



Buffalo Grove Park District
WORKSHOP MINUTES
October 23, 2023
Alcott Center – Room 24
530 Bernard Drive, Buffalo Grove
6 PM

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

Staff Present: Executive Director Erika Strojinc, Director of Business Services and Human Resources John Short, Director of Recreation and Facilities Joe Zimmermann, Director of Parks and Planning Tim Howe, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson, Superintendent of Recreation Chuck Burgess, Museum Curator Debbie Fandrei, Superintendent of Parks Dani Hoefle, Museum Registrar and Public Educator Marina Mayne, and Executive Assistant Beth Wanland.

Attorney David Bloomberg arrived at 6:02 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Deepthi Chiruvuri and daughter, Adhya Garlapati, the youngest member of the Environmental Action Team, were in attendance. Adhya is also Miss Buffalo Grove and Junior Miss Lake County. FOP Director and former Board Commissioner Jack Schmerer was in attendance.

APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

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

President Jacobson asked for a moment of silence in honor of Parks Foreman Dan Anderson who passed away last week, and for the people of the Middle East who are engaged in war.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

Adhya Garlapoti said she wanted to talk to the Board about two topics related to animals in Buffalo Grove. The first question was what people should do if they find an injured wild animal on Park District property. Commissioner Wallace said there a wildlife rehab haven in Barrington. Director Howe said there is a wildlife care link on the Lake County website. Adhya also asked who is responsible for clearing dead animals from the streets. She was told to contact the Village of Buffalo and/or Lake County Sheriff's department, the two agencies that take care of our streets. Superintendent of Parks Dani Hoefle said if Adhya finds a dead animal in one of our parks she can call the Park District and staff will remove it. Adhya thanked the Board for allowing her to speak.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 23-10-2 Commending Tim Howe on 10 Years of Service

President Jacobson read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 23-10-2 COMMENDING TIM HOWE ON 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Tim Howe has been employed with the Buffalo Grove Park District since August 12, 2013 when he was hired as Supervisor of Park Operations. He was promoted to Superintendent of Parks in 2014 and later that year was promoted to Director of Parks and Risk Management, and later became Director of Parks and Planning; and

WHEREAS, Tim earned his Bachelor of Arts degree and Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. He has worked in the parks and recreation field for 18 years and has earned his CPRP, CPSI, and CPO designations; and

WHEREAS, as Director of Parks Tim is responsible for the oversight of 19 staff members and directly supervises the Superintendent of Facilities and Superintendent of Parks; and

WHEREAS, under Tim's direction, the parks department manages 417 acres of public parks and open space. He helped oversee the design of a comprehensive master plan for the Park District which places priority on developing an ecological framework for the social, economic, and environmental health of Park District surroundings; and

WHEREAS, Tim and his staff embrace new ways of using vegetation and soils in building and maintaining sustainable green infrastructure. He was recently awarded a scholarship to participate in the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program to further his knowledge in building, inspecting, and maintaining green stormwater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, because of his extensive knowledge of preserving and protecting our natural surroundings, Tim has been asked to guest speak to environmental science studies classes at Lewis University and Wheeling High School. He was invited back to observe how the class integrated his teachings into their environmental project at Wheeling High School; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Grove Board of Commissioners and the residents of Buffalo Grove appreciate Tim's dedicated service and is dependent upon employees like him who take 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 as follows:

1. That Tim is commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for his distinguished service to the Park District.
2. That this Resolution be presented to Tim with best wishes in his career.

DATED, AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.

Tim said he appreciates everything the Park District has given him. He said he appreciates the Board and everyone in the room. He said it is fun coming to work every day and he hopes to be here 15 more years.

Resolution 23-10-3 Commending Debbie Fandrei on 25 Years of Service

President Jacobson read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 23-10-3
COMMENDING DEBBIE FANDREI ON
25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Debbie Fandrei was first employed by the Buffalo Grove Park District as a full-time Museum Curator in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Debbie rose to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by creating a slate of online museum educational programs, ensuring that the schoolchildren of the community would be able to continue learning about history; and

WHEREAS, Debbie developed the museum's outreach to the Korean-American community by working with the Korean Cultural Center of Chicago to create an exhibit which was awarded IAPD's Best of the Best Partnership Award in 2022. Debbie wrote an article about this partnership titled *Using History to Reflect Diversity* which was published in the July/August 2023 issue of P&R Parks and Recreation magazine; and

WHEREAS, Debbie wrote, submitted, and won grants, worth over \$400,000 to create the new Educational Gardens at Mike Rylko Community Park, which has become a well-loved park amenity in its first two years since development; and

WHEREAS, Debbie encouraged statewide museum excellence by co-chairing the annual awards program for the Illinois Association of Museums; and

WHEREAS, Debbie helped encourage a staff culture of fun and wellness by spearheading the annual 6-week Steps Challenge with multiple other park districts; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Park District is dependent upon employees like Debbie who have taken 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 Debbie Fandrei be commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for her distinguished 25-year career at the Buffalo Grove Park District.
2. That this resolution be presented to Debbie with our sincere thanks, grateful appreciation, and best wishes on her future.

DATED AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 23rd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.

Debbie said she remembers to this day her interview for the Museum job and how much she wanted it. She said she was so nervous but thought to herself that she can make it better. She said 25 years later she is still excited about coming to the Museum every day and making it better.

Resolution 23-10-4 Commending Robin Racusen on 25 Years of Service

Accounts and Front Office Manager Robin Racusen was not in attendance. Executive Director Strojinc said her resolution will be read at the November FT Staff meeting.

FINANCE

October Warrant 2023

Director Short said the biggest entry on the October 203 Warrant was a transfer from Harris Bank to Wintrust into an account with a higher interest yield.

September Financial Statement

There was no discussion on the September financial Statement.

September Year-to-Date Statement

There was no discussion on the September Year-to-Date Statement.

October Refunds

There were no comments on the October Refunds.

Ordinance 23-10-1 providing for the issue of not to exceed \$6,500,000 General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) and Ordinance 23-10-2 providing for the issue of not to exceed \$1,725,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds

Director Short said these Ordinances are in-house documents showing the parameters of the impending bond sale.

Director Short said we received the final tax rate report from Cook County for tax year 2022-23. He said the amount of money we are getting this year is a little more than we budgeted on the tax revenue spreadsheet. He said the majority of the money is going into the corporate fund which is a good thing because we can use it on whatever we deem is the highest need down the road.

S&P Bond Rating

Director Short said unfortunately our rating was downgraded to AA/Stable due to the money loaned to the Fitness Center during the pandemic. Commissioner Reiner did not see it as something to be upset about and reminded the Board we are two years coming out of a pandemic and other agencies are in the very same position.

Budget Preparation Calendar

Executive Director Strojinc said that the Budget Preparation Calendar included in the board packet is for the board's reference.

Board Travel and Conference Expense

There were no comments on the Board Travel and Conference Expense.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

IAPD Credentials

It was agreed Commissioner Wallace will be the delegate at the business meeting at the state conference in January and Commissioner Reiner will be the first alternate.

RECREATION

2023 Camp Participation Statistics

Director Zimmermann said that camp participation is nearing where we were pre-COVID and we are trending in the right direction across the board. Commissioner Reiner asked why sports camps are half of what they were pre-pandemic. He asked if it could be a cultural reason and if we need to consider offering other sports. Executive Director Strojinc said staff will look into this further.

2024 Camp Fees and 2024-25 Preschool Fees

Director Zimmermann said that staff would like to reduce fees for preschool due to the number of days that will be missed due to holidays. He said staff would like to increase camps by \$1/day due to minimum wage increase and supply needs.

Golf Dome Liquor License

Director Zimmermann said we would like to start serving beer and wine at the Golf Dome which will increase revenue. He said we are working with the Village to get a license in place.

PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

President Jacobson thanked staff for the Park Tour before the meeting today. He also thanked his fellow commissioners for the nice time they had together in Dallas at the NRPA Conference. He said he spoke with someone at conference who has a roll-out pickleball surface and thought it might be worth looking into. He reminded the board that the FOP fundraiser, *A Broadway Love Story*, is on Friday, November 3 at the CAC.

Commissioner Wallace said it was her first time attending NRPA Conference and it was a proud time for her. She said she visited all the disc golf vendors and two of them knew our courses and named our parks. She met a commissioner from Hoffman Estates and he sent her disc golfer stats on our parks. She said she attended the Nicor grant, EAT, and Morton Arboretum event on Sunday. She said attendees loved Reiner Park and were very complimentary of it.

Commissioner Cummins said he appreciates the fellowship and learning at the NRPA Conference. He said his take-away was that he appreciates the amount of open space and amenities in the state of Illinois. He said he liked talking about diversity and equity with people around the country and learning how it differs from us. He said he participated in an event with EAT and cleaned up trash in the streets when he got back from conference.

Commissioner Reiner said he would like to promote the Environmental Action Team more at Park District events. He said NRPA was very good on a lot of different levels. He said he knows staff went through a very difficult time this last week and handled the situation expertly. He said he attended a funeral for Mundelein Commissioner Kevin Dolan who passed away unexpectedly, and too soon. He said he is heading to Springfield tomorrow and is going to continue to be involved on the state legislative level promoting the Buffalo Grove Park District.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

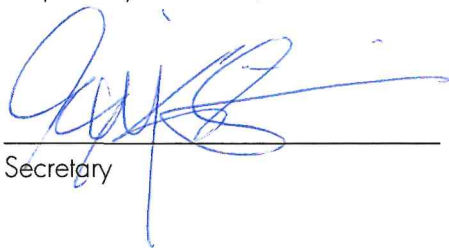
NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Cummins moved to adjourn the Board Workshop at 7:16 pm, seconded by Commissioner Wallace and the motion passed with a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary