



Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners
WORKSHOP MINUTES
August 12, 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 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, Planning and Development Manager Laurie Hoffman, and Executive Assistant Beth Wanland.

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

President Cummins called the Workshop to order at 6:02 pm. The roll was called and Commissioners Cummins, Jacobson, Page, Reiner and Wallace answered present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE WORKSHOP AGENDA

Vice President Wallace moved to approve the August 12, 2024 Workshop Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Page and the motion passed with a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Several members of the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team were in attendance.

Resolution 24-8-1 Commemorating Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team's 15th Anniversary

President Cummins read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 24-8-1
COMMEMORATING BUFFALO GROVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM'S
15TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team, hereafter referred to as BG EAT, was organized on February 18, 2009. BG EAT is a dedicated group of environmentally conscious citizens striving to raise awareness and improve the community's natural environment by encouraging sound and sustainable practices; and

WHEREAS, for the last eleven years the BG EAT has sponsored a Green Fair. This free event provides information and activities to help residents learn more about the small steps they can take at home, at work, and in the community to improve our environment and make Buffalo Grove a greener and healthier place to live; and

WHEREAS, the BG EAT introduced clothes and textiles recycling through the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO). In 2023, the Buffalo Grove Park District collected 25,628 pounds of clothing and textiles which was the 6th largest collection site by volume in Lake County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the BG EAT continues to support education and outreach for the community. They organized their first electronics recycling event on April 25, 2009, and now work annually on the recycling event in conjunction with the Village of Buffalo Grove and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). They hosted a single use plastics screening event with live panel, and recently hosted a community education event with representatives from Waste Management and SWALCO discussing the Do's and Don'ts of Recycling and what recycling and composting services are offered to our community; and

WHEREAS, the BG EAT sponsors regular habitat restoration events that focus on native trees and plants to restore prairies, woods, and wetlands. They also host planting and clean up days at the Reiner Park Arboretum and Mike Rylko Park as well as seed cleaning and processing events, which are an important step in replenishing the biodiversity of natural spaces; and

WHEREAS, BG EAT members founded the Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership that conducts annual water quality assessments in Buffalo Creek, they have been successful in grant funding having received a total of \$75,000 for green infrastructure projects, they adopted a stretch of Deerfield Parkway through the Lake County's Adopt-a-Highway program where they host two annual clean-up days, and they organize bi-annual stream cleanups along Farrington Ditch.

WHEREAS, BG EAT members collaborate with the Park District and Village of Buffalo Grove on environmental sustainability including the restoration and maintenance of the natural environment as well as the conservation of natural resources to support the well-being for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, BG EAT's success in attracting new conscientious members has resulted in the branching off of two new outside groups that will work on initiatives for Waste & Pollution and Land & Water as well as advocating for improved environmental policies to governmental bodies and public education on best practices in these areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners, Cook and Lake Counties, hereby extend our sincere appreciation to the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team in recognition of its 15th Anniversary striving to improve our community's quality of life for generations to come.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th day of August 2024.

Jeff Weiss, founder of BG EAT, presented a slide show that covered the mission of the Environmental Action Team and featured pictures of healthy habitats at the Reiner Park Arboretum, Willow Stream Park, and Rylko Park. He explained how the EAT is encouraging youth of the community to join the team. He said the team holds community seed gathering events where they harvest native seeds, process them, and plant them. He said EAT members brought the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly pledge to the community. He said membership to the EAT has increased and there are now two spin-off groups of EAT (that are unaffiliated with the Park District) which focus on Land and Water Conservation and BG Pollution and Waste.

Adhya Garlapati, the youngest member of the team at 12-years old, gave a presentation on its first Earth Day 2024 event. The 4C Stem Club was actively involved at the event educating the community on how everyday acts impact the world.

Debi Moritz, a member of the team, discussed the Green Fair event they run every year. There are 23 exhibitors signed up for the Green Fair next month. They collect bicycles and many items that can be recycled or reused. There will be a large area featuring solar energy this year.

Mark Steuer, one of the longest standing members of the EAT team, talked about bicycle collection. Many of the bikes collected are shipped to parts of the country and around the world where they can be reused. He also heads up the roadside cleanup events in the spring and the fall.

Jeff Weiss, thanked everyone who has supported the BG EAT in the past and thanked the Park District for their recognition and their partnership.

Last, Adhya Garlapati asked the Board if they would approve the 4C Stem Club putting a Little Free Library in Cherbourg Park. She said the club will collect books and maintain the library which is near her home. Executive Director Strojinc said she will get back to Adhya on her proposal.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no Topics from the Floor discussed.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

NWSRA 2025 Member District Annual Assessment

Commissioner Reiner said that each year NWSRA provides participating districts with an annual member assessment. The Buffalo Grove Park District's assessment for 2025 increased by 3.9% to \$359,170.30. He said during COVID many SRA's lost membership and NWSRA changed the evaluation of the assessment system last year and it is now more equability based on usage. President Cummins said this group does a great job advocating for fairness and addresses all perspectives. Director Short said the money the Park District receives for reimbursement for MDAA space allowance is applied to the Fitness Center because that is where the NWSRA Pursuit program is housed.

Rylko Park Amphitheater Naming Discussion

Commissioner Reiner thanked Executive Assistant Wanland for sending the Park, Facility, and Amenity Naming Policy to the Board prior to the meeting. He said that he recommends naming the amphitheater after a former commissioner. Discussion was held and it was decided a proposal will be drafted for consideration at the next board meeting and if approved, a decision will be made on how to recognize them, either at the amphitheater grand opening, or sometime thereafter. Superintendent Terson brought up the possibility of offending someone by naming the amphitheater at the Grand Opening given the number of VIPs in attendance.

PARKS AND PLANNING

Rylko Park Spray 'N Play Expansion Bid Results

Planning and Development Manager Hoffman said the bids for the Rylko Park Spray 'N Play expansion came in at \$900,000 over budget. She said the good news is that all six bidders came in very close in price and therefore the bidding process was successful. Commissioner Jacobson said

that the Park District could accept the lowest bidder and then enter into negotiations with them. Ms. Hoffman said her concern is that there is not enough wiggle room in the bid to bring the price down to where the Park District needs it to be. She feels the project, as it stands, is too large for what the Park District can afford. She reviewed the current plan and said she recommends de-scoping the project by not expanding the Spray 'N Play and not adding the 20 new features. She said the plan can remove 6 spray features and add 3 larger spray radius features. She said there is a bucket feature which is a "wow-factor" selected for the facility. She said they could move forward with the concession container and estimated that the scaled-down plan would put the price at approximately \$1.7 million. The Board suggested including alternates in the re-bid of the project in order to have options for amenity and budget considerations. Ms. Hoffman noted that the Park District will also have to go back to the Village Planning and Zoning committee for approval and permitting of the new plan.

CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Director Strojinc said included in the Board packet was an article on the Rylko Park Amphitheater that appeared online in the Daily Herald; pictures of participants in the SLSF Golf Outing at the Arboretum on Wednesday, August 7; an email from the Park District summer intern, Blake Lewis, thanking staff for his "amazing" summer working with the Park District; and last, a National Night Out announcement in the Daily Herald.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Strojinc said there is a resident that is upset about a new school at Mill Creek Park. According to the resident, the new private school is using the park playground there and not playing well with the community. The Village Manager is also aware of the concern. Superintendent Terson said it is a community park that is open for the public to use, and he will keep the board informed of what transpires. Executive Director Strojinc reminded the board of the D102 ground breaking ceremony on September 23 at Aptakistic School at 5 pm. She also asked the board to RSVP to Executive Assistant Wanland to the SLSF Celebrate Ability Gala and the Best of the Best Awards Gala. She asked the board to get back to her with feedback on the G&O's document she sent them. Last, she told the Board she will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday this week.

PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Jacobson said that *Something Rotten!* was one of the best productions he has ever seen at the Community Arts Center. He said National Night Out had decent attendance considering the weather.

Commissioner Reiner thanked staff for the opportunity to play in the SLSF golf outing. Off topic, he said he would like to learn more about the changing cultures in our community. He said he thinks this conversation should stay alive.

Vice President Wallace said the talent in *Something Rotten!* was amazing. She said the director brought in fresh, new talent which sold seats. She thanked staff for their tremendous work on National Night Out.

Commissioner Page said *Something Rotten!* was awesome. She thought National Night Out was great and she played in her first golf outing ever – the SLSF Golf Outing at the Arboretum. She noted that the skate park and pitching wall came down very fast.

President Cummins reiterated what the other commissioners said about *Something Rotten!* and National Night Out. He was able to stop by the SLSF golf outing to mingle and said it was enjoyable to get together with VIPs, commissioners, and staff.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

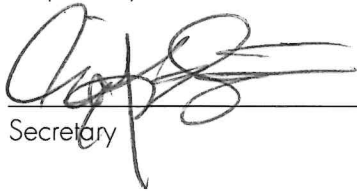
There was no New Business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jacobson moved to adjourn the Workshop at 8 pm, seconded by Commissioner Page and the motion passed with a voice vote.

The board and staff stayed to enjoy cupcakes in celebration of Commissioner Page's birthday.

Respectfully Submitted,


Secretary