



Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners
WORKSHOP MINUTES
530 Bernard Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL
Rooms 10/11
December 12, 2022

Commissioners Present: Tracy Bragg, Steve Cummins, Scott Jacobson, Larry Reiner and Hetal Wallace

Staff Present: Executive Director Ryan Risinger, Deputy Director 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

Attorney David Bloomberg was present

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

President Jacobson called the Workshop to order at 6:02 pm. The roll was called and Commissioners Bragg, Cummins, Jacobson, Reiner and Wallace answered present.

APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

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

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

President Jacobson welcomed approximately 50 parents and team members of the Hurricanes and Cyclones swim teams. The group was there to voice their opposition to the recent firing of the head swim coach. He said the first he heard of the coach being let go was last night. He said the Board does not hire/fire staff and as a Board they have not discussed the issue. He said the Board's number one priority is to make certain children are safe. Executive Director Risinger said the Board and staff are very limited on what they can say on personnel matters but want to hear what the group has to say. Dr. Michelle Keller spoke on behalf of the parents of the Hurricanes swim team. She said she grew up in Buffalo Grove and after grad school moved back to the community to raise her three children here. She said they feel the firing of the swim coach was unjust and inappropriate. She said parents think the kids were not considered when making the decision to fire the coach and the kids have been severely affected emotionally. She said the Park District was lucky to have a coach of this caliber. She asked the Board to be honest and help them understand why the coach was let go. Other parents spoke on behalf of the coach and said he was responsive, positive, and they would like to see him reinstated. President Jacobson said the parents' compassion for the coach has been heard loud and clear and the Board and staff will take their voice into account when reviewing this situation.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Cummins moved to enter into the Public Hearing at 6:57 pm, seconded by Vice President Bragg and the motion passed with a voice vote.

RECONVENE BOARD WORKSHOP

Vice President Bragg moved to reconvene the Board Workshop at 7 pm, seconded by Commissioner Cummins and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

AYES: Bragg, Cummins, Jacobson, Reiner, Wallace

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

PRESENTATION OF STAFF RECOGNITION RESOLUTION

Resolution 22-12-1 Commending Ryan Risinger on 30 Years of Service to the Buffalo Grove Park District

President Jacobson read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 22-12-1
COMMENDING RYAN RISINGER ON
30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger was first employed by the Buffalo Grove Park District as an Intern in May of 1992 after earning his bachelor’s degree in parks and recreation from Illinois State University. He was hired full-time as Recreation Supervisor in November of that same year. He was then promoted to Division Manager in 1996, Superintendent of Recreation in 2001, Director of Recreation and Facilities in 2010, Deputy Director in 2013 and named Executive Director on November 29, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Ryan continued his education while working full-time for the Buffalo Grove Park District. He attended Indiana University’s Executive Development Program, North Carolina State’s School of Sports Management at Oglebay, and Disney Institute’s Keys to Success and Customer Loyalty Programs. He is a Certified Park and Recreation Executive and earned his master’s degree in public administration from Villanova in 2015. Through his advocacy efforts for parks and recreation on a national level, he was named National Recreation and Park Association’s Park Champion of the Year in 2015; and

WHEREAS, since being promoted to Executive Director, Ryan has been actively involved in IAPD and IPRA’s Distinguished Accreditation program committee. He served as Co-Chair in 2017 and Chair in 2018. He remained on the committee in 2019 and 2020 and is currently Co-Chair for 2022. The Buffalo Grove Park District has been accredited five times over his 30-year career; and

WHEREAS, Ryan has fostered positive relationships with other governmental agencies including the Village of Buffalo Grove, school districts, the Indian Trails Public Library District, sports affiliate groups, and sponsors. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove and served as its president in 2017-18. He has served on the Northwest Special Recreation Association Board of Directors since 2015, including Chairman in 2020. He has been a member of the Special Leisure Services Foundation Board of Trustees since 2021 and is a long-standing liaison to the Buffalo Grove Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, as Executive Director, Ryan has overseen many park and facility projects, including the re-establishment of the Illinois Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant, the Alcott Center pre-school wing renovation, the renovation of the Community Arts Center, the construction of the Golf Dome, the renovation of Willow Stream and Reiner Parks, the development of the Educational Gardens and Classroom at Rylko Park, and the proposed Spray ‘N Play expansion and Amphitheater construction at Mike Rylko Community Park; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Park District is dependent upon professionals like Ryan, a highly respected leader, who has taken pride in the Buffalo Grove Park District and its accomplishments.

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

- 1) That Ryan Risinger is commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for his distinguished 30-year career at the Buffalo Grove Park District.

2) That this resolution be presented to Ryan with best wishes in the future.

DATED AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 12th DAY OF DECEMBER 2022.

Executive Director Risinger said he was lucky to have been offered an internship at the Buffalo Grove Park District right out of college. He said he loves working here and has an incredible staff that makes his job easier. He also said the Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners has always supported the staff and that makes a big difference in day-to-day operations when a Board has your back.

Commissioner Cummins said that it is commendable that Mr. Risinger has been a public servant in the same community for 30 years. He congratulated him and thanked him for his service.

Vice President Bragg said Mr. Risinger hired her when she took a short break from the healthcare field. She said she has been able to watch him grow into the position of Executive Director and said he continues to shine.

Commissioner Wallace said she has known Mr. Risinger for a very short time but he has already made a huge impact on getting her more involved in the community. She said the resolution highlighted his silent work and that is going to be his legacy.

Commissioner Reiner said Mr. Risinger is an incredible leader and he has led, not pushed, with integrity. He thanked him for giving all of us 30 years of service.

Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson said that Mr. Risinger has taught him how to be a leader. He said his team has learned from him and we will be in a great place when he leaves because he has taught us how to succeed.

Director of Business Services and Human Resources John Short thanked Mr. Risinger for his support and for signing our pay checks.

Attorney David Bloomberg said it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Risinger and he is proud to work with this unified Board and with this community.

Director of Parks and Planning Tim Howe thanked Mr. Risinger for taking a chance on him when he was in his early 30's. He said his team is amazing and thanked him for all he has done.

Deputy Director Erika Strojinc said Mr. Risinger also hired her and took a chance on her. She said he has taught her to be level-headed and to be rational. She said we are set up for success and we will miss him very much.

Executive Assistant Beth Wanland said Mr. Risinger knows how much she will miss him when he leaves.

FINANCE

December 2022 Warrant

There were no comments or questions from the Board.

November Financial Statement

President Jacobson said he noticed the Fitness Center is in the black.

November Year to Date Statement

There were no comments or questions on the November Year to Date Statement.

December Refunds

There were no comments or questions on the December refunds.

Tax Levy Ordinance 22-12-1

There were no comments or questions on the 22-12-1 Tax Levy Ordinance.

IMRF Rate Notice

Director Short said the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Contribution Rate for calendar year 2023 is dropping to 12.07%. He said the rate will likely go back up in 2024.

Bond Issuance Post Compliance Report

Director Short said he has been working with Raymond James to make certain everything that relates to the bond issuance is posted where required.

Board Travel and Conference Expense

Director Short said that this expense is registration fees for the Board for conference in January.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Quarters C & D Departmental Goals and Objectives for Recreation and the Buffalo Grove Fitness Center

Executive Director Risinger reminded the Board that the Recreation and Fitness Center departments didn't write their goals previously because they wanted to hold off due to the uncertainty of rebounding from the pandemic.

RECREATION

2023 Fitness Center Janitorial Services Bid

Deputy Director Strojinc said there were five bidders for the 2023 Fitness Center Janitorial Services Bid. Eco Clean Maintenance is our current cleaning service and they were the lowest bidder again this year. Their contract price is going up but this was expected.

2022 BG Days Recap

Deputy Director Strojinc said this document closes the book on the recap of the 2022 Buffalo Grove Days. Both the Village and the Park District made \$30,000 again this year.

2023/2024/2025 BG Days IGA with the Village of Buffalo Grove

Deputy Director Strojinc said the IGA with the Village division of duties in the future remains the same as this year. She said we will provide ideas and support for volunteer areas of the event. She said this Intergovernmental Agreement is for the next three years.

2023/2024/2025 BG Days MOU with the Chamber, Village, and Park District

Deputy Director Strojinc said that this Memorandum of Understanding with the Chamber and Village allows the Chamber to run the main street portion of the event.

Museum STEPS Program

The Museum is enrolling in the Standards of Excellence Program for History (STEPS) through the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). This is a self-guided assessment program and the Museum Registrar and Public Educator, Marina Mayne, is required to come to Board meetings over the next six months and report to the Board.

PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

President Jacobson said he met with Village staff regarding Rytko Park improvements which will be discussed later.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 Board Meeting Dates

Executive Director Risinger said Executive Assistant Wanland put together Board meeting dates for next year and asked if the Board had any comments. There were none.

ADIJOURNMENT

Vice President Bragg moved to adjourn the Workshop at 7:35 pm, seconded by Commissioner Cummins and the motion passed with a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary