



## SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PARK DISTRICT

ADDRESS: 1 BREWERS WAY MILWAUKEE, WI 53214 E-MAIL: [CONTACT@WIBASEBALLDISTRICT.COM](mailto:CONTACT@WIBASEBALLDISTRICT.COM) PHONE: (414) 902-4040



March 25, 2021

Contact: Don Smiley  
Phone: 414-273-2680

### **Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District Board Announces Upcoming Retirement of Executive Director Michael Duckett Following 25 Years Overseeing Ballpark Construction & Operations**

(MILWAUKEE) – After a quarter century at the helm of one of the world’s first radial retractable roof ballparks and the home of Major League Baseball’s Milwaukee Brewers, Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District (SEWPBPD) Executive Director Michael Duckett is retiring. The SEWPBPD Board made the announcement today indicating Duckett will officially retire at the end of March.

“In baseball terms, Mike Duckett is really our region’s Most Valuable Player as the leader of the ballpark district’s management team for 25 years – an amazing run,” said Don Smiley, SEWPBPD Board Chairman. “Mike was hired to ensure the taxpayers’ investment was managed wisely throughout construction and operation of the ballpark. He was here in the very beginning and thanks to his incredible business acumen, prudent fiscal sense and unequalled management and relationship skills, Miller Park and now American Family Field is recognized as a world-class ballpark. Mike is humble, but his professional legacy will live on every time fans walk into this amazing ballpark. We are proud of all he has done and wish Mike and his family well as he transitions into retirement later this month.”

Under Duckett’s tenure, American Family Field – formerly Miller Park – was literally built from the ground up, according to Chairman Smiley. Duckett, a civil engineer with more than 30 years of construction project planning experience, was hired to oversee the massive project to replace the old Milwaukee County Stadium. On behalf of the five-county taxpayer funded district, Duckett kept the five-year, \$392 million project under budget, with the 0.1% ballpark sales tax being retired last year.

Known for his keen attention to detail, data, and statistics, Duckett worked closely with crews on design, construction, field development, seating, scoreboard installation, and the technology and engineering for the world’s first radial retractable ballpark roof. Duckett kept all of it on track and helped the project navigate through its most tragic challenge, a crane collapse in 1999 during construction that claimed the lives of three workers, now remembered in a memorial just outside the ballpark’s entrance. The local community was also included within the shadow of the ballpark with the creation of a popular youth ballpark called Helfaer Field.



## SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PARK DISTRICT

ADDRESS: 1 BREWERS WAY MILWAUKEE, WI 53214 E-MAIL: [CONTACT@WIBASEBALLDISTRICT.COM](mailto:CONTACT@WIBASEBALLDISTRICT.COM) PHONE: (414) 902-4040



“It will always be one of the greatest honors of my life to have served the taxpayers of the District for many years to provide what I believe is one of the finest ballparks in America,” said Mike Duckett, SEWPBPD executive director. “I am thankful to everyone including the many board members, the thousands of workers and their families, local leaders, the business community, the Milwaukee Brewers and their many fans, my family, and Commissioner Selig and his family for always supporting our efforts and believing that our state could have this world class ballpark. Memories are made here every year, both on and off the field, from the great players to the families that travel from near and far. With the ballpark tax retired last year, I also know the ballpark’s future will be in good hands.”

Chairman Smiley announced that Patrick Goss will become the new executive director. Goss currently is executive director of the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association and has more than 25 years of experience in public affairs, economic development, strategic planning, budgeting and finance, management, policy development and more. He previously held the roles of executive director of the Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association, deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, director of government affairs for the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, president of the Wisconsin Sports Development Corporation and deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, among other positions.

“Pat is an excellent addition to the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District and I am confident that his significant leadership and business skills will help the district thrive in the years ahead,” said Smiley.

Goss’ tenure as executive director will begin on April 1. His primary responsibilities will be overseeing the lease agreement with the Milwaukee Brewers, managing major capital repairs and improvements at the ballpark, and protecting the five-county taxpayers’ investment in American Family Field.

“As an avid sports fan and proud Wisconsinite, I am honored for the opportunity to lead the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District, serve the taxpayers and ensure their investment continues to be responsibly managed, and help this outstanding ballpark continue to provide entertainment for many years to come,” said Goss.