



Donald Edwin Siggelkow

October 29, 1957 - February 29, 2020

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, Donald Edwin Siggelkow, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 62 after a courageous battle against cancer. Don was preceded in death by his father, Edwin and his mother Sylvia. He is survived by his wife Helen; son Zachary; daughter Samantha, brother Roger Parrish-Siggelkow (Marnie), sisters Midge Mogck (Tim), Julie Swedburg (Brian) and many nieces, nephews, friends and colleagues.

Don was born on October 29, 1957 in Duluth, Minnesota. The family moved to St. Anthony Village, Minnesota when Don was nine years old. A graduate from St. Anthony High School's class of 1976, Don went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1983, then a Master's of Public Administration from Arizona State University in 1984. He received the Charles Esser Scholarship while also serving as the President of the Arizona State College of Public Programs Student Council. Upon receiving his Master's degree, Don began his impactful professional career in the public sector as a Management Analyst for the City of Glendale, Arizona. It was also during his time in Glendale where he met his wife, Helen, where she worked in Risk Management. Don became the Budget Director in Davenport, IA in 1989. Following his time in Davenport, Don moved home to St. Anthony where he was married to Helen at St. Clement's Church in NE Minneapolis on May 15, 1993. Don was hired as the Budget Director for the City of Minneapolis in November of 1993.

In 1999, Superintendent David Fisher recruited Don from the City of Minneapolis to help push the Park Board forward. Don's tenure with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board began as the Assistant Superintendent for Development, but he would also serve as Assistant Superintendent, General Manager and a consultant. Don had over thirty years experience in the public sector, including thirteen years in park and recreation and eighteen years in municipal budget and finance. As the Assistant Superintendent for Development, Don managed the \$8 million dollar enterprise operations for the Minneapolis park system and developed many new income generating initiatives. Don also negotiated with private vendors on joint public-private ventures. Don also served as the Assistant Superintendent for Administration for Minneapolis Parks, overseeing Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, Risk Management, Communications and Customer Service. In addition, Don was appointed annually as the Secretary to the Board for eight years, overseeing Park Commission agendas, minutes, data practices and communications.

Don oversaw operations for seven golf courses, two ice arenas, special events and permits functions, athletic field development and maintenance, vendor contracts, a 2,015 stall pay parking system, water parks, beaches, winter recreation and the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. Don's entrepreneurial spirit brought progressive change to the Park Board. One of Don's initial impacts on Minneapolis Golf was when he brought Tiger Woods to Hiawatha before the PGA Championship, where Tiger started his Tiger Slam. Other events Don helped bring to the Minneapolis Parks were the US Pond Hockey Championship, the Loppet Cross Country Ski Race and the Minneapolis Bike Tour. He also negotiated the lease agreement for a 48,000 square foot community center facility in the Phillips neighborhood that combines recreation programming and social service agencies in a unique partnership. Don was instrumental in bringing the First Tee to Minneapolis golf

courses along with transitioning simple concession stands to profitable and quality food venues, including Tin Fish, Sea Salt, Sandcastle and Bread and Pickle. Don also developed and managed an exclusive catering contract at Nicollet Island Pavilion. Don helped create The Foundation for Minneapolis Parks and had an integral role in the acquisition of the Fort Snelling Complex to build competition-quality athletic fields for baseball, softball and soccer. Don secured over \$3 million in Hennepin County Youth Sports Grants, and developed youth athletic facilities including; Frank Quilici Baseball Field (2010), Northeast Baseball Field (2011), Pearl Baseball Field (2011), Van Cleve Baseball Field (2010), Bottineau Baseball Field (2011) and Harmon Killebrew Field (2012) three artificial turf soccer/football fields (2007-2010). On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board passed a resolution in Don's honor to recognize his service, vision and efforts.

In 2011, Don started his own company, Minnesota Partnerships, LLC. to use his vision and talents to bring more youth and recreational opportunity to communities outside of the Minneapolis Parks. Don was instrumental in negotiations to create a land lease that provided a \$4,500,000 football facility at DeLaSalle High School and developed a school athletic facility use optimization plan including financing and operations for the Minneapolis Public Schools that helped bring brand new, up-to-date fitness rooms and a blend of artificial and natural playing surfaces to each of the Minneapolis high schools.

Aside from all of Don's work for the Cities of Glendale, AZ; Davenport, IA and Minneapolis, MN; Don also made a lasting impact on the St. Anthony-New Brighton School District for many years. Serving as a school board member from 2008-2015, Don was also a youth baseball, football, basketball and soccer coach for his kids Zach and Sammi growing up in St. Anthony. Don was the President of the St. Anthony Baseball Association, Baseball Commissioner for the St. Anthony Sports Boosters, a founding member of St.

Anthony High School's Alumni Association, Hall of Fame and Juli McDaniel Scholarship Committee. Don's vision and impact on St. Anthony is still seen today through the improvements of Central Park, Palm Field, Dennison Field, as well as the SAVHS Commons Area and Fitness Center that were passed through referendums during Don's time as a school board member. In 2015, Don was inducted into the St. Anthony Village High School Hall of Fame.

Don became the Manager at Como Golf Course in St. Paul in 2014. He served as a partner in Foursome Golf Management Group, LLC. which privately operates Como and Phalen Golf Courses along with Cozy's Pub at Como. Don and his managing partners have turned Como and Phalen into profitable and premier courses in the Twin Cities.

Don was a loving husband and father as well as a lifelong mentor and friend to many. Don shared a passion for sports with his family and was a lifelong Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Gophers and Sun Devils fan. After coaching Zach and Sammi's youth teams with Helen, he enjoyed watching from the stands throughout each of their careers. Annual golf outings, fishing trips and group gatherings with friends were events he enjoyed and looked forward to. If Don wasn't at the parks, fields or golf courses, he was at home spending time with his dogs Jake and Harvey. Don's lasting legacy as a professional in the public sector, community advocate, leader in anything he set his mind to and family man will impact the lives of generations to come. We will miss "Big Don" and everyone who he influenced and impacted will continue to be Sig Strong.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at the Nicollet Island Pavilion on Saturday, March 14 from 1-4 PM. Memorials to Don may be directed to his wife Helen and children, Zach and Sammi at 3317 36th Ave NE, St. Anthony, MN 55418.

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen lit a candle in memory of Donald Edwin Siggelkow*



Helen - March 19, 2020 at 10:27 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald Edwin Siggelkow.*



March 11, 2020 at 01:03 PM