



Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Alcott Center – Rooms 10/11
November 8, 2021
6 pm

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

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, Risk Manager Dani Hoefle 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, Johnson and Reiner answered present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Superintendent of Development Mike Maloney, Superintendent of Facilities and Planning Tim Beckmann, and Aquatics Facility Supervisor Jenn Foreman were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

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

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no Topics from the Floor.

FINANCE

2022-23 Budget Preparation Calendar

Director Short said that we will be doing the budget preparation in our new software, Incode 10.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Quarter B Status Report on Executive Director Work Plan

Executive Director Risinger said this is our regular Quarter B update from him and from each department.

Quarter B Status Report on Departmental Goals & Objectives

There were no questions on the status report of Quarter B Departmental Goals and Objectives.

Strategic Plan/Agency Goals Update

Executive Director Risinger said that these goals are brought to the Board twice a year. Commissioner Cummins asked for clarification that Diversity Equity and Inclusion is one of the seven Strategic Plan Agency goals and Executive Director Risinger confirmed that it is.

Resolution 21-11-1 Developer Donation Funds

Executive Director Risinger said that we get annual notice from the Village of how much in Developer Donation Funds are available to us and this resolution is a formality to get the money released.

Full Time Personnel Policy Manual Updates

Executive Director Risinger said that this is required to be reviewed every two years for Distinguished Agency. He said the minor changes are highlighted in blue in the lengthy document.

Drone Ordinance Update

It was brought to the attention of the Board, and confirmed by legal counsel, that it is illegal to regulate drones flying over Park District property. Therefore staff is asking for approval from the Board to strike the ordinance from the ordinance book.

Vaccine Policy Recommendations

Executive Director Risinger said that he researched other Park District policies on mandating vaccines and worked with staff to come up with two different recommendations for the Board to consider. He said he has encouraged staff to write or come to this Board meeting to share their thoughts on this subject. He added that his personal opinion is that if the Board wants to pass a vaccination mandate he thinks it should include testing as an option. Commissioner Johnson said she agrees that there should be a testing option. She said that the state legislature has passed legislation advising employees to mask, get vaccinated, and provide testing.

Superintendent of Development Mike Maloney thanked the Board for allowing staff input. He said he believes in vaccinations and he and his family are vaccinated. He said he struggles with mandating the vaccination as his wife and daughter have autoimmune disease and his wife had a reaction to the booster. He said he is in favor of providing testing for staff and hopes the Board will see it that way, too.

Aquatics Facility Supervisor Jenn Foreman said that mandating the vaccine without testing will further limit an already shortage of staffing. She said she thinks people are aware of the risk of not being vaccinated and are still willing to come to work. For that reason she feels that the policy should allow for testing.

Superintendent of Facilities and Planning, Tim Beckmann, said that he believes it should be an individual's choice of what to put in their body. He said he has staff that will quit if the vaccine is mandated without testing. Many have been working side by side over the last year and a half, unvaccinated. For his staff, he hopes that the Board will allow for testing in the policy.

Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson said that we need to put our personal feelings and emotions aside. He said that as a public agency owned by the community, he thinks it is

our obligation to keep the community as safe as we possibly can. He said that it was our choice to work in the public sector. He said he doesn't feel safe that his work environment isn't safe. He feels that testing gives staff an out for not being vaccinated. He asked the Board to take a strong stance and mandate the vaccines with no option for testing.

Risk Manger Dani Hoefle said she strongly encourages the Board to mandate the vaccine for staff without testing. She said she feels that the testing doesn't do enough to protect others because of time needed for test results. She said she is strongly in favor of "my body my choice" but this virus has killed too many people. She said she would like the keep the District as safe as possible and recommends the Board mandate the vaccine with no testing.

President Jacobson said that the Board does not need to make a decision today. He said the science says that vaccinations help with the severity of COVID-19. He said the role of the Board as public servants is to protect the citizens of Buffalo Grove and to make every environment we control as safe as possible. He said the issue has become political and it should not be political. He said the vaccine protects people. He also said he would like to gather more information from the state and from OSHA over the next couple of weeks and make an informed decision, not a blind one.

Commissioner Reiner said a vaccine mandate is a tough personal and moral decision to make for the community and the decision needs to be based on science.

Commissioner Johnson said she believes we can remain safe with masking and testing protocol. She believes we need to be mindful of imposing a vaccine on others. She said she feels we should not force a vaccine on someone who doesn't want it. She also said we need to consider our employees and where they work, i.e. outdoors.

Commissioner Bragg said she works in healthcare and has seen a lot. She has heard both sides of the issue and is in favor of mandating the vaccine and not providing testing. She believes we owe it to staff and to those in our community.

Commissioner Cummins said that every day more information is being disseminated on the subject and he appreciates hearing both sides of the issue. He said he is not ready to make a decision at this point. He said he wants to reflect on the information discussed and keep the dialogue going.

President Jacobson thanked the three staff members for attending the Board meeting to voice their opinion and for each Commissioner's input. He said this is a very important decision before the Board.

Executive Director Risinger said that we need to respect each other views and does not want this decision to affect staff relationships moving forward.

Director of Parks and Planning Tim Howe said for the record he is in favor of allowing testing and thinks it is the best route for the District.

Discussion continued and the Board agreed that they are not ready to make a decision on a policy at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Risinger said that included in the Board Packet is a photo of Commissioners Jacobson, Johnson and Reiner from the Best of the Best Awards Gala. Commissioner Jacobson and Johnson were recognized for their 20 and 10 years of service, respectively. Commissioner Reiner was recognized for Allen Force. There was a letter to residents from Kyle Johnson, Assistant Public Works Director for the Village of Buffalo Grove, on the Cambridge on the Lakes Lift Station Project. There was a thank you letter to Executive Director Risinger from staff at the Arlington Heights Park District for leading their Distinguished Agency review. Last, there was an article from the Countryside on the Craft Fair held at the Community Arts Center last month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Administrative Staff Meeting Report

Executive Director Risinger said that the Administrative Staff Meeting report is in the packet and he is happy to answer any questions from the Board. He reminded the Board of the Veterans Day event on Thursday, November 11 starting at 12:15 pm at the CAC. He asked the Board to let Executive Assistant Beth Wanland know if they would like to attend the IAPD/NPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference in January. He said there are still tickets available for Matilda, Jr. if any Board members would like to attend next weekend. Last, he wished Commissioner Johnson a happy belated birthday.

Director of Business Services and Human Resources John Short said he is happy to get payroll done in the new software.

Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson said the spring book will go to print. It includes a Camp Guide which is online today. People are already making inquiries.

Superintendent Beckmann said facilities are going well. Aquatics Facility Supervisor Foreman said aquatics had a 5-Star audit in October and swim lessons starting in January are full. Director Strojinc said Supervisor Foreman is our FOP liaison while Recreation Supervisor Allison Oberst is on maternity leave. She also shared that Ms. Foreman was voted in as the next secretary of NRPA's Facilities Management Section. Risk Manager Hoefle said she has been working on rental agreements and working with the Village on liquor licenses. Director Strojinc said the Golf Dome opens on Saturday and it looks great. Director Howe said the Parks department is changing out spring equipment for winter equipment. He thanked Superintendent Beckmann for keeping facilities going.

PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

President Jacobson said he appreciates the news release on the Best of the Best Award commissioner service awards that he and Commissioner Johnson received.

Commissioner Reiner said that he attended the NWSRA/SLSF Celebrate Ability event on Friday and said there is a new Adult Learning Center in Hoffman Estates.

Commissioner Bragg congratulated Commissioner Jacobson and Johnson on their years of service and thanked staff for their continued collaboration efforts throughout the community.

Commissioner Cummins participated in the Legal Symposium virtually and learned there should be a surge of money for grants. He also attended the SLSF Celebrate Ability Gala and his take-away was a timeline of their history and how it has grown. He said the presentation was powerful.

Senator Johnson said the Best of the Best Awards Gala was a great event and thanked President Jacobson for his 20 years of service. She said there has been some feedback that people would like a hybrid conference in order to engage more people. She gave kudos to staff for all their hard work and for their spirit of excellence. She said that sadly, due to her responsibilities in Springfield, she will be resigning from the Board at the end of February 2022. She thanked the Board for their professionalism and being able to serve for 10 years at this wonderful Park District. President Jacobson said it has been a pleasure serving with her and is happy we will have a strong advocate for the Park District in Springfield.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Commissioners did not enter Executive Session.

ADIOURNMENT

Commissioner Bragg moved to adjourn the Board Workshop at 8:03 pm, seconded by Commissioner Cummins and passed with a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary