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## News Release

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April 7, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Buffalo Grove Park District Names Erika Strojinc New Executive Director

(Buffalo Grove Park District, Buffalo Grove, IL) - Earlier this year, Buffalo Grove Park District executive director, Ryan Risinger, announced that he will be retiring, effective May 26, 2023. The Board of Commissioners has selected the District's deputy director, Erika Strojinc, to be the next executive director of the Buffalo Grove Park District.

Strojinc first joined the District as the Clubhouse assistant director in December of 2005, and was promoted to recreation supervisor in May of 2008. She was promoted to superintendent of recreation in May of 2014, director of recreation and facilities in December of 2020, and deputy director in August of 2022.

Strojinc holds bachelor's degrees in English and Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and earned her master's degree in Public Administration with specialization in Strategic Public Management and Leadership from Northern Illinois University, where she graduated Phi Alpha Alpha. She will be the sixth executive director in the District's history, and the first woman to lead the organization.

"The Buffalo Grove Park District will be in excellent hands with Erika at the helm," said retiring executive director, Ryan Risinger. He added, "We have a history of solid leadership at this agency; and, Erika has been both a part of that culture, and part of that leadership team for many years. She knows what it takes to get the job done, and how to get the most out of our incredibly talented staff. It's not easy to leave something you've spent your entire career building and being a part of; however, it makes it a little easier knowing that Erika will continue the great work we've done, and continue to improve on how we do things, and how we deliver recreational opportunities to the community."

Superintendent of communications and marketing, Mike Terson said, "With major park renovations coming up, and the District being at a time in history where we have the opportunity to determine how we best serve the community over the next decade, these are exciting times. We are thrilled that Erika will be the one leading the agency as we take on these challenges." He added, "Our staff is familiar with Erika's leadership. We know we are getting someone who knows the community, knows the District, and has the

leadership skills to help us achieve everything we want to do, and keep our agency functioning at the high level our community has grown to expect.”

Park Board of Commissioners President, Scott Jacobson said, “Our Park District has had great leadership for decades – most recently with Ryan Risinger over the past nine years; and, the fact that Erika has spent her entire career here learning from those who came before her, and has been Ryan’s right hand person for the last three years, makes us on the Board confident that she’s the best person to lead our organization. Not only has Erika learned a great deal from her predecessors, she grew up in the area, and understands the community and its culture. Her vision aligns well with the changing dynamics and demographics of Buffalo Grove. She has the people skills to continue the excellence that the Park District residents are accustomed.”

Strojinc said, “I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead this organization. We have a fantastic team, a supportive Board, and a ton of opportunities (and challenges) ahead of us. This community means a great deal to me; and, I want the Park District to be a place that connects, inspires and celebrates the uniqueness of Buffalo Grove.”

Strojinc will start in her new role as executive director on May 27.

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