



Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Alcott Center - Rooms 10/11
October 11, 2021
6 pm

Commissioners Present: Tracy Bragg, Steve Cummins, Scott Jacobson and Larry Reiner
Commissioner Absent: Adriane Johnson

Staff Present: Executive Director Ryan Risinger, Director of Recreation and Facilities Erika Strojinc, Director of Business Services and Human Resources John Short, Director of Parks and Planning Tim Howe, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson, and Executive Assistant Beth Wanland

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

President Jacobson called the Workshop to order at 6 pm. The roll was called and Commissioners Bragg, Cummins, Jacobson and Reiner answered present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE WORKSHOP AGENDA

Vice President Bragg moved to approve the October 11, 2021 Workshop Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Reiner and passed with a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Buffalo Grove residents Robert and Marilyn Pohn, Assistant Director of Public Works from the Village of Buffalo Grove, Kyle Johnson, and Linda Byron, from Raymond James & Associates, introduced themselves.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

BG Fitness Center Resident Concern

Robert Pohn, a member of the Buffalo Grove Fitness Center, thanked the Board for allowing him to speak about COVID-19. He suggested the Board take action and mandate all full time Park District employees to be vaccinated like the Hoffman Estates Park District has done. His second request is to mandate Fitness Center members be vaccinated or submit to a weekly COVID test. He also suggested members should be allowed to remove their masks while working out. He said he has been a resident of Buffalo Grove for nearly 40 years and suggested it is time for the Board to step up and be proactive. President Jacobson thanked Mr. Pohn for coming to the meeting and voicing his opinion.

He said the Board is in agreement that we want to be safe. He said that 92% of the Buffalo Grove Park District full time staff is fully vaccinated and the few that are not include those that have underlying medical conditions. He said approximately 37 of the 40 employees at the Fitness Center are fully vaccinated. President Jacobson said that the Board has not met in four weeks and has not had the opportunity to continue the discussion of employees and vaccinations. Executive Director Risinger said PDRMA, our insurance company, is recommending we do not mandate members of the Fitness Center be vaccinated for a variety of reasons. He said we are not in favor of making rules for one facility and not for others. Commissioner Reiner said that he has been on Board for nearly 35 years and said traditionally the Board has stepped up and taken the lead in developing policy. For example he said the Buffalo Grove Park District was the first park district in the state to ban smoking in public parks. He said the Board makes decisions based on facts, science, information, and representation of the thousands of residents it serves, and they are never simple decisions. Commissioner Bragg said she works in healthcare and said we must look at everything universally. She said we are trying to do what is best for the community and work together. Commissioner Cummins emphasized that the Buffalo Grove Park District has already been proactive by encouraging staff to get vaccinated, but also creating medical and religious exemption forms for staff that need them. President Jacobson said Mr. Pohn's message is not unheard and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

PARKS

Cambridge Park Infrastructure Improvements

Kyle Johnson, Assistant Director of Public Works from the Village of Buffalo Grove, said he has been leading, designing and coordinating the Village's modernization of the infrastructure plan. He provided the Board with a handout which outlined proposed changes to infrastructure at Cambridge Park. Two existing lift stations need to be updated because they are at the end of their usable life. He proposed to have one combined lift station built in a different location. He also said the two ponds would be altered to create one large storm water grass bottom retention area which is needed in the future. He said the Village needs a permanent easement to perform the infrastructure work and have potential future access to the infrastructure work performed. He said a construction easement is needed for the pond work, which could be given back to the Park District after construction, or he said the Village is willing to accept a property transfer of the pond and will assume responsibility of its maintenance. Commissioner Reiner said he is in favor of supporting the Village. Executive Director Risinger said is important to keep our amenities in the park. He also mentioned that if this proposal moves forward at the next meeting, it is imperative the Village discuss the upgrades with the residents surrounding Cambridge Park. Commissioner Cummins said he would like to see a cost analysis of the direct costs of construction. He also said resident access to the park during construction is important.

FINANCE

Resolution 21-10-1 Tax Levy Estimate

Director Short said that it appears the Consumer Price Index will be close to 5% next fiscal year which is the limit for capped funds. He said we were not able to get much federal help through COVID and had a substantial loss last year. He said traditionally we have been under the 5% cap. Commissioner Cummins asked about the increase in the Museum fund. Director Short said we are currently developing the Nature Classroom project there which is being substantially covered by a grant. However, he said we would like to possibly do a Phase II to the project and hire a new full time person at the Museum next year.

Ordinance 21-10-1 Tax Abatement

Director Short said this is the last year we need to file the tax abatements.

Ordinance 21-10-2 Tax Abatement

There were no further questions on Ordinance 21-10-2.

Raymond James 2021 Rollover Bond Information

Linda Byron from Raymond James & Associates presented the 2021 Rollover Bond information. The Commissioners received a handout describing this year's issue. This year the bond issuance will be \$1,315,000. President Jacobson thanked Ms. Byron for her report.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Revision of Ordinance 1.33(h)

Executive Director Risinger said we are trying to prevent loopholes in our policy. We want to prevent people from giving private lessons or instruction on our property without first obtaining a permit.

RECREATION

BG Days Joint Review

Executive Director Risinger said the final revenue from BG Days has been determined and both the Park District and the Village are happy with the bottom line. Discussions with the Village for 2022 BG Days planning has not started but we anticipate it will begin soon.

2022 Camp Fee Report and 2022-23 Preschool Fee Report

Director Strojinc said we haven't raised camp fees in five years. Preschool fees have not been increased since we hired Recreation Manager Diana Clayson seven years ago. She said we are increasing minimum wage to \$15 effective May 1, 2022 and need to increase camp and preschool fees to attract and fairly pay staff. Staff has expressed that they want to come back next year but the consensus is that the District needs to pay \$15 per hour.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Risinger said that included in the Board packet was a thank you note from President Jacobson's wife, Sue, for flowers sent after her surgery. He also said the packet included press on the Huck Finn Fishing Derby and the Trick or Treat Trail events. Last, he said there was a resident email thanking the Parks department for the impeccable customer service they provided in fixing a hole in the fence at Happy Tails Dog Park.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Administrative Staff Report

Executive Director Risinger said that included in the Board packet is a report of minutes from Administrative Staff Meetings. He let the Board know that staff followed up with the resident who complained about people driving cars on the paths through Willow Stream Park. He said we will reschedule the Park Tour to Monday, October 25 at 4 pm due to inclement weather today. He confirmed President Jacobson and his wife, Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Reiner are attending the Best of the Best Gala on Friday, October 15. He said we sponsored a table for the SLSF Gala on Friday, November 5 and asked Commissioners to reply to Executive Assistant Wanland if they are interested in attending. He reminded the Board that the naming of the Vernon Township Pool is on Sunday, October 17 from 11 am to 2 pm. He also said the Legal Symposium is on

Thursday, November 4 and said it will be offered both virtually and in-person. He asked the Board to let Executive Assistant Wanland know if they would like to be registered.

PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

President Jacobson said he has been walking at Willow Stream Park on the weekends and sees part time employee, Jeff Spitz. Jeff is Human Resources Manager Scott Spitz's father, and he has been a field supervisor for years working during soccer seasons at Shelter #1. He said Jeff is a very positive person and promotes the Park District and its programs.

Commissioner Reiner said that Allen Force is being recognized for a partnership award with Mundelein Park District at the Best of the Best Awards Gala on Friday.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board did not enter Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Bragg moved to adjourn the Workshop at 7:58 pm, seconded by Commissioner Cummins and passed with a voice vote.

The Board and staff stayed and enjoyed a piece of cake in celebration of Commissioner Reiner's birthday.

Respectfully Submitted,



Secretary