**NEWS**

**Recreation association may find new home**

BY ALEXANDRA CHACKOVITCH Tribune reporter

The Northbrook Park District may share space with the Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association if voters approve the idea for converting a local Five Seasons Sports Club into a community recreation center, officials say.

Park district officials say they are gathering input from the community on the plan to pay about $20.3 million for the 13.5-acre property at 1061 N. Hermitage Road and the 17 acres of land on which it sits.

Voters in the district ultimately would have to support the idea through a referendum request on the November ballot. Officials say residents have been asking for such an amenity for years.

If the deal goes through, it could mean a new home for the Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association, or NISSRA, which provides recreational activities for people with disabilities in 13 North Shore communities.

Last year, the agency passed a $4.6 million plan to move its headquarters, citing space limitations of its present location in a Northbrook industrial park.

"It basically hits our goal square on the nose," said Craig Cuyp, executive director of the recreation association. "We're excited for this opportunity.

Cuyp added that Northbrook Park District has been partnered with the recreation agency since the association's creation in 1970.

In total, the groups have intergovernmental partnerships with 10 park districts and three municipalities in communities such as Lake Forest, Highland Park, Deerfield, Wilmette and Glencoe.

Cuyp said the agency is hoping to have about 15,000 square feet of space for its administrative headquarters. The present offices are about 1,000 square feet in size.

Cuyp said if the deal goes through, the recreation association likely would negotiate an agreement with the park district.

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