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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buffalo Grove Park District's Statewide Involvement and Recognition

(Buffalo Grove Park District, Buffalo Grove, IL) - For many years, the Buffalo Grove Park District has been seen as a leader in parks and recreation by many people in the field. The agency's staff and Board of Commissioners have been consistently recognized throughout the years by the industry's state and national associations for their leadership, innovation and excellent performance.

This year has been no different. In addition to winning some prestigious agency and individual awards at the annual state conference in January, many members of the Buffalo Grove Park District's Board and staff have stepped up to serve in leadership positions with the state associations.

One award that the District received this year was the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Youth License Plate Award - Best Promotional Practices. The award is given to a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency that has shown insightful, creative ways to promote the Park District Youth License Plate through events and programs.

"We have always been an advocate and participant of the program," said Park District Executive Director Ryan Risinger. "However, in 2017 our Board challenged us to really make it a higher priority, and to get creative with how we can become a better partner in promoting IAPD's program."

Not only does the District promote the program throughout the community, but the Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners was the first entire park board to sign up for the Youth License Plates in the State of Illinois.

Additionally, at this year's state conference, Park Board Commissioner Dr. Larry Reiner received the IAPD's Honored Professional Award. In addition to serving as a Commissioner in Buffalo Grove, Dr. Reiner works in the field as the Executive Director of the Butterfield Park District in DuPage County.

With multiple Board and staff members serving on multiple committees, the Buffalo Grove Park District is having a significant positive impact on the field of parks and recreation throughout Illinois.

Park Board President Jack Schmerer has been on the IAPD Program Committee for the State Conference for 12 years, including one year as the committee chair. Additionally, Jack has served for 6 years on the IAPD/IPRA Joint Conference Committee, including one year as co-chair.

"You can't legislate in a vacuum. You have to get out and see what other districts are doing, share ideas, learn from others, then bring that back to Buffalo Grove. I like to think our Board's involvement in IAPD and IPRA has helped make us one of the best park districts in the state," said Schmerer.

Commissioner Adriane Johnson is currently the vice chairman of the IAPD Board of Trustees. She serves on eight committees, including being the co-chair of the Joint Conference Committee, Joint Editorial Committee, and the communications subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee.

Johnson said, "It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve at the board and committee level of an organization that plays a key role in improving the quality of life for all people in Illinois."

The Park District's staff has also been active with the state associations. Executive director Ryan Risinger has been a member of the Joint Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation Committee since 2016, and is the committee co-chair this year.

The District's Director of Business Services and Human Resources, John Short, is currently serving on the IPRA's Administration and Finance Section's Committee for Conference Education Sessions.

Superintendent of Recreation Erika Strojinc is currently serving as the Past Director of the IPRA Recreation Section. She has also served as the Recreation Section representative on the Foundation Joint Section Golf Outing Committee since 2016, and has been the co-chair for the Recreation Section's Conference Committee.

Park District Aquatics Supervisor, Dani Hoefle is currently serving as the Secretary of Northern Illinois Winter Swim Conference; and, Recreation Manager Aly Stanczak, Recreation Supervisors Lindsay Grandt and Jessi Hersman, and Recreation Specialist Maddie Plewacki are all currently serving on the IPRA Cultural Arts Task Force.

Park District Executive Director Ryan Risinger said, "I am so proud of the great work our people are doing at the state level. The Buffalo Grove Park District is well known throughout the State of Illinois, and has been for a long time. We are being leaders in our field; and, we are bringing back good ideas and best practices that benefit the community we serve. It's a win-win."

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