



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FRANKFORT PARK DISTRICT – Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Referendum**

The Frankfort Park District will host a town hall meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Founders Community Center, 140 Oak Street to inform residents on the April 6 Consolidated ballot item for a Non-Binding Borg Warner referendum.

The Non-Binding referendum is formal ask of Park District residents to gauge their support on the issue if the Frankfort Park District should consider purchasing the Borg Warner Plant for recreational facilities. The Park District Board will assess the results of the April 6 election to determine if they will move forward with the process to further evaluate the property. The evaluation process would include gathering community input, architectural and environmental evaluation, business modeling and the like. The Borg Warner site is 26 acres, and the plant provides 225,000 sq. ft. under roof. The expansive space would allow for a multitude of programming opportunities including but not limited to rental and meeting space, turf fields, gymnasiums, swimming facilities, senior and teen drop-in-centers, fitness space and more.

“The hope is that residents will go to the polls and cast a vote to provide that Park District feedback. This unique opportunity could create a recreation campus next to Main Park. If this opportunity to get feedback was missed, I would be remised. When the Borg Warner plant closes, it might find a new industrial occupant, remain empty or be torn down and rezoned. I would hate for residents to say, “the Park District should have bought Borg Warner” and the District hadn’t explored the opportunity,” said Executive Director, Gina Hassett.

The Park District has information on their website including the tax impact and documents with frequently asked questions. It is worth noting that this is a non-binding referendum and that a vote on April 6 will not impact property owner’s taxes. To impact property taxes, the Park District would need to have a binding referendum which if it was successful would provide funds to purchase and renovate the property. The next opportunity that could be done would be in 2022, impacting the 2023 property taxes.

For details on the town hall meeting or for the information to attend virtually, visit <https://www.frankfortparks.org/frankfort-park-district-referendum-overview/>

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Please contact the Park District at 815-469-4000 or [ghassett@frankfortparks.org](mailto:ghassett@frankfortparks.org) to answer any other questions you have.