

100 ONE NEWS RELEASE

From: Rockford Park District - Executive Director
For Immediate Release: June 25, 2009
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Laura Pigatti Williamson Selected as Deputy Director

ROCKFORD IL – Rockford Park District Executive Director Tim Dimke announced today that Laura Pigatti Williamson has been selected as the most qualified candidate from a field of over 50 applicants as the Rockford Park District's Deputy Director of Capital Planning and Management, to fill Jim Reid's vacated position as he retires on June 30 after 34½ years of service.

A midwestern search for qualified candidates was guided with the assistance of Leading Edge Consulting Group, Inc., who conducted preliminary interviews with the top ten candidates, then assisted Executive Director Tim Dimke in the interview process of four candidates for the final selection.

According to Mr. Dimke, "Laura was by far the best applicant and the most qualified candidate we interviewed to lead the District's Capital Planning team. She possesses both public and private sector work experience in managing multiple responsibilities in this critical role. Laura has extensive community involvement and has established relationships that lend credibility to community-wide planning for the District, as well as her in-depth knowledge and understanding of the District after serving as a volunteer for the past 12 years."

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Laura Pigatti Williamson was elected twice to the Park District Board of Commissioners, and served as President, Vice President, and Secretary during her two terms (1997-2009). Laura has served on community boards for the River District Association, Rockford Gateway Association, and WinGIS.

Laura is a graduate of Northern Illinois University with a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration and a B.A. in Political Science from Illinois State University.

Her most recent private sector employment includes Vice President, Commercial Relationship Manager and Vice President, Real Estate Development manager for AMCORE Bank (2005-2009), Atwell Hicks (Naperville) as Team Leader Commercial Division (2004-2005), and McClure Engineering as Project Administrator (1996-2004). Laura's public works experiences include City of Santa Ana, California (Economic Development Specialist), Village of Machesney Park (Community Development Director), City of Marengo (Assistant to the Mayor), and City of Rockford (Operations Analyst – Public Works Department).

Tim Dimke concluded, "We are delighted to welcome Laura Williamson back to the Rockford Park District team of professionals. Her leadership from having served many years on the Board is a major benefit, bringing a depth of knowledge and understanding to manage major projects like the Nicholas Conservatory, assisting the museums in the Park District with their new construction projects, and overseeing \$5 million in annual capital repair projects for District assets."

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