

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:03 p.m. via remote access by Zoom video. 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 present were Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Jeff Harvey, Laura McCarty, Jay Zahn, Tony Korzyniewski, Jason Mannina, staff members; Debbie Serota, resident.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Executive Director Nehila read emails marked as Public Comment from Kim Parson, Joshua Hecht, Evan Montgomery, Caroline Hsu, Patricia Adam, Michael Cunningham, Danny Farber and Alec Lopata. Emails will be included as part of these minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Antokal, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Regular Meeting; and the November 5, 2020 Workshop Meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Antokal, Lapin, Caron, Cohen, Patinkin (5)  
NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**FINANCE REPORT****Approval of Disbursements**

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the Voucher Listing dated November 19, 2020 in the amount of \$878,684.64 which includes \$2,154.09 of travel and training expenses. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.)

Discussion followed:

Treasurer Cohen asked why we are using 7 different credit card processing vendors at the golf course. Staff responded that we need multiple vendors because all of our different software and areas of collecting credit card fees don't communicate with the same processing systems.

Treasurer Cohen asked about paying for a server and asked if we use the cloud for everything. Staff responded that we still do need a server to run some of our software and in some cases, it costs less to use the server instead of the cloud.

Treasurer Cohen asked why we paid Constellation Energy with the P-card in August/September but the current bill was paid by check. Staff responded that the vendor added on a 3% surcharge for using a credit card so going forward we will be paying all of their bills by check.

Commissioner Lapin asked about the water bill at Brickyards Park for mid-August to mid-September. Staff responded that service was done, and a few minor leaks were found, but we also were using a lot of water for irrigation at that time of year. Since Brickyards is also one of our largest parks, we use more water for irrigation.

Commissioner Lapin asked why we paid Card Connect for Mitchell and Deerspring Pools when Mitchell wasn't accepting in-person transactions and Deerspring was closed. Staff responded that Card Connect has a \$25 minimum plus an annual statement fee.

Commissioner Antokal asked how many aluminum goals were purchased for \$4,400. Staff responded that it is for one set of goals for Brickyards Park.

Commissioner Antokal asked about the purchase and installation of Norway spruces. Staff responded that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> line items are for the purchase of the trees and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> line items are for the labor for installation of the trees.

President Patinkin asked about the purchases from Red's Garden Center. Staff responded that it is for the purchase of multiple trees. Staff has planted 40 new trees this fall.

After discussion, roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

### **Committee Liaison Reports**

#### **PTC Members' Council**

The PTC continues to offer many virtual programs. The center is averaging 30-35 participants per virtual program. The membership is slightly down. Year to date we are at 650 members compared to 800+ last year.

#### **Recreation Advisory Committee**

The Recreation Center Advisory Committee met on October 22, 2020. Discussion topics included Phase 4 Operational Guidelines, the new AirPhix equipment, membership update and 2020-2026 Capital Projects and Purchase Plan review.

#### **Affiliate Advisory Committee**

The Affiliate Advisory Committee met on November 19, 2020. Topics of discussion including plans for the spring season, the Deerfield Youth Lacrosse program and field and lighting costs. Written updates from each affiliate organization will be provided to the board in January. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Mitchell Park Advisory Committee Consideration and Action of Items Being Discussed**

At the June 18, 2020 Park Board Meeting, the Board of Commissioners voted to change the name of Mitchell Park and to establish a Citizen Advisory Committee to:

- (1) Recommend a new name for Mitchell Park
- (2) To propose other ways to honor James Mitchell
- and (3) To develop education proposals to accurately teach the history of this time period in collaboration with Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield Public Library, Village of Deerfield, School District 109, High School District 113, High School District 113 Social Studies Dept., Gale Gand, Graham Ambrose and members of the community.

Discussion of the motion provided a consensus that the renaming of Mitchell Pool was not part of the motion approved.

At a Special Meeting of the Park Board on July 1, 2020, the Board of Commissioners determined a timeline and application process for community members to apply and serve on the committee. The structure of the committee included representatives of local bodies politic, the Historical Society, citizens named in the motion and members of the community at large. The timeline for application submittal and review was established for Park Board consideration and appointments at their August 6, 2020 special meeting. The target was to appoint approximately 8 citizens at large.

A total of eleven applications were received and then reviewed by the Park Board. The Park Board appointed all 11 applicants to the committee with one member serving in ex-officio capacity. The majority of local governments, the Historical Society, and the D113 Social Studies Dept. had also selected a representative from each agency to serve.

The Advisory Committee held 3 meetings on August 27, September 10 and October 8, 2020. The committee provided an abundance of ideas and suggestions for the objectives established for the committee and also discussed the concept of a “Sister Village” program to help provide activities and services to underserved communities.

Many potential new names were proposed and discussed for the park. Some members of the committee also mentioned their concerns about not renaming the pool and some members did not support a name change of the pool. At each meeting members provided their support for some names as well as offering new ones.

Other ways to honor James Mitchell circled around to possibly naming a facility such as the Community Center or area(s) within the Center after James Mitchell. Educational proposals were also covered. Both School District 109 and High School District 113 provided information relating to their curriculum on the history of the integration issues and the concept of developing a public museum to display and inform the public on this matter continually surfaced as a primary vehicle for an educational proposal.

In addition, the concept of developing a “Sister Village” program where persons from underserved communities could come to Deerfield and experience recreational, mentoring, tutoring and other services also garnered support from the committee.

From that point, subcommittees were formed to further develop and identify a new name for the park, the museum concept and the “Sister Village” concept. No subcommittee was formed for the other ways to honor Mitchell as the Park District’s Executive Director volunteered to refine those ideas.

Provided is a recap of the work that each subcommittee was able to accomplish and their findings and recommendations:

#### **Recommending a New Name for Mitchell Park**

Debbie Serota presented information from the sub-committee to the board. She summarized the top 5 name recommendations and the reasonings and pros/cons behind them.

The different sub-committees put together a presentation of their final work including the museum, how to educate the community about the issue and other ways to honor James Mitchell. She stated that the recommendation of the committee is that if the name of the pool is not changed there is no reason to find other ways to honor Mitchell.

It’s clear that there wasn’t a consensus among the whole group. The top five recommendations in the order of popularity are:

**Floral Park** – The idea behind Floral Park relates to the original name of the subdivision that would have been located there. The committee chose this name as a way to acknowledge what the site would have been called had Milgram’s plan come to fruition. The idea behind this is that the name would spark conversation and curiosity and help people move to begin to learn the history for themselves. In addition to its clear connection to the Deerfield housing case of 1959, people also liked that it has pleasant connotations and is not connected to any individual’s name. The concern is the possibility that without people taking the time to understand what’s been going on, the meaning behind the name could get lost besides it’s just a name for a pretty park.

**Progress Park** – This name satisfies the hope for a name that is broad but is still connected to the history. It was mainly chosen for its connection to Progress Development Corporation which was the company Milgram used to propose the development of the Floral Park and Pear Tree subdivisions. People also really like the idea of the word Progress. It refers to our history but is also aspirational in nature. It acknowledges that Deerfield is far from perfect

but is striving for better. The counter argument of this name is it doesn't inherently tell the history on its own. Some people may suggest that we are implying that Deerfield is more inclusive and progressive than it currently is.

**Beverly Park** – The idea was to honor the Beverly family which was the first African American family to plant roots in Deerfield long term. There is a wide misconception that they were the first African American family to live in Deerfield, but we know this isn't true. Honoring Dr. Eve and Sherman Beverly and their 3 daughters that moved to Deerfield in 1967, the idea is that it can be seen as a way to center the role of people of color in the town's history. It helps tell the story and importance of upstanders not only in the civil rights movement but also carrying on today. The main concerns with naming the park after the Beverly family is that they weren't directly involved with the housing case of 1959, there's some caution for using another person's name and also some concerns that it can be seen as tokenism.

**Hope Park** – This idea came out of the desire for something aspirational and forward thinking. The idea is to help the community heal from regrettable actions of the past. The intention to move forward, make change, rethink our actions, repent for our past, mark the moment where we are as a community and have made a commitment to make ourselves better going forward. The counter argument to this name is that it inherently doesn't tell the history or is not directly related to the history of this site.

**2020 Park** – This name came to acknowledge that the year 2020 is one for the history books. The year our nation lamented to the world that Black Lives Matter, Love is Love, Women are Equal, and Kindness is Everything. The year the Deerfield Park Board voted to change the name of the park in response to these calls of unfairness. When we lament, protest and demonstrate we move from suffering to faith and in our faith there's hope. 2020 can also be seen as 20/20 perfect ocular vision and a vision of our future with hope. Where we accept our own responsibility for a brighter tomorrow. The counter arguments to this name is that it may not make sense long term and it's not directly related to the history of the site.

As you can see no name was perfect, no name will be perfect, and no name will satisfy everybody in the community. These were the committee's best recommendations.

Commissioner Antokal thanked the advisory committee for their participation and efforts because it shows a real difference between lip service and actual participation and action.

Commissioner Lapin commented that after receiving hundreds of emails about Mitchell Park, we expected hundreds of applications for this committee but received only 11. He commented that he appreciates the time and effort that all those on the committee put into the charge and took it very seriously.

President Patinkin commented that it was a joy to work with Debbie and all the members of the committee. He is so optimistic about what will come out of this committee for the park district and the entire village going forward. He commented we will look to put this chapter behind us but not forget about it and make this a better place for everyone.

Treasurer Cohen thanked Debbie for the narratives because it's always helpful to have the pros and cons.

Treasurer Cohen stated that the board has already voted that the pool is not part of the name change. Tonight's focus is on renaming the park.

Vice-President Caron commented that during the third advisory committee meeting, Suzan Hawkinson's thought that there could be an advantage to having two different names for the park and for the pool struck a chord with her. It could be part of the educational component of the site. The history would still be there, but the name change would also be part of it. Since that meeting, she has continued to think that it is a good compromise. She commented that the committee was phenomenal. Everybody brought a lot of information to the committee and people learned a lot. It was enlightening to hear everyone's input. One thing that stuck out was that choosing a new name wasn't easy.

There's no ideal solution for this issue. The board has struggled with this for months and didn't come to its decision easily. The board respects all the input that has been received.

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to rename Mitchell Park to Floral Park which was the number one recommendation from the Mitchell Park Advisory Committee. Discussion followed:

Vice-President Caron commented that she agrees with all the reasons the committee came up. It's a good name to reflect the history of that location while it also has the connotation of being inclusive. She especially likes the term Floral, it's generic and refers to all kinds of flowers not something specific. It does embody what the board has been looking to do in terms of renaming.

Commissioner Antokal agreed with Vice-President Caron.

Commissioner Lapin commented that he felt the same way until he heard 2020 Park. It intrigued him and he thought it was an interesting idea. Floral Park is still his first choice.

Treasurer Cohen commented that he has never been in favor of a park being named for an individual. There are probably many people qualified to have a park named after them. How do you pick one, what's the criteria for doing that? The committee didn't push it. The only other name mentioned besides Beverly was Milgram. Even though Floral is generic this is for a park where people go to enjoy nature. Floral is a good name for a park and will be enhanced many ways over the years.

President Patinkin commented that a committee member brought up the idea of having a Hope Garden within the park. This is a wonderful idea.

After discussion, roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Vice-President Caron recommended that we should have a naming event in the spring of 2021. She would like to use it as an educational opportunity and include the community.

Commissioner Antokal recommended having the advisory committee be part of the event so they can be recognized for their contributions.

#### **Proposing Other Ways to Honor James Mitchell**

Removing the name of Mitchell from its current park was a priority for many members of the Advisory Committee. Some were against the removal. In any case, the removal of the Mitchell name from the park led committee members to discuss other ways to honor James Mitchell. There was mention that if the pool was to remain named after Mitchell, why would there be any need to honor Mitchell in other way(s)? A number of other committee members suggested other ways such as naming Family Days after Mitchell, naming the district as a whole after Mitchell, naming the current Jewett Park Community Center after Mitchell or naming space(s) within the center after Mitchell. The renaming of the center and the naming of the space(s) within the center surfaced as the top choices.

After performing some research in historical documents, there appears to be no restriction on renaming of the Community Center. The Center was officially named the Jewett Park Community Center on May 25, 1972 by the Park Board, (see page 3 of Minutes of Meeting of May 25, 1972).

Vice-President Caron commented that she is not in favor of renaming anything else.

Treasurer Cohen stated that he sees no reason to rename the community center. We are honoring James Mitchell by leaving the pool named Mitchell Pool. A good part of the community thinks that James Mitchell was a racist and so to put that name on something else is going to inflame people again for no reason. If the park district wants to honor Mr. Mitchell because of his contributions to the park district, the conference room name could be changed. He is not in favor of renaming a park or building. As of now the pool name honors him.

Motion made by Commissioner Antokal, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to not propose any new ways to honor James Mitchell as this time. Discussion followed:

Commissioner Lapin commented that it could be tabled. He likes the idea of the conference room being named for Mitchell. The key words in the motion are “at this time.”

Treasurer Cohen responded that he would go along with Commissioner Antokal’s motion as long as it’s clear that we can visit the topic in the future if we choose.

President Patinkin commented that he will go along with the motion as well. He also commented on Alec’s Public Comment email. Alec had an objection to keeping the pool name because we were honoring someone holding a position of leadership when this happened.

President Patinkin shared something that really hurt him. In an advisory committee meeting, Hazel stated that we shouldn’t be honoring James Mitchell regardless because he was president of the board, and the buck stopped with him. For President Patinkin, no matter how he feels about renaming the pool and this whole issue, everyone is going to perceive by these comments that this was all his fault, and the bucks stops with him. How do we know that that wasn’t the case for James Mitchell either? He wants everyone to think about that. He hopes the whole discussion about “you haven’t heard the last of this,” when it comes to keeping the name Mitchell Pool takes this into account going forward.

After discussion, roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Developing Educational Proposals to Accurately Teach the History of the Integration Issues Time Period in Deerfield (including a museum)**

There were numerous positive outcomes from this objective. Director Nehila believes one of the most significant outcomes was that committee members themselves were provided with a more wholistic and informative venue to hear about James Mitchell’s work on the park board in the 1950’s and 1960’s. As the hundreds of emails that came in demanding the name change of the park were poorly informed and blindly followed, the committee members had an opportunity through the promotion of park district resources, to discover the claim of racism by Mitchell was unfounded.

Another significant outcome from this objective was the information shared by both D109 and D113 on their curriculums relating to integration and historical events.

Another significant outcome from this objective was the information shared by both D109 and D113 on their curriculums relating to integration and historical events. Below is a synopsis of what D109 provides within their curriculum. This was provided by Danielle Arnold, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction:

“The primary grades have a social studies unit on communities, where they talk mostly about what makes their school and Deerfield unique. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, this unit expands to studying Illinois, which digs a little

deeper into both historical events and exploring similarities/differences in the communities throughout the state. As students move into middle school, the curriculum expands into analysis of societies across our nation and the globe. Discussion about events in history with context, how government works, current events, and social justice topics are present in each of the middle grades 6-8.

English-Language Arts often works in partnership with Social Studies throughout K-8. In elementary schools, we use the units of study for Reading, which is developed out of Columbia University's Reading and Writing Project. Stemming from the project's strong beliefs and research in this area, their units scaffold the study of diversity and culture through literacy. We follow their updates and recommendations about read-alouds and texts that can be added as book club selections, and they cite using a scorecard developed by the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools to examine their selections. In the early grades, some of the ELA content focuses on people of impact, biographies, and stories of acceptance. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, students participate in study on social issues, which focuses on topics such as racism, poverty and diversity. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students participate in a unit called "Reading with the Lens of Power and Perspective," which builds on social issues and specifically teaches them to analyze books looking for equity, ableism, and inclusion. When transitioning to middle school, 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA has a "Life Lessons" unit that looks at cultural and ethnic studies, as well as socioeconomic, and social, physical, and academic challenges. This is followed in 7<sup>th</sup> grade with a "Change the World" project, and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade with a Modern Day Civil Rights book club unit."

Advisory Committee member Niki Antonakos from D113 Social Studies Dept. provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee at the October 8 committee meeting. The presentation was informative and covered D113 curriculum relating to integration and local history, (presentation provided). One significant outcome is D113 has added specific park district reference materials to their curriculum which includes park district maps of parkland distribution and the district's History of the Deerfield Park District 1951-1969 presentation.

One other significant outcome that the committee discussed that ties into the education component of the objectives sought is the creation of a museum.

This topic surfaced many times through the advisory committee meetings and garnered heavy support from the members. The museum could provide a broad-based platform for "telling the whole story" of the integration issue in 1959 as well as having other exhibits displaying the history of Deerfield. The current time period of the park's renaming could also be part of the museum's exhibits.

Subcommittee work on this subject provided additional thoughts on where and what the museum could be. The preferred location would be on Wilmot Road where the 2 model homes, owned by the park district, are currently located. Both homes could be razed, and a new museum could be constructed on the site or the home(s) could be renovated. Obviously parking, traffic and noise studies would have to be performed. In any case, the Wilmot location is preferred. One other benefit to the museum concept is a potential partnership with the Deerfield Historical Society. In addition to them providing exhibit items, an archive storage and research space within the museum would enhance the museum's cross promotional and learning opportunities as well as provide a climate controlled archival and artifact storage location.

Within the museum, exhibits could include a full scale display of the 1959 integration issue, exhibits covering other times in Deerfield's history, oral history exhibits, contemporary history components, well-known persons from Deerfield and a potential stop-in or starting point for the sister city concept which is covered in the next agenda item.

The museum could be a learning opportunity for both local school districts, visitors from outside Deerfield, scout groups and many other organized groups. A meeting room component could add to learning and program opportunities. A studio for audio recording for oral histories could also be a component of the museum.

Obviously, there would be a great deal of planning and coordination to make this museum a reality. Local governments and other agencies would have to achieve a high level of coordination for the museum's development and operations but it is perhaps the most effective way to fulfil the objective of accurately teaching the history of the integration issues time period in Deerfield.

Director Nehila did a little research and determined that the state of Illinois occasionally provides grants for museums and there may be other grants available as well.

Debbie Serota mentioned that another piece educational component was to have a plaque at the park with a brief history of the property with a QR Code that would take people to a fuller narrative.

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen , seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to pursue the development of a museum in Deerfield with cooperation and support and funding from local governments and agencies that will include the accurate teaching of the integration issue time period in Deerfield. Discussion followed:

Treasurer Cohen commented that this is a nebulous motion, pursue development just means we will keep looking at it and hopefully we can put something together. But it's not just the park district, it's the village, it's a lot of other people. Tearing down and building a whole facility cost millions of dollars and renovating one of the homes would be quite costly as well. Director Nehila commented that both options have value. Retaining one of the homes as a physical exhibit would be great but meeting ADA requirements would be a challenge. Treasurer Cohen commented that we should acknowledge what happened on the site and we all want to provide educational opportunities for people, but a new building costs millions of dollars for public construction and people have to consider that.

Commissioner Antokal commented that we have the genesis of that with the members of the advisory committee who have taken this task upon them. Maybe that's a charge that is given to them to pursue once we establish an outline of the ground rules. Treasurer Cohen disagreed because he doesn't believe it was the charge for the advisory committee and commented that there might be other people that would want to be involved with the museum not just the advisory committee members. Commissioner Antokal responded that he wasn't determining who the members were going to be just where to start.

President Patinkin commented that repeatedly through the whole process he has made it clear that we were going to look for support from all bodies politic within Deerfield and they should all start considering setting aside a small part of their budget over a number of years to participate in this. He and Director Nehila participated in a local government board reception and when the museum idea was mentioned Deerfield Village Manager Street indicated that it was a phenomenal idea. Lake Bluff did a museum not too long ago and received over a million-dollar grant. So, there are a lot of grant opportunities available. Based on what we are trying to do with the collaboration of hopefully every body politic in the village, and what we are trying to accomplish he can't believe there wouldn't be grant money available. The only way to get started is put it on the books and have a little vision and move towards it.

Vice-President Caron commented that this a big project and is very exciting. She commented that the next step would be for Director Nehila to contact counter parts at other government agencies and see how everyone would want to proceed. This is not something that is going to happen quickly. This is very exciting for the whole town. She would like this to be a project for the whole town not just the park district.

President Patinkin commented that we could add to the motion to include putting a plaque with QR Code in the park right away since it will take a long time to get the museum going. Vice-President Caron commented that she doesn't know if a plaque goes with this motion, but it would go with the event that we have when we do the official renaming.



Treasurer Cohen commented that we have all stated that a plaque with a QR Code should be in the park. We could do a separate motion. Vice-President Caron commented that she would like to give staff time to come up with ideas for what we put in the park.

After discussion, roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

### **Sister Village Concept**

As a possible extension of the educational proposal objective of the committee, or just a stand-alone concept, the idea of creating a Sister Village program evolved from the Mitchell Park Advisory Committee meetings.

The concept is based on the forming of a partnership with an economically underserved location to provide services to populations from that area. The concept, as further developed by a sub-committee, is provided below:

“Sister Village” – Concept as a component to the Mitchell Park Renaming Process:

“Let’s not miss the chance to do something truly transformable by limiting our consideration to just a potential name change. Our hope from this process is to use the opportunity presented by current events, and the historic context for Mitchell Park, to actually make a practical difference in lives of young people who may have not had the benefits of having access to the wonderful schools, parks and support that children who have grown up in a community like Deerfield typically enjoy.

As a starting point, we could provide kids from our “sister village” with swim lessons and full access to the Deerfield Park District programs with “resident status” and access to programming with other community institutions such as the Village of Deerfield, Deerfield High School, and other civic minded organizations in town to offer resources such as tutoring, college counseling, job placement advice and mentorship. Once we partner with District 109 and 113, (and other civic organizations), [we are] sure to help launch these young people on their way to future academic, career and social success.

For example, we could try to partner with Dist. 113 and other civic organizations to offer mentorships, college counseling, job placement, and tutoring to the families from our sister village. We could try to give these young people some of the benefits of life in Deerfield and offer our residents an opportunity to learn from other with different backgrounds, etc.”

President Patinkin commented that this is a wonderful idea. The challenge will be to select the area, but we will have to figure out how to do it in an acceptable manner. Director Nehila mentioned that part of the selection process could be working with the village as a whole. The village used to have a sister city in Germany, but this has gone by the wayside. Commissioner Lapin mentioned that DYBA did a “Brother Baseball Team” program with an inner-city team. They came and played here, and we went and played there. It was a very positive thing.

Motion made by Cohen, to investigate the possibility of creating a Sister Village program with our local governments and agencies. Discussion followed.

Treasurer Cohen stated that this his motion is different than support the development which is a commitment. He commented that you can’t commit until you investigate and see who will participate and what they will provide.

Vice-President Caron stated to Treasurer Cohen that he needs the rest of the motion. He responded that it’s a very simple motion.

President Patinkin asked for what purpose. Treasurer Cohen responded that there are a lot of different purposes. The problem is it depends on what community you want to benefit and there are a lot of different types of communities.

He doesn't want to limit it in the motion. We haven't explored it or talked about it. There are a lot of different ways to do this. He just wants to start an investigation of doing it and doesn't want to commit to anything. We don't know what our goals are. Let the governmental agencies talk about whether they want to do it. It's great the park district and the advisory committee want to do it that doesn't mean everyone else wants to. This isn't something that can be undertaken just by the park district.

Vice-President Caron commented that she agrees with Treasurer Cohen's points, but she feels we need to give some general idea of what we intend to do. She thinks that to offer services to underserved communities needs to be part of the motion. Treasurer Cohen asked what that meant? Vice-President Caron commented that it at least gives a direction. Do we want the sister village to be pen pals? Treasurer Cohen stated that there are a lot of ways to help sister villages. Commissioner Antokal asked if this was something that should be tabled and discussed at a workshop meeting so we can refine it better? Treasurer Cohen responded that he doesn't think so because the board shouldn't be refining it. This is something that has to be developed between the governmental agencies. He doesn't feel he's qualified to say what other agencies should be providing and funding. He will add the words "to provide unknown services and benefits" to the motion. Commissioner Lapin stated that it sounds like charity and that's not what it's meant to be. It's meant to be an exchange. Treasurer Cohen stated that he was removing the purpose from his motion. The purpose doesn't have to be in the motion, why limit it. Vice-President Caron commented that it should indicate that it came out of the advisory committee, that it has to do with the issue of racism in 1959 and doing something to show we are actively moving forward from that. Treasurer Cohen asked if putting the words "as suggested by the advisory committee" would be acceptable. Vice-President Caron stated yes it would be good. President Patinkin commented that he agrees with Vice-President Caron. He knows what underserved populations are, it's a defined term. We are not underserved in Deerfield. We have the benefits of unbelievable facilities and programs. He thinks the crux of the whole advisory committee idea is to offer those benefits up to those that are disadvantaged and underserved so they can start to get a leg up and have all the benefits that we have and to do whatever we can to make that happen. Commissioner Lapin commented that he doesn't think that's realistic. It sounds like we are trying to give them a leg up by giving them charity and he doesn't think they want it, and he doesn't think we can do it. President Patinkin responded that he doesn't think it is charity at all. Treasurer Cohen withdrew his motion and suggested tabling the subject and having a discussion about it another time. He commented that his motion was simple, to investigate the possibility of a sister village program. Everyone knows the concept came from the advisory committee. Why do we have to tack on superfluous comments that really don't serve any purpose?

After discussion, motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to investigate the possibility of creating a Sister Village program with our local governments and agencies to potentially provide services and benefits to underserved communities. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Update to Policy #5002 in Board Policies and Administrative Regulations Manual**

Motion made by Commissioner Antokal, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the updates to Section #5002 of the Deerfield Park District's Board Policies and Administrative Regulations Manual. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Pay Request #3 DCG Roofing Solutions, Inc. for SRC West Roof Rehabilitation Manual**

Motion made by Treasurer Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the final pay request submitted by DCG Roofing Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$24,823.10 for work completed to date on the SRC West Roof Rehabilitation Project. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Mitchell Pool and Floral Park Shelter Roof Shingle Replacement Project Final Payment Request**

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the final payment request for the replacement of roof shingles on the Mitchell Pool Bathhouses, Admission Building, Filter Equipment Building and Floral Park Shelter in the total amount of \$27,900 as submitted by Filotto Construction, Inc. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Estimate of Taxes to be Levied in 2020**

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Treasurer Cohen, to determine the estimated aggregate 2020 tax levy necessary to be raised by taxation in an amount of \$8,330,071. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: Nays (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Establishment of Public Hearing on 2020 Tax Levy**

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to establish the public hearing on the 2020 tax levy to be held on December 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule**

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the 2021 meeting schedule as presented. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes.) Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Other Matters**

**Solar Panels at SRC**

When staff began researching solar panels for SRC a couple of years ago, there were companies that rented the roof from you and gave you a reduced rate for electricity. This is what staff was hoping to do when one of the roofs was recently redone and able to have solar panels installed. The state provided incentives to the private owners and they were very lucrative. Unfortunately, that program has ended, and those firms aren't around anymore. The option now is to buy our own panels. After meeting with a firm, they informed us that we would need to do all three roofs to

make it worthwhile. We would have to redo the other two roofs for about \$300,000 each. The initial park district investment would be \$1.7 million. It would take a considerable amount of time to recognize a return on invest because of the upfront cost. The savings on the panels themselves is only about 60% reduction on our utility costs. It would take about 11-12 years to get a full payback from one roof and nearly 20 years for a full payback on our investment if we did all three roofs. Staff will continue to look for other opportunities. Presumably when the new administration takes over the White House there is supposed to be a lot of green initiatives and grant programs.

### **NSSRA**

Renovation bids came in for NSSRA's new building. The bids came in at \$4.2 million for renovation. The renovation committee recommended adding some alternates. The board approved the recommendations and bids. Our remaining member contribution of \$221,500 will be paid in 2021. The NSSRA Foundation has raised over \$2 million dollars towards the project. An occupancy date of September 2021 is anticipated.

### **COVID – Tier 3 Mitigations**

On Friday, November 20 we will be in Tier 3 mitigation. Impact to facilities are as follows:

PTC - We will not be running any indoor programming but will continue our virtual programs.

JPCC – The facility will be closed for any recreational programs, but the R.E.C. program will continue to run. Any program that could be changed to virtual will run in that format. The Registration Office will remain open by appointment only.

Golf – There are really no notable changes that the golf course hasn't already dealt with.

Preschool – Preschool is closed due to COVID cases.

SRC – We will continue with our hours. We have to reduce our capacity to 25%. Everyone will have to make reservations once again. Face masks will have to be worn at all times while in the facility. No locker rooms or showers will be available. All indoor group exercise classes are cancelled. We will be adding additional Zoom programming. Indoor sports had to be cancelled. Tennis is taking a pause to see if we get out of mitigations soon. Rhythmic Gymnastics Olympic Team will be doing one on one training as that is allowed. We are happy to remain open.

Director Nehila explained what it will take for us to go back to Tier 2 Mitigations. We have to experience a less than 12% test positivity rate for 3 consecutive days, and greater than 20% availability in ICU and hospital beds, and a declining 7-day average in COVID hospitalizations in 7 out of the last 10 days.

### **Deerfield Community Blood Drive**

Since blood donations are considered essential, the blood drive will take place at Jewett Park Community Center.

### **Deerfield Town Hall**

President Patinkin noted that all but one of the candidates mentioned during their introductory statements that they live in Deerfield because of the schools and parks, and they were so complimentary to the park facilities and programs. President Patinkin thanked staff for all they do and keeping the park district in the forefront of the residents.

### **State Accreditation**

Director Nehila will attend the Zoom presentation of the State Accreditation Review Board for our agency to be officially recommended for Accreditation.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Antokal, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:50 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary

## Jeff Nehila

---

**From:** Kim Parson <kim.parson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:55 PM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** Renaming of Mitchel Park and Pool

Please read my letter into the minutes of the November 17th Park District Board meeting.

To the Deerfield Park District Board,

I'm writing to express my disappointment in the board's failure to follow through on renaming Mitchell park and pool. This should be one of the easiest things to do in order to begin reversing our racist history and yet we are unable to complete this symbolic task. It is simply deplorable. You can rationalize your actions a thousand different ways as did the board led by Mitchel, but the truth is you are unwilling to act to dismantle racism in Deerfield. It's a sad day. Please do the right thing and rename both the park and the pool.

Thanks,  
Kim Parson

Sent from my iPhone

## Jeff Nehila

---

**From:** Josh Hecht <joshhecht@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** Renaming Mitchell Park and Pool

My name is Dr. Josh Hecht and I am a retired University Professor. My parents Mike and Terry Hecht purchased a home in Deerfield at 1429 Central Avenue. We moved in to the house on January 31, 1957 and my parents occupied the house for fifty years.

I am writing to urge the Board to rename BOTH the Park and Pool to a name that finally puts to rest a disgraceful era in Deerfield history.

I will share three personal events which make this an extremely important issue for me.

1. As a young boy wearing a Deerfield Boys Baseball uniform as I had a game that day I marched in a peaceful protest against the condemning of the model houses and attempts to keep Deerfield segregated.

I was a kid. A grown man threw a rock the size of a baseball off my head and called me a "nigger lover". It hurt. He was lucky my father did not see it as my father would have responded appropriately. I will leave it at that.

2. Once the pool was opened my two little sisters along with two of the Black girls who lived down the street went to the pool. They were very little girls. Grown men spit on them. I was considerably older and would have also acted appropriately and candidly would have made sure those men regretted that for the rest of their lives.

3. I saw the cross burned in front of the Rosen house. It was a terrifying image I will never forget Please understand I love Deerfield. I had a great childhood there.

Baseball and ice skating and playing basketball at both Wilmot and Deerfield High School. Class of 1969. Riding bicycles and chasing lightning bugs and all of the things of a happy childhood.

In 2019 my wife had business in the area and I came with to show her my hometown. I loved showing her my childhood neighborhood and the village. When we drove by Mitchell park and pool I felt nauseous that both were still named that. I cannot find the words to express how much I believe both the park and pool need to be renamed so that unfortunate era can become history.

I urge the board to right the terrible wrongs of that era and make the park and pool reflect the history and values of a wonderful and socially aware community.

It is as much a part of Deerfield's history as the Casper Ott cabin and should be used as a lesson to today's children that Deerfield had an unfortunate era but has taken action to turn that era into a teachable lesson that Deerfield is aware of this horrible chapter and has taken moved to teach children that we can learn from mistakes and that Deerfield is still a great place to live and is a village that can admit its errors and turn those errors into positive demonstration that Deerfield is a place of equality.

I am including my home address but would prefer it not be read publicly.

Thank you for allowing me to express my feelings.

Sincerely

Joshua Hecht

16316 Castle Park Terrace  
Lakewood Ranch Florida 34202

Sent from my iPhone

## Jeff Nehila

---

**From:** Evan Montgomery <evanm2480@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** For Public Comment - Board Meeting 11/19/2020

I ask that this comment please be read aloud in its entirety during the park board meeting Thursday November 19th.

Dear Members of the Deerfield Board of Park Commissioners,

We are writing this letter today regarding statements made by members of the Deerfield Board of Park Commissioners during a meeting held over Zoom on June 18th, 2020. Although we appreciate the Board's willingness to address a contentious issue that has captured the interest of so many Deerfield residents, we were discouraged, and at times even appalled, by some of the statements made by Board members over the course of this call.

We understand that the members of the Board of Park Commissioners feel admiration, gratitude, and even indebtedness towards James C. Mitchell, and we fully recognize the many positive contributions he made to the town of Deerfield during his time as Park Board President. However, we feel that the amount of time spent defending Mitchell from a small number of emails accusing him of racism was disproportionate and distracting. Deerfield citizens who felt compelled to email the Park Board asking for Mitchell Park's name to be changed did so out of sadness and outrage regarding the role that this park played in the segregation of Deerfield. Changing the name of Mitchell Park is a purely symbolic gesture of apology for Deerfield's actions against Black people—it acknowledges the harm that was done and seeks to educate the Deerfield populace. However, we cannot forget that Black people were actively hurt by the events of 1959, and should always remain at the center of our conversations about how to address those events. To spend such a disproportionate amount of time defending James Mitchell instead of acknowledging the role that he played in discrimination against Black people was distracting.

During the meeting, members of the Board frequently defended Mitchell by calling him an opportunist, a label that softens his complicity in a movement that was undeniably racist. In Park Board President Rick Patinkin's own words, James C. Mitchell "acquiesced in aligning himself with those who had ulterior motives for acquiring the property and whose bigotry and racism cannot and should not be denied." At the very least, Mitchell saw an opportunity to pass a referendum that had a great likelihood of succeeding (unlike the three 1959 referenda before it) precisely because of a wave of racist, anti-Black vitriol espoused by many of the citizens of Deerfield. To knowingly take advantage of a racist opportunity is to be complicit in racism itself. To point out this complicity and label it as racism is not a "personal attack" against the overall character of James Mitchell, it is an acknowledgement of the major role he played in the segregation of Deerfield. In his address to the public, President Patinkin said, "The majority of Deerfield voters bear the weight of what happened in 1959. Not any one man, and especially not James Mitchell." We agree that two-thirds of Deerfield's voting body in 1959 are culpable for the continued segregation of the community, and should be held accountable. However, the name of the park is not "The Majority of Deerfield Voters" Park. Like it or not, James Mitchell's name and actions are inextricably tied to the racist history of the park. Under his leadership, a referendum to build parks was levied with racist motivations to keep ten to twelve Black households out of Deerfield. Regardless of whether or not Mitchell personally supported segregation, it cannot be denied that he knowingly took advantage of a segregationist movement.

Furthermore, we are appalled that members of the Park Board spent valuable meeting time accusing Deerfield residents of scapegoating, even going so far as to liken them to the segregationists of 1959 as well as literal Nazis. In her statement, Vice President Jan Caron said, "I can't help comparing the current situation to the situation in 1959. There was a current movement in the country. People in Deerfield have just found out about something upsetting in their town and they want to do something about it. Small groups meet and try to find a solution. The word keeps spreading. Letters are sent and the majority demands action. Incorrect information gets repeated and becomes fact. The press is alerted. Opposing voices are drowned out." This comparison was absolutely uncalled for. It is highly inappropriate to liken members of the Deerfield community, who are



seeking to address a shameful aspect of their history, to the racist segregationists who mobilized to ensure that Deerfield remained 100% white. We do not believe that it is reasonable to suggest that renaming Mitchell Park is morally akin to segregation. This statement was beyond disappointing.

Furthermore, when we heard President Patinkin say, "I also urge everyone to take a short trip south on the Edens to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in order to learn the dangers and consequences of scapegoating and going along with the crowd without independently researching and ascertaining all of the facts," we were even more shocked and horrified. We cannot stress enough how inappropriate these comments were. We believe it was wrong of the President of the Park Board to claim that there is a "need to educate members of our community about scapegoating." It is unacceptable and intolerable to say that residents of Deerfield, a community with a large Jewish population, are unfamiliar with scapegoating. It is even more disturbing to insinuate that their efforts to right a historical wrong in their community are in any way similar to the events of the Holocaust. In his defense of James Mitchell from this alleged scapegoating, President Patinkin said, "I cannot be a bystander on this matter. Someone has to stand up for James Mitchell, who is not here to defend himself." To hold James Mitchell accountable for his complicity in institutional racism is not scapegoating. Black people in 1959 were unable to defend themselves from racially-motivated grassroots organizations that formed and mobilized with the express purpose of keeping them out of Deerfield. The call to rename Mitchell Park is an effort to defend those people, albeit retroactively.

President Patinkin was not alone in the disproportionate defense of James Mitchell during Thursday's meeting. The rhetoric thrown around by all members of the Board during their statements was deeply disappointing, even appalling. We ask that you consider why you were all so quick to come to the defense of James Mitchell, and yet so incredibly slow to come to the defense of the would-be first Black residents of Deerfield, whose opportunity to move to this town was squashed in favor of building Mitchell Park. The effects of the referendum (that was approved under Mitchell's leadership) still reverberate in our community today. With only .8% of Deerfield's residents being Black (according to U.S. Census data), there is so much work that needs to be done to make Deerfield truly integrated. Collectively, you have demonstrated extreme reluctance to do the absolute least to make up for the wrongdoing of Deerfield residents in 1959, including James Mitchell.

If we are going to move forward as a community it is vital that our leaders are educated and understanding of our past, and Thursday's meeting was a disappointing display of misplaced defensiveness and reluctance on the part of the entire Board to take even the first baby step towards changing our community for the better. As the Board of Park Commissioners assembles its Committee and works with them to find a suitable new name for Mitchell Park, we urge you to consider prioritizing the harm done to Black people over the reputation of James Mitchell. Additionally, considering that Black people were the targets of the 1959 Referendum, we demand that Black Deerfield residents play an active role in the Renaming Committee, that their voices be elevated, and that they be given roles of leadership alongside the various historians and elected officials named in the meeting. Finally, we will accept nothing less than a formal and public statement wherein you apologize for the egregious rhetoric used by members of the Board of Park Commissioners and state your commitment to taking steps towards racial progress in the community and the redress of Deerfield's undeniably racist and bigoted past.

Sincerely,  
Evan Montgomery and Caroline Hsu

**Jeff Nehila**

---

**From:** Patricia Adam <adamandpatti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:35 AM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** Public comment

## Public comment

I was paging through our community brochure and noticed the headline - GREAT things are happening in Deerfield! Below it was Deerfield Park District's Mission Statement. "The Deerfield Park District strives to serve the Deerfield Community with outstanding parks, services, facilities and recreational programs that enrich lives, promote healthy living, and inspire memorable experiences."

When my husband and I purchased our home in Deerfield, we were eager to start a family and take advantage of all that the park district had to offer. Now, as the parents of two young children, we do appreciate just that and fully enjoy living in a community with playgrounds to explore, seasonal events to attend, and a variety of classes to engage our little ones.

How glorious it is that our Village designs spaces and creates content for residents of all ages - from preschool and early childhood education to the varying parks for kids of all ages to adult classes at Sachs and all the way through to our older generation serviced at the PTC. What a wonderful community we have.

This community, however, hasn't always been accessible to all. While I won't spend my time on lessons of history as I believe we are all aware of our Village's troubling past, I will point out the importance of acknowledging, learning from, and correcting our past bad acts.

We can't change the past. Our Village's history has racism embedded in its threads, no doubt. Our future, however, doesn't have to. I want to see our Village grow and prosper. I want to see our community not only open its arms but also actively welcome diversity and inclusivity amongst its residents and visitors - to be a safe place, a home, to every person regardless of their sexual orientation, national origin, race, gender identity, or religion. Everyone should feel safe and welcome in our community.

As such, I, as a Deerfield homeowner, parent, and community member, would like to express my support for the renaming of not only Mitchell Park but also Mitchell Pool. To only change one name while holding onto the other would paint our Village as one that still aligns ourselves with our troubling racial history. One that cannot acknowledge or correct our past wrongs. One that is not ready to heal. One that is not welcoming of diversity and inclusivity. Holding onto tokens of our past is no way to build a better future. Please, as you rename Mitchell Park, rename the pool as well. Let our past be something our children learn about in school and not there, on a sign, as a constant reminder of how we failed to welcome our future generations of Deerfield residents into a better world.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Berlinsky

Sent from my iPhone

## Jeff Nehila

---

**From:** quotes@quote-m-unquote.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - Mitchell Park renaming

Having read the minutes from the three advisory board meetings that have already been held, I would like to express my appreciation for the work and discussion that has already gone into the issue of renaming Mitchell Park.

I would like to add my voice in support of several proposals given at previous meetings:

- I believe Floral Park is the best name choice. This name directly addresses the history that led to the formation of the park, a history that remains and will always be relevant and in need of remembrance.
- Retaining the name Mitchell Pool keeps Mitchell's name tied, as an individual, to the racist history of this site. I do not object to naming something within the park district after Mitchell, but it should not be at the current Mitchell Park site. The pool should be renamed. Perhaps Pear Tree Pool to acknowledge the second quashed development.
- A historical plaque or installation outlining the history should be placed in the park. With the excellent work the Deerfield Library did on "The Fight to Integrate Deerfield," these existing resources could be put into service for this purpose.

It also occurs to me that if the model homes are used as a museum space, one of the most important functions of this space would be as an active classroom. Although historical preservation is important, programming could have a far more crucial role in the effectiveness of ongoing education. I do not necessarily object to providing the Deerfield Historical Society space, but I do not know if the Deerfield Historical Society wants to be saddled with, or has the expertise to address, Deerfield's racist history and a forward-looking anti-racist curriculum.

Thank you-  
"Michael" Cunningham

## Jeff Nehila

---

**From:** Danny Farber <sirdannyfarber@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 6:16 PM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** For Public Comment - Board Meeting 11/19/2020

Hey Jeff,

I'd like to contribute to the conversation this evening by going on record saying that I don't think the park district is taking enough action by only renaming the park but not the pool.

Your half hearted lack of acknowledgment will be another sore moment in the village's history.

--

df

[www.sirdannyfarber.com](http://www.sirdannyfarber.com)  
instagram: @sirdannyfarber

## Jeff Nehila

---

**From:** Alec Lopata <alec.lopata@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 6:36 PM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 11/19 Board Meeting

Dear Deerfield Park District Board,

I have appreciated working with you all over these past few months on this important issue. I have appreciated your willingness to engage on these difficult conversations about Deerfield's history, and have good faith discussions about how to continue to move our community forward. I write to you this evening, not only to thank you for the time and effort that you have already put into this, but to encourage you in this final step of the process. The community has made clear its desire for James Mitchell's name to no longer be associated with the land that is currently Mitchell Park and Mitchell Pool. As one of the lead organizers of this effort, I have made clear that this discussion was never intended to be a referendum on the legacy of James Mitchell, but simply about how his name remains a reminder for many of our shameful history, due to his holding a position of leadership at the time. I know the Advisory Committee has worked incredibly hard to develop the recommendations that they are presenting to you tonight, and I hope you take them with the weight that they deserve. They are representative of our community as a whole, as you intended them to be, and their recommendations should be taken as such. I hope that, as a Board, you choose to take advantage of this moment, show progressive leadership for our community, and decide to fully rename the land that was intended to be the Floral Park housing development. Thank you for the time and consideration you have given this issue.

Best,

Alec Lopata

# DHS Social Studies Dept. report on curriculum

for the Mitchell Park Advisory Committee

# overview of courses including the housing case

## Forms of United States History

this is a graduation requirement; typically students take this in 11th grade (Jr. year)

- United States History (standard)
- United States History (survey)
- United States History (A.P.)
- American Studies
- summer school U.S. History

## Electives in the Social Studies

these courses fulfill the state civics requirement

- Sociology
  - 10th - 12th graders may enroll
- Issues in Modern American Society
  - 12th graders only
- AP Government may occasionally cover the case, depending on the year
  - 10th - 12th graders may enroll

# United States History (standard & survey levels)

The history of the Deerfield housing case falls within a unit on the Civil Rights Movement. This course emphasizes the role of youth in that movement, beginning with the *Brown* case, then the story of Emmett Till, Little Rock, the sit-in movement and the birth of SNCC, etc.

Students read articles and have a discussion of the Deerfield case within the broader context.

Current events are folded into the discussion as well, sometimes with a webquest to help students become informed. This fall, for example, recent local activism and renaming Mitchell Park/Pool were part of the discussion.

Discussion based on two articles:

“**Deerfield’s Race Case**” discusses the event of 1959 in Deerfield including Milgrim’s plan, Roosevelt’s visit, resistance from the community, and the Beverly’s purchase of a house in 1967.

“**The South in the North**” compares Clinton, TN, to Deerfield and examines how racism exists in northern U.S., but just may not be as apparent as in the southern U.S.



# A.P. United States History

In 2020-21, we decided to make this topic our first content day of the year. The idea was to show the personal nature of history and to introduce the importance of asking questions and reading documents, as well as to show the “backstory” of current events.

Students prepared for class by reading **“Deerfield’s Race Case”** and then visiting the Deerfield Public Library’s **“Six Pivotal Points in the Fight to Integrate Deerfield,”** where they examined all the primary documents and chose a key detail in each of the Six Pivotal Points, describing the detail and explaining why it is important to the story.

In class, we held discussion, making sure to clarify any questions and misinterpretations.

We provided students with other interesting sources in class to expand our use of both primary and secondary sources:

- Oral History project from 2009 at Deerfield Public Library “One Book, One Zip Code” on *Listening Is An Act Of Love* - DHS students conducted six interviews specifically with people involved in the housing case, including Ted Repsholdt (see excerpt transcripts related to the case) and the Beverly’s (in other years, we have shown clips from these)
- Renaming of Mitchell Park: Park Board site, CBS News story, Patch story on the decision to rename
- Deerfield village statement on workforce housing

# American Studies

This is an interdisciplinary class, combining the study of American literature with U.S. history. (Two teachers, two sections of students in a two hour block.) There are two American Studies teams at DHS, each with one section of the course. The teams plan separately, but the approach is similar.

In one section, students photographed areas of the town and explained what these pictures represent. They then read “**Deerfield’s Race Case**” and listened to the podcast “**Why Is Deerfield (Still) So White?**” Discussion in class combined all of these pieces, and linked to current events (Black Lives Matter movement and the move to rename Mitchell Park).

In the other section, the history of the housing case is part of a unit on civil rights and the play *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Students read “**Deerfield’s Race Case**” and created an “**asset map**” of Deerfield in preparation for the lessons. To add to their understanding of events from the article, we showed an excerpt from Chicago Video Project’s *No Place To Live: Chicago’s Affordable Housing Crisis*.

continue next slide →

# American Studies (continued)

This class included the following activities:

- Groups of students came up with a list of the essential facts everyone in Deerfield should know about the housing case.
- Ms. Antonakos gave a brief overview of Mitchell's plan for the town's green spaces. We later connected this to a **study of the effects of climate change on neighborhoods** that were once redlined.
- We connected to the national question of when and how to rename or change monuments and made sure students knew where to find information on the Park District website for this continued discussion.
- We connected the housing case to the broader historical context of both suburbanization and housing discrimination, particularly redlining.
- As we studied Lorraine Hansberry's play (published in 1959), we made direct connections to the history of Deerfield, and as our study of civil rights continued into the 1960s, we continued linking to related events in the town's history.

# Civics Electives: Sociology, Issues, AP Government

## Sociology

In Sociology, students read the *New York Times* article "[The South in the North](#)" and place the Deerfield study within a unit in which they learn about the broader phenomenon of housing segregation, with emphasis on Chicago and suburbs.

Sometimes this course also includes the story of Amy Roost and Angelle Smith, "[The Adopted Black Baby and The One Who Replaced Her](#)"

## Issues

As this is a current events-based course, the material changes. Students often will re-read "Deerfield's Race Case" for the basic storyline. They may also read the story of Amy Roost and Angelle Smith, "[The Adopted Black Baby and The One Who Replaced Her](#)" and Amy Roost's "[Why Is Deerfield \(Still\) So White?](#)" The Zion Woods development has become part of the discussion.

**AP Government** In 2019, students read and discussed Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law*, with emphasis on the local history connection. This was a great way to tie into the Deerfield Public Library's programming for *The Fight to Integrate Deerfield*.

# Other sources & approaches we have used

## Teach-In on Local History

Following the Deerfield Public Library's work collecting oral histories in *One Book, One Zip Code*, our department put together a museum-like experience for students in what was then called the Student Union. It included

- video clips with oral histories of “old town Deerfield”
- portraits & profiles of important figures in the town's history
- a feature specifically on the housing case
- historical timelines and demographic data
- and more

## Materials we use periodically

**"Cross Found On Home Lawn in Deerfield"** (Dec. 1959)

regarding Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights, we have a video interview with Theodor Repsholdt (**transcribed excerpts**), and an article on the involvement of another member, **John Foster**, in the Civil Rights Movement

# additions we can incorporate

Primary sources from the Deerfield Area Historical Society, and Park District history and maps now linked on our [webpage](#) on the housing case.

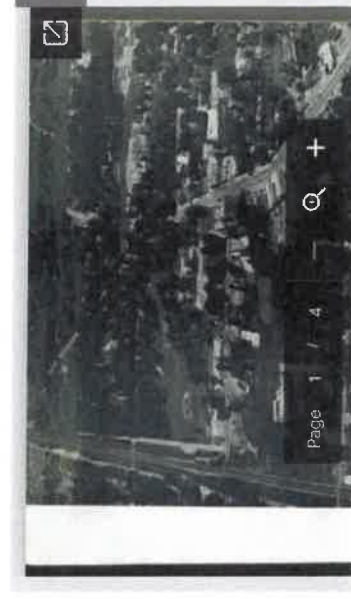
## RESOURCES FROM THE DEERFIELD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Artifacts and Descriptions provided by Jean Spagnoli, DAHS Board Member



Ruth Pettis, early park established

Letter from Ruth Reichelt Pettis (1895-1983) regarding establishing the first public park in Deerfield. Ruth was the editor of the Deerfield Review, her mother was Marie Ward Reichelt (an author of the 1928 *History of Deerfield* and she is buried in the Deerfield Cemetery with her husband.



1959 Deerfield Plan

Excerpt "Schools, Parks, Recreation" from the Deerfield Comprehensive Plan (Community's goals and objectives) prepared for the Village of Deerfield in spring 1959 and made public in June 1959. The document discusses the desire of residents for several 15-20 acre areas located in the several smaller neighborhoods as opposed to a large community park. Also the report found that the Village is at about 1/2 optimum park area ownership. The author, Matthew L. Rockwell, points out that many of the recommendations would require early action. Remember the population was growing and vacant land was getting scarce. Also note that the community starts to become aware of the integrated housing project on November 10, 1959.