**Recreation Advisory Committee Application** Date:

Last First Middle Spouse’s

Name

Address City Zip Phone

Present Occupation Employer/School

Business Address City Zip Phone

How long have you lived in the Morton Grove community?

e-mail

**PREVIOUS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: (Church, Scouts, School, etc.):**

**SPECIAL INTERESTS, HOBBIES, SKILLS, TRAINING, ETC:**

**What activities or facilities of the Morton Grove Park District have you been most active with in the past?**

**Why are you interested in serving on the recreation advisory member?**

**How did you find out about the recreation advisory committee with the Park District?**

**OVERVIEW**

The Morton Grove Park District welcomes community comment and involvement.

Informally, individuals and groups share perspectives and advice with the Park District by phone, e-mail, personal contacts, and letters. Formally, the Park District accepts public testimony at its regular meetings, and the Park District sponsors open houses, community forums, and public hearings throughout the year on specific issues. In addition, the Park District has established advisory boards and committees to provide advice on key issues.

Recreation advisory members consist of citizens of the District who have demonstrated interest in recreation programs or facilities and who are willing to give of their time to investigating new ideas or making recommendations for consideration. Members are appointed by the Superintendent of Recreation for a two (2) year term. The group shall consist of five (5) members of the community, the Superintendent of Recreation and two (2) Recreation Supervisors. Members will ideally be representative of various segments of the community. Member responsibilities include: review, evaluate and recommend leisure programs and serve as a community sounding board. All member must be at least 18 years of age.

Attendance is very important to the Park District and community; advisory members are expected to attend at least three out of the four quarterly meetings each year. Meetings will be held at the Prairie View Community Center at 6:30 pm.

**GENERAL ROLE**

Advisory committees are a structured way for individual citizens to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, and develop recommendations in a focused, small group structure.

The primary purpose of advisory committees is to provide advice, from a citizen perspective, to the Park Board of Commissioners which is the District's elected policy-making body.

Advisory committee activities may include study of critical issues, hearing public testimony, independent research, and reviewing staff reports and recommendations - all of which is intended so that the committee is prepared to discuss, formulate, and forward well-developed, thoughtful recommendations to the Park District in a timely manner.

**DECISION MAKING**

In making decisions, the Morton Grove Park Board of Commissioners considers general citizen comment, advisory committee recommendations, staff recommendations, Board priorities and goals, research and background information, and individual member perspectives.

The Board expects to receive recommendations from advisory committees that reflect the individual and collective knowledge and thinking of the committee, particularly from a citizen perspective. Your recommendations may be transmitted as part of the staff report to the Board. Staff will present your recommendations to the Board.

The Park District also expects that staff will present recommendations from a professional perspective. There may be times when the professional opinions and recommendations of staff differ in part or in whole from yours or that of the committee, and that's okay. Differences of perspective are inherent in policy formulation of an organization that welcomes diverse perspectives.

There also may be times when your advisory committee's recommendations will not prevail or will be modified by the Board. It is important to recognize that this is not a rejection of the integrity of the recommendation, but is an inevitable part of the process of decision-making where a variety of views, perspectives, and recommendations are considered.

**EXPECTATIONS**

It is expected that:

* All advisory board and committee meetings are to be conducted in public session and noticed in accordance with State law, unless otherwise advised by Park District’s Attorney.
* Individual committee members and the collective group will be fair, impartial and respectful of the public, staff, and each other.
* Committee members will respect the limitations of their individual and collective authority. The role of the committee is to advise Park District staff. Please keep in mind that committee appointment does not empower you to make final decisions or to supervise staff.
* Members will strive to appreciate differences in approach and point of view, whether from each other, the community, the Board, or staff.
* Each member will participate in the group's discussions and work assignments, without dominating the discussion or activity of the committee.
* Staff will ensure that all members have a fair, balanced and respectful opportunity to share their knowledge and perspectives.
* The committee will attempt to reach consensus on issues. If consensus is not possible, strong differing opinions such as "minority" opinions should be recorded and acknowledged in the committee's report to the Board.
* There are "no surprises" from the Committee either in the nature of the work being undertaken by the committee or the method and timing for conveyance of recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Park District staff fulfills an important role in assisting the committee in this regard.

Please be careful to not deliberate about Committee work and issues via e-mail or in unnoticed "side meetings or gatherings" as these actions may be in violation of open meeting laws.