

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Jay Lerner Promoted to Executive Director for the Waukegan Park District**

**Waukegan, IL (June 30, 2017)** –The Waukegan Park District is pleased to announce the appointment of Jay Lerner to the role of Executive Director. Mr. Lerner will officially take over the Executive Director position on July 1, 2017.

Jay has been with the Waukegan Park District since September 1998 when he started as a Recreation Specialist for Youth Athletics. He was promoted to Recreation Supervisor of Athletics in 1999, Manager of Sports and Fitness in 2010 and Superintendent of Recreation in 2013. In his capacity as Superintendent of Recreation, he led a team of 20 full time and more than 100 part time and seasonal staff. He was responsible for evaluating, improving and implementing recreational programs, services and facilities and building partnerships within the community.

George Bridges, Waukegan Park District President stated, “The park district’s professional development program and Jay’s experience prepared him for succession into the Executive Director position. The Board believed we had the best possible candidate for the Executive Director’s position already in our organization, and that was Jay Lerner.”

Over the years, Jay has had far reaching and numerous responsibilities. He was heavily involved in the facility design, pro forma, implementation and operation of three major recreation facilities: The Field House, the SportsPark and the Indoor Aquatics Center.

Jay earned a Bachelor of Science in Recreation with concentration in Sports Management and a Master of Science in Physical Education with concentration in Recreation. Both degrees are from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Executive through the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and a Certified Program Planner through the LERN Network. He completed the NRPA Directors School, Professional Development School, Revenue Development &

Management School, and the Executive Development Program at Indiana University. In 2016, he was recognized by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association with the statewide Community Impact Award. His recognition from the Waukegan Park District includes: the 2008 Commissioner's Award from the Board of Commissioners and the 2004 Recreation Department Employee of the Year. Jay and his family live in Waukegan.

Jay brings exceptional skills which have prepared him for the Executive Director position. We look forward to working with him in his new position.

### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 full-time and over 230 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

3/3/17/Comm. Relations

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