



July 12, 2020

Dear Board of Park Commissioners and Executive Director Wilson,

Government bodies throughout our community have made statements in recent weeks affirming their commitment to the diversity and inclusion values of Wilmette. The League of Women Voters of Wilmette is hopeful that the Board of Park Commissioners will make a similar statement at its next board meeting and publicly and intentionally join the Village-wide conversation about making Wilmette a more welcoming and inclusive community.

The resources the Park District oversees - the lakefront, parks, and recreational facilities - are critical not only to what makes Wilmette such a special community but also to any effort to increase its accessibility. On any given day, Wilmette's parks and beaches are enjoyed by diverse populations from all over the area, visibly representing an inclusive community although many are not residents. As our community commits to doing the hard work of acknowledging our history and envisioning our future, we believe the Park District has a critical role to play.

Beyond a public statement by Board Commissioners, the Park District should also consider expanding its mission statement beyond "people of all ages and abilities" to include people of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds. This commitment, along with a review of policies to ensure they support this expanded mission, would signal an important commitment to the values of the Wilmette community.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and, as always, for your service to our community, particularly during these unprecedented times.

Warm regards,

Cindy Levine and Wendy Zun
Co-Presidents, LWW-Wilmette