

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Jay Lerner Appointed Interim Executive Director for the Waukegan Park District**

**Waukegan, IL (April 26, 2017)** –The Waukegan Park District is pleased to announce the appointment of Jay Lerner as the Interim Executive Director. As such, he will work closely in an interim role with Greg Petry, the current Executive Director, until his planned retirement on June 30th. Mr. Lerner will officially take over the Executive Director position July 1.

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 have 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.