's continued interest and pursuit in acquiring the old high school site for over 4 years and still desirous of acquiring property, but are short on funds.

continued -

- 1963 District News continued

Explored acquisition of Trail Tree site for conservation and nature study.

Examined preliminary plan to place pool at north end of Floral Park property.

November 1963 – Established referendum for December 14 election for:

Swimming Pool at Floral Park site	\$230,000
Park Planner fees	\$ 14,000
Acquisition of additional land	\$200,000
Contingency and other costs	<u>\$ 41,000</u>
	\$485,000

continued -

- 1963 District News continued

Jewett Park determined not desirable site due to lack of parking and population projections were heaviest west of railroad tracks.

Developed Master Plan for Parks.

December Election Results:

Yes = 1,072

No = 276

**1964 District News**

Selected firm to build Floral Park pool; designed pool, built pool.

Dedicated Pear Tree lot as Jaycee Park (March 10, 1964).

District staff up to 6 full-time staff (48 hour work week for maintenance staff).

Purchased old high school site for \$100,000.

First Family Day celebration held at Jewett Park.

**1965 District News**

Playground equipment installed at Briarwood Vista, Jaycee and Keller Parks.

Examined additional land purchase of 20 acres near Briarwood Vista – declined opportunity.

Winnetka resident interested in donating \$350,000 for a curling building (to be used for curling for 6 months and for recreational purposes for 6 months). Board was receptive to idea.

Entered in agreement with Presbyterian Church for use of space at church for preschool program.

**1966 District News**

District and village approved a joint reservoir project at Floral Park site. Village built tennis courts on top of site.

Purchased 24+ acres from Roy Clavey and sold portion to D110.

Purchased additional 3 acres adjacent to park site located on Greenbriar Drive.

Partnered with Trinity College on a student/work program.

Jaycees erected shelter at Jaycee Park.

District appointed a committee to look into the feasibility of the Brickyards property as a recreation area.

**1967 District News**

Renovated kitchen at fieldhouse with financial assistance from Deerfield Women's Club.

Finalized conveyance of property to D109 for Shepard Middle School.

Added new siding on park district houses on Wilmot.

Jaycees were approved by board to sell Christmas trees at Jewett Park.

Brickyards committee felt that the Park District could not afford to purchase the entire Brickyards property, but said if village bought it, Park District would purchase a portion of it.

Discussion on need for Community Center began.

**1968 District News**

District received petition from residents objecting to proposed parking lot by new Southwest School located on Pine Street. Experts were brought in and a preferred site was selected. D109 ultimately had final decision and placed lot on east side of Pine Street.

Received correspondence from Deerfield Lawn & Garden objecting to the sale of Christmas trees on district property. Jaycees request to sell trees was granted.

Community passed referendum on purchase of Brickyards property and village applies for HUD development grant.

James Mitchell was asked by Pat Price of Deerfield Review if he intended to run for Commissioner again. Mitchell stated that he was running again.

**1969 District News**

Village Plan Commission and Park District collaborating to develop plans that will produce a layout of proposed land to be used for parks.

April 21, Board Meeting - Old Board canvassed election for Park Board. James Mitchell came in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 2 spots up for election. New board members were sworn in. Mitchell left the meeting.

\*"Mr. Pilger, (Parks and Recreation Director), made the suggestion to the board members that the pool site be named after James Mitchell, and some type of recognition be given Aksel Petersen in honor of their service to the Deerfield Park District. After due discussion, Commissioner Mathews motioned, seconded by Commissioner Dewey, that the present pool and park site be named after James Mitchell." The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**\*April 21, 1969 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**Park District Programs  
1960's**

**1961** Baseball program expanded from Jewett Park to Pear Tree Park and Woodland Park.

Programs included Women's Baseball, Ice Hockey at Jewett Park, Youth Football, summer recreation programs and girls bowling.

**1962** Babysitters Safety Course, hosted Congregation Beth Or Fun Fair

**1963** Ice Carnival, Campers & Hikers Group, Teen Dances

**1964** Afternoon Tea, Roller Skating at Shepard, Wrestling (2 young men went to Olympic tryouts in New York)

continued -

**- Programs 1960's continued**

**1965** Children's Christmas Workshop, Movie at Deerfield Grammar School, Beginning Bridge Class, Charm School

**1966** Kiwanis Club starting hosting weekly meeting at Jewett Fieldhouse.

**1967** Tupperware demo, Summer Day Camps added, Teen Dances moved to American Legion

**1968** Free open gym basketball at Shepard High School, High School Age Soccer, Girls' Gymnastics, Over 30 Men's Basketball, Crafts

**1969** 185 kids in Nursery School – received licensing from DCFS, Painting Classes