



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2701 W. Sibley Street, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Phone: 847-692-5127 Fax: 847-692-6949

Contact: Kathie Hahn, 847-692-3346 – khahn@prparks.org

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BETTY KEMNITZ LAWSUIT - Statement to Press and Senior Center Members

The Park District was named as a defendant in the lawsuit, along with Park Ridge Senior Services, Inc. ("Senior Services"), by the Trustee of the Betty Kemnitz Trust, Teresa Grodsky. The Trustee filed the lawsuit to request the Court to determine whom Ms. Kemnitz intended to receive her bequest; the Park Ridge Park District Senior Center or Senior Services, Inc.

The Park District has previously offered to settle this lawsuit, as its only goal was and still remains, to make sure that Betty Kemnitz' trust funds be distributed as Ms. Kemnitz wished. The Park District believes that Ms. Kemnitz wished for her bequest to go to the place where she enjoyed much of her time with friends and to benefit her fellow seniors, namely, to the Park Ridge Park District Senior Center, located at 100 S. Western Ave.

It has become evident to the Park District that there is a strong movement by a group of seniors, specifically members of Senior Services, Inc. and the Senior Senate to start a new senior center somewhere else. This desire has been communicated by Senior Services, Inc. and the Senior Senate to the many seniors who utilize the Park Ridge Park District Senior Center.

To be clear, the Park District will continue the current successful Senior Adult programs and center memberships at 100 S. Western, with the new dues cycle just around the corner; and is committed to continuing that which is our purpose, to offer recreational opportunities for all age groups, including seniors. The Board of Park Commissioners understands the desire of Senior Services, Inc. to possibly attempt to serve Park Ridge seniors elsewhere while not monetarily assisting the Park District in its mission of serving seniors. The Park Board does not believe that the Kemnitz bequest should be used to fund litigation against the Park District nor to spend taxpayer dollars on continued litigation over the bequest. It would much rather see the bequest funds spent on the senior citizens of Park Ridge, whether it is at the Park District Senior Center facility or not.

At the May 31st Special Park Board Meeting, the Park Board voted unanimously to inform those involved in the lawsuit that the Park District is willing to settle the lawsuit by relinquishing any claim to the bequest, in the best interest of the public and the seniors who may benefit from the bequest. Any questions can be directed to Executive Director, Gayle Mountcastle, 847-692-3442.

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