



BUFFALO  
GROVE  
PARK  
DISTRICT

Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
Alcott Center – Rooms 10/11  
February 28, 2022

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

Staff Present: Executive Director Ryan Risinger, Director of Business Services and Human Resources John Short, Director of Parks and Planning Tim Howe, Director of Recreation and Facilities Erika Strojinc, Superintendent of Recreation Chuck Burgess, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson, Risk Manager Dani Hoefle, Recreation Managers Diana Clayson and TJ Wilkes, Recreation Supervisors Megan Baird, Amanda Busch, Jimmy Mix, Aquatics Facility Supervisor Jenn Foreman and Executive Assistant Beth Wanland

Attorney David Bloomberg was present

CALL TO ORDER

**Roll Call**

President Jacobson asked Commissioner Johnson to call the Workshop to order at 6 pm in honor of her last meeting serving on the Board. The roll was called and Commissioners Bragg, Cummins, Jacobson, Johnson and Reiner answered present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests in attendance.

APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the February 28, 2022 Workshop Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cummins and passed with a voice vote.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Rich Rosen, President of the Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council, introduced himself and said the council serves local food pantries and places of worship. He said he, too, is a commissioner on the Wheeling Park Board and he thanked the commissioners for serving and said Buffalo Grove Park District is one of the top park districts in the state. He commended Commissioner Johnson for moving on and serving our communities on the state level. He said the Interfaith Council had a little extra money and presented the Board with a check for \$300 to send a child to summer camp. He said a donor matched the \$300 check and hopes we will be able to send a second child in need to camp. Executive Director Risinger and Commissioner Cummins both thanked Mr. Rosen for the Interfaith Council's generosity.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION RESOLUTIONS

**Randy Croissant – 35 Years of Service**

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve Resolution 22-2-1 Commending Randy Croissant on 35 Years of Service, seconded by Commissioner Reiner and passed with a voice vote. Fleet Manager Croissant was not in attendance.

**Thomas (TJ) Wilkes – 20 Years of Service**

President Jacobson read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 22-2-2  
COMMENDING THOMAS (TJ) WILKES ON  
20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Thomas (TJ) Wilkes was first employed by the Buffalo Grove Park District as a part-time Athletic Assistant in May of 2001, hired as a full-time Recreation Supervisor in January of 2002, and later promoted to Recreation Manager & Hospitality Relations; and

**WHEREAS**, TJ has maintains his Food Service Sanitation License and successfully operates concessions at the Willow Stream Park Pool, Spray 'N Play, and at outdoor events. His responsibilities include managing the BG Days beverage tent, alcohol sales, ordering, contracts, delivery, vendor selection, product marketing, and equipment maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, TJ's commitment and dedication have contributed to continued growth of revenue for concession operations and alcohol sales. His oversight of alcohol sales for the first year of our BG Days partnership with the Village resulted in tremendous results; and

**WHEREAS**, TJ's passion for sports has led to the continued success of many athletic leagues and programs such as: Youth Flag Football, Girl's Travel Softball, Adult Softball, Youth and Adult Karate, and Gymnastics; and

**WHEREAS**, TJ is committed to the Park District and to his fellow staff. He plays a significant role in special events and programs, such as but not limited to: Big Deal Productions Events, Senior Events, National Night Out, Family Campout, and BG Days; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of the Park District is dependent upon employees like TJ who takes pride in the Buffalo Grove Park District and its accomplishments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** by the President and Board of Park Commissioners of the Buffalo Grove Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois:

1. That Thomas (TJ) Wilkes be commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for his distinguished 20-year career at the Buffalo Grove Park District.
2. That this resolution be presented to TJ with our sincere thanks and grateful appreciation.
3. That this resolution be presented to TJ with best wishes on his future.

**DATED AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 28TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.**

Commissioner Reiner moved to approve Resolution 22-2-2 Commending TJ Wilkes on 20 Years of Service, seconded by Commissioner Cummins and passed with a voice vote.

TJ thanked the outstanding board and co-workers he said he has had the pleasure of working with for the past 20 years.

## FINANCE

### **February 2022 Warrant**

Director Short said the longest list on the February 2022 warrant is from p-cards. Otherwise he said there is nothing out of the ordinary on the warrant.

### **January 2022 Financial Statement**

There were no comments on the January 2022 Financial Statement.

### **January 2022 Year to Date Statement**

There were no comments on the January 2022 Year to Date Statement.

### **February Refunds**

Commissioner Cummins asked if the Park District has seen any refund pushback now that masks are not required. Director Strojinc said that we haven't seen any pushback yet. She said she was worried about Clubhouse - but so far so good. President Jacobson asked about Fitness Center members whose memberships were on freeze. Director Strojinc said members received an email informing them they need to come off freeze now that the mask mandate has been lifted. Executive Director Risinger said the two programs that are still required to wear masks for the time being are preschool and *A Chorus Line* performers.

## POLICY AND LEGISLATION

### **New Governor Mask Mandate**

Executive Director Risinger said we are keeping an eye on a few areas, most significantly, preschool. He said it looks like the mask mandate for preschools will be lifted in the next week or two.

### **BGPD Vaccination and Testing Policy Update**

Executive Director Risinger said that we have had zero positive cases since the Vaccination and Testing Policy was put in place. He suggested that we watch the transmission rate in Cook and Lake Counties specific to IDPH. He proposed we suspend the Vaccination and Testing policy and said if the Board agrees, we will edit the policy to reflect this update. Commissioner Bragg said she struggles with taking a step back at this time. Executive Director Risinger said we can always bring the policy back if positive COVID cases rise in our area.

## PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

President Jacobson said he arranged a meet-and-greet at the CAC on Sunday to introduce Megan Bozek, silver medalist women's hockey player from the 2022 Winter Olympics. It was posted on the *Everything Buffalo Grove* Facebook page and 500 people attended. He said it was a wonderful event. Commissioner Johnson said Megan was personable and very down to earth. The event was publicized in the Daily Herald today.

President Jacobson continued by saying tonight is bittersweet. He said Commissioner Johnson is stepping down to run for a permanent position as State Senator. He said back in 2011 when she came in to interview she was up against people that the Board members knew well, but didn't know her. He said she knocked the interview out of the park and as a commissioner got involved in IAPD, Rotary and the Chamber, to name a few organizations. He said the highs are all of the things the District has accomplished over the last ten years during her tenure, and especially everything we have done over the past two years during the pandemic. The lows include losing her dear friend, Commissioner Rick Drazner. He said that when this pandemic cloud lifts we look forward to Senator Johnson advocating for us in Springfield.

Commissioner Cummins thanked Commissioner Jacobson and Reiner who were on the Board when Commissioner Johnson was appointed. He said she has represented Buffalo Grove to the fullest and she has been an inspiration to him. He said he is excited for her next chapter as Senator Johnson. He thanked Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson and Executive Assistant Beth Wwanland for gathering information for the press release that was published last week on him receiving the Distinctive Board Member designation from IAPD at the state conference.

Commissioner Bragg said she has known Commissioner Johnson since she moved to Buffalo Grove. She thanked her for all she has done for the community and for being a mentor to many. She said she knows Senator Johnson will be cheering for us in Springfield.

Commissioner Reiner said it is difficult to find words. He said Adriane Johnson is everything and more than what the commissioners said previously. He said his proudest memory of her was at the BLM rally where it was important to make a powerful statement on diversity, equity and inclusion. He said he has enjoyed every minute working with her over ten plus years. He said she is a team player, reads everything, and when she speaks, people listen. He said he will miss her from the bottom of his heart. Commissioner Reiner said he would like to do some research and create an Adriane Johnson scholarship of some sort and he offered to match whatever is donated.

Executive Director Risinger said that personally and on behalf of staff Commissioner Johnson will be missed. He said personally she supported him through some difficult times, especially over these last several years.

Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Terson said that two things stand out to him about Commissioner Johnson; 1) the reputation of our Park District, and 2) accountability. He said Commissioner Johnson was a cheerleader for our agency and she helped put us on the map. He said because of her we are held accountable to maintain the high standards she has set.

Risk Manager Dani Hoefle said that Commissioner Johnson has an unbelievable way of making everyone she encounters feel special.

Commissioner Johnson said she was recently asked, "What is the best part of the Buffalo Grove Park District?" She answered that the best part is the staff and the Board. She said when her daughter was young and participating in Park District programs she and her husband entrusted her to the care of those working for the Park District. She said then that one day she would volunteer to give back to the Park District because they gave so much to her family. She said it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve with the Board and staff. She said we are family. She said she will always

advocate on behalf of the Buffalo Grove Park District and will always be our number one cheerleader. She thanked the staff and Board for being the amazing professionals they are.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

ADIJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the Workshop at 6:54 pm, seconded by Commissioner Cummins and passed with a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary