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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Kenilworth Park District Names Michael Hixenbaugh as New Executive Director

Kenilworth, IL – April 25, 2025– The Kenilworth Park District (KPD) is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Hixenbaugh, MS, CPRP, as its next Executive Director. Mr. Hixenbaugh becomes the second individual to serve in this role in the Park District's history. Michael brings more than two decades of distinguished parks and recreation leadership experience to the Kenilworth community.

Michael's appointment is the culmination of a thorough hiring process spearheaded by the Kenilworth Park District Board of Commissioners in partnership with numerous community leaders. The exceptional qualifications of the candidates made the decision a challenging one, but ultimately, Michael Hixenbaugh distinguished himself as the clear choice due to his impressive professional background, proven leadership, and alignment with the Park District's vision.

"Michael brings a remarkable blend of strategic planning, financial acumen, and community engagement that makes him the ideal leader for the Kenilworth Park District at this time," said David Byrd, Commissioner of the Kenilworth Park District Board. "His extensive experience with intergovernmental collaboration, community-centered program development, and capital projects stood out in every phase of the process. Michael will be instrumental in the development and execution of the Park District's go forward plan, which will serve as our blueprint in the coming years for enhancing our parks and facilities while continuing to cultivate a stronger community."

Most recently, Michael served as Executive Director of the Butterfield Park District in Lombard, Illinois, where he led a \$3M+ operating budget, oversaw over 100 employees, and successfully secured over \$1.1 million in grant funding for capital development. He is also a former Area Manager for the Chicago Park District, where he oversaw 165 acres of parkland and multiple recreation centers serving more than 175,000 residents. His career accomplishments include significantly increasing program revenue, successfully leading multimillion-dollar capital projects, and enhancing community partnerships.

Michael is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP), and holds a Master of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Science in Business (Marketing) from Indiana University. In addition to his professional work, he has served in leadership roles on numerous regional boards and committees, including the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA). "I am honored to join the Kenilworth Park District and build on its tradition of excellence in

public service,” said Hixenbaugh. “I look forward to working closely with the Board, staff, and the Kenilworth community to enhance programs, preserve beautiful park spaces, and continue to strengthen community connections.”

Over the coming weeks, Michael will work with members of the Board and other park district team members to ensure a seamless transition. Michaels first day with the Park District will be Monday, June 2, 2025.

We also want to thank John Kiwala, KPD’s first Executive Director, for his leadership and successful expansion of Park District programing and wish him well in his new role with the Glenview Park District.

For more information about the Kenilworth Park District and its programs, please visit www.kenilworthparkdistrict.org.