



Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners
WORKSHOP MINUTES
May 28, 2024
Alcott Center – Room 24
6 pm

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

Staff Present: Executive Director Erika Strojinc, Director of Recreation and Facilities Joe Zimmermann, Director of Parks and Planning Tim Howe, Superintendent of Communications and Marketing Mike Terson, Planning and Development Manager Laurie Hoffman, Superintendent of Parks Dani Hoefle, Recreation Supervisor Mike Pfeiffer, and Executive Assistant Beth Wanland.

Attorney David Bloomberg arrived at 6:05 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

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

APPROVAL OF THE WORKSHOP AGENDA

Commissioner Reiner moved to approve the May 28, 2024 Workshop Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Page and the motion passed with a voice vote.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION RESOLUTION

Resolution 24-5-1 Commending Matt Raupp on 25 Years of Service

President Jacobson said that Matt was unable to attend the meeting tonight but asked that the following resolution be made part of the meeting minutes:

**RESOLUTION 24-5-1
COMMENDING MATT RAUPP ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Matt Raupp has been employed with the Park District since April 26, 1999 when he started as a Parks Laborer. He was promoted to the Athletics Crew Chief in July of 2004, later named Parks Supervisor in 2022. Matt was promoted to Parks Foreman of the Athletics Crew in October of 2023; and

WHEREAS, Matt oversees three full-time and two seasonal employees, and is responsible for the care and maintenance of 25 baseball and softball diamonds, 19 parks with soccer and flag football fields, 17 basketball courts, 12 tennis courts, 8 volleyball courts, 3 pickleball courts, 2 football fields, 1 bocce ball court, 1 cricket pitch, and up until this last winter, 1 ice rink; and

WHEREAS, Matt has been crucial in the execution of Special Events throughout the Park District, providing recreation staff with all requested equipment, assisting with setup and takedown of both large and small events, and consistently exceeding staff expectations by ensuring all event details are covered, including remembering details that others had forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Matt works closely with the two Park District affiliates, BGRA and Bills Football. He ensures each organization has what they need on a daily basis, preparing fields for their weekly use and annual tournaments, communicating throughout the season, and providing an exceptional service to the participants of their programs; and

WHEREAS, Matt has championed innovation in the Athletics Crew, bringing forth new opportunities including the ABI Laser Grader, to refresh uneven baseball diamonds, and the Turf Tank, a robotic paint striper for athletic fields; and

WHEREAS, Matt played a huge role in the Parkchester Park renovation project, saving tens of thousands of dollars as his crew took on the removal of the existing baseball diamond and tennis courts, providing input on the proposed new design, and offering feedback on various equipment pieces that would directly affect the District's ability to maintain the new spaces; and

WHEREAS, Matt is thriving in his new foreman role where he motivates his crew and leads by example, communicates well with his team, other crews, and supervisors, and is incredibly organized, ahead of all upcoming tasks and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Matt plays a huge role in the Parks Department culture, providing unwavering support for other crews, solving problems when they arise, and wearing a smile accompanied by a positive attitude each and every day; and

WHEREAS, Matt has completed an incredible twenty five years of service to the Buffalo Grove Park District, and the Board of Commissioners appreciates his dedicated service, knowing the success of the Park District is dependent upon employees like Matt, who take pride in individual, team, and departmental 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 Matt Raupp be commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for his distinguished service to the Park District.
2. That this resolution be presented to Matt with continued best wishes in his career.

DATED, AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 28th DAY OF MAY 2024.

Resolution 24-5-2 Commending Dani Hoefle on 10 Years of Service
President Jacobson read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-5-2
COMMENDING DANI HOEFLE ON 10 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Dani Hoefle was hired full-time as the Aquatics Supervisor on April 1, 2014, promoted to Risk Manager in March of 2018, and then promoted to Superintendent of Parks in June of 2023; and

WHEREAS, while in aquatics, Dani supervised over 100 seasonal employees at four different locations. She was able to manage a budget that historically operated at a deficit and turned a profit during her first year as aquatics supervisor. Dani implemented a training schedule with her staff that consistently received 5-star audits; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Dani was promoted to Risk Manager. Dani was instrumental in creating the "Risk Management" interest group in the Administration and Finance Section of IPRA. She spearheaded a one-day seminar with over 100 participants from 60 different Districts that discussed many different risk management issues that Districts' are facing; and

WHEREAS, with a teaching background, Dani has spoken on different topics pertaining to Risk Management at NRPA, IPRA and the National Aquatics Conference. One of Dani's presentations "Change Your Safety Committee's Flavor to Peaches and Cream" is on-demand through NRPA. As of March, over 500 recreational professionals have viewed her presentation. She also served on the Board of Pro-Connect through IPRA which helps younger recreation professionals get in touch experienced professionals who serve as a mentor; and

WHEREAS, during 2020, the agency was forced to deal with COVID-19. Dani was influential in creating the safety protocols that the District would take to move forward with programming, facility, and park safety, and allow staff and participants feel safe in returning to a "normal" life; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2023, Dani took on the role of the Superintendent of Parks. She manages eleven full-time staff and eleven summer employees. She oversees 400 acres, many playgrounds, athletic fields, special event set-up, contractors, and dealing with resident concerns. Dani has created a new culture in the parks department. She has given power to staff to make their own decisions and has incorporated regular meetings with her crew to keep everyone in the loop on what is going on within the department; and

WHEREAS, the success of the District is dependent upon employees like Dani, who take pride in the Park District and in their individual and departmental accomplishments. The Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Park Commissioners appreciates her dedicated service, which has allowed the District to grow during her career with us.

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 Dani Hoefle be commended on behalf of the citizens of Buffalo Grove for her ten years of distinguished service to the Park District.
2. That this resolution be presented to Dani with best wishes for her career.

DATED, AT BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS THIS 28TH DAY OF MAY 2024.

Mrs. Hoefle said she worked at the Park District in the aquatics department as a summer job when she was 14 years old. After a 10 year journey looking for her way in other careers she found her way back to the Park District and she is so thankful she did. She said the people are why she is still here and she appreciates the variety of opportunities she has enjoyed here.

President Jacobson said he remembers her leading us during COVID. Commissioner Wallace said the COVID reference is emotional for her as her kids are graduating from high school now and they made it through COVID. She said everyone felt rudderless at the time but the policies Dani and the Park District put in place brought us all safely back to normalcy.

FINANCE

May Warrant 2024

There were no comments on the May Warrant 2024.

April Financial Statement

There were no comments on the April Financial Statement.

April Year to Date Statement

There were no comments on the April Year to Date Statement.

May Refunds

There were no comments on May Refunds.

Board Travel and Conference Expense

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

OLD BUSINESS

Business Manual Revisions

Executive Director Strojinc said she highlighted the revisions to the Business Manual in the memo. Vice-President Cummins asked to postpone approval of the Business Manual until Director Short returns from vacation to discuss some of the revisions with him. Executive Director Strojinc said we will put the discussion on the workshop agenda of the next board meeting and table approval of the manual tonight.


NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Page moved to adjourn the Board Workshop at 6:11 pm, seconded by Vice President Cummins and the motion passed with a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,


Secretary