



Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
January 8, 2024  
Alcott Center – Room 24  
6 pm

Commissioners Present: Steve Cummins, Kim Page, Larry Reiner, and Hetal Wallace.  
Commissioner Absent: Scott Jacobson.

Staff Present: Executive Director Erika Strojinc, Director of Recreation and Facilities Joe Zimmermann, Director of Business Services and Human Resources John Short, Director of Parks and Planning Tim Howe, Superintendent of Recreation Chuck Burgess, and Executive Assistant Beth Wanland.

CALL TO ORDER

**Roll Call**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests to introduce.

APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Commissioner Reiner moved to approve the January 8, 2024 Workshop Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Wallace and the motion passed with a voice vote.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no Topics from the Floor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Vice President Cummins said that included in the Board packet was an article from the Buffalo Grove Patch on Friends of the Parks President Cathy Novak being awarded the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove's Bill Reid Community Service Award for 2023.

STAFF RECOGNITION RESOLUTIONS

**Resolution 24-1-1 Commending Chuck Burgess on 20 Years of Service**

Vice President Cummins read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 24-1-1**  
**COMMENDING CHUCK BURGESS ON 20 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
**TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Chuck Burgess was first employed by the Buffalo Grove Park District as an Aquatics Coordinator in December of 2003, promoted to a full-time Recreation Supervisor in August 2010, and promoted to Superintendent of Recreation in August 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Chuck's expertise in facility management and staff development has led to the sustained success of the Spray N' Play, Willow Stream Pool, the Raupp Museum, and the Golf Dome; and

**WHEREAS**, Chuck's passion for customer service, both internally and externally, is evident by the way he handles all interactions with the community in a positive, respectful manner. Chuck is always available and willing to help his co-workers out, whether it be at an event, maintenance, advice, words of encouragement, or assisting someone outside of his area of supervision; he is the epitome of a team player; and

**WHEREAS**, as Superintendent of Recreation, Chuck has assisted in improving Alcott by working closely with the facilities team and custodial staff to ensure that building projects are done in a timely and efficient manner, minimizing conflict with Park District programs, and allowing the community more access to classes, events, and clubs that provide them enjoyment; and

**WHEREAS**, Chuck continues to show his dedication to the success of BG Days by consistently signing up for lead roles that have contributed to the Park District's recent accomplishments at the yearly event; and

**WHEREAS**, Chuck has proven himself to be committed to the success of the Park District and his fellow staff. He earned his CPRP and CPO designations, and has done an admirable job growing areas like Alcott rentals, Dog Park passes, and Spray N' Play admissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of the Park District is dependent upon employees like Chuck, 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 Commissioners of the Buffalo Grove Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois:

- 1) That Chuck Burgess is commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for his distinguished career at the Buffalo Grove Park District.
- 2) That this resolution be presented to Chuck with best wishes on his future.

**DATED AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.**

Superintendent of Recreation Chuck Burgess said he appreciates everything the board and Park District leadership has done for him over the last twenty years. He said he loves this Park District and looks forward to ten more years.

Commissioner Reiner said he has been around for Chuck's entire career and is thankful for him and his sense of humor.

Vice President Cummins said he loves the soft skills of energy and being a team player that Chuck brings to the Park District.

Commissioner Wallace she appreciates Chuck's hospitality and southern charm.

Vice President Cummins moved to approve Resolution 24-1-1 Commending Chuck Burgess on 20 Years of Service to the Buffalo Grove Park District, seconded by Commissioner Reiner and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

AYES: Cummins, Page, Reiner, Wallace

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Jacobson

#### **Resolution 24-1-2 Commending Chris Eckert on 20 Years of Service**

Superintendent of Revenue Facilities Chris Eckert was unable to attend tonight's meeting but his resolution follows and is made part of this meeting record. The resolution will be presented to him at the Full Time staff meeting on Thursday:

#### **RESOLUTION 24-1-2 COMMENDING CHRIS ECKERT ON 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Chris Eckert was first employed by the Buffalo Grove Park District as a part-time Clubhouse Leader and Athletic Assistant in October of 2001, was promoted to a full-time Recreation Supervisor in December 2003, was promoted to Superintendent of Recreation in August 2018, and was promoted to Superintendent of Revenue Facilities in May 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, as Superintendent of Recreation, Chris facilitated many CAC facility projects, including new dance floors, the "I Heart the Arts" wall, the art gallery display, outdoor landscaping, updating the staff washroom, and initiating the theater processor and intercom system plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Chris successfully managed the CAC during COVID by hosting POD Squad, and brought the CAC out of the pandemic by hosting the first in-person shows. Under his leadership he grew rentals exponentially and worked tirelessly with staff to bring back programs; and

**WHEREAS**, due to his dedication, work ethic, and personality, Chris is viewed by staff as the ultimate team player who is always willing to lend a helping hand or ear to help his co-workers in any way he can; and

**WHEREAS**, as Superintendent of Revenue Facilities, Chris has already started to plan projects and updates to both the Fitness Center and Golf Dome that will help those facilities continue to sustain success; and

**WHEREAS**, his experience and drive led to other opportunities; Chris earned his CPRP designation, and is certified as an instructor for CPR, AED, and ALICE. He led the District PDRMA review team, obtained his Food Handler certification, performed safety audits on soccer goals every season, and attended the Risk Management Institution training and HELP Seminars; and

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

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

- 1) That Chris Eckert is commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for his distinguished career at the Buffalo Grove Park District.
- 2) That this resolution be presented to Chris with best wishes on his future.

**DATED, AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.**

Commissioner Reiner moved to approve Resolution 24-1-2 Commending Chris Eckert on 20 Years of Service to the Buffalo Grove Park District, seconded by Commissioner Page and the motion passed with a roll call vote.

AYES: Cummins, Page, Reiner, Wallace

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Jacobson

#### **PARK DEVELOPMENT**

##### **Apex Landscaping Contract Renewal**

Commissioner Reiner said that Director Howe recommends the board approve the contract extension with Apex Landscaping as presented in his memo. Director Howe said we were very happy with the service and work performed by Apex this past summer.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Strojinc said the Parkchester Park bid opening will be on January 31. She said the Village of Buffalo Grove through its home rule status, passed an ordinance in which they exempted employers located in the Cook County portion of the Village of Buffalo Grove from the County's new amendment. She said staff is working on conference details. She said she sent an email inviting board members to attend the Lake County Legislative breakfast on Friday, February 23 at the Vernon Hills Park District at 8 am. She asked the board to let Executive Assistant Wanland know if they would like to attend. She said Executive Assistant Wanland will email the board an invitation with a link to reply to the FT Staff Party. Last, Executive Director Strojinc said she would like to start bringing in two board members at a time to discuss relevant topics. The first topic of discussion will focus on DCEO grants and future capital discussions.

#### **PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Wallace said she attended the Nutcracker last month and it was an excellent show. She said she went to an EAT pot luck to discuss the New Year and they are grateful for everything the Park District does for the Environmental Action Team.

Commissioner Page said she visited both Willow Stream Park and Prairie Grove Park to get a sneak peak of what is to come. She and her family especially enjoyed the paths at the new park. She, too, attended the Nutcracker with her daughter and they really enjoyed the show.

Commissioner Reiner said he has put together a legislative table of twelve for the conference luncheon. He said he would also like to extend an invitation to the new state representative that is replacing

Representative Jonathon Carroll to sit at our table. It is expected that Tracy Katz Muhl will be appointed to finish Carroll's term on Thursday of this week.

Vice President Cummins said he enjoyed the commissioner dinner the board recently shared. He said he is looking forward to conference. He encouraged staff to continue their discussions with D102 about a partnership using their soon-to-be-built gymnasium for our programming.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

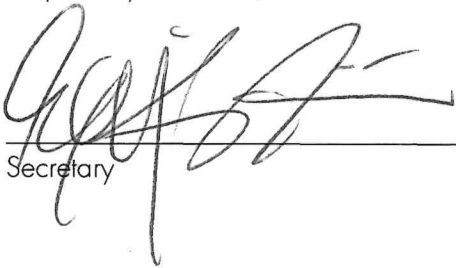
EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board did not enter Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Cummins moved to adjourn the Board Workshop at 6:15 pm, seconded by Commissioner Wallace and the motion passed with a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary