

**MINUTES
WORKSHOP
BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011**

Commissioners Present: Richard Drazner, Larry Reiner, Scott Jacobson, Jack Schmerer and Adriane Johnson

Staff Present: Executive Director Dan Schimmel, Director of Recreation and Facilities Ryan Risinger, Superintendent of Parks Bill Heider, Business Manager John Short, Superintendent of Recreation Greg Ney, Public Relations and Marketing Manager Mike Terson, Attorney David Bloomberg and Administrative Assistant Martha Weiss

CALL TO ORDER

President Drazner called the workshop to order at 7:10 p.m. The roll was called and Commissioners Drazner, Jacobson, Reiner, Schmerer and Johnson answered present.

FINANCE

December 2011 Warrant

The warrant was reviewed and referred to Committee Action Items for approval.

November Financial Statement

There were no questions or comments and it was referred to the Consent Agenda for approval.

November Year to Date Statement

There were no questions or comments and it was referred to the Consent Agenda for approval.

December Refunds

There were no questions or comments and it was accepted as written.

Tax Levy Ordinance 11-12-1

There were no questions or comments and it was referred to the Committee Action Items for approval.

Resolution 11-12-2 Certified Resolution for Harris Bank

Business Manager Short stated that the resolution was needed to add Commissioner Johnson as a signer and to open a CD at Harris Bank. It was referred to the Committee Action Items for approval.

Resolution 11-12-1 amending the Flex HRA Plan 105 Adoption Agreement

This is a technical change to allow employees to submit prescription claims manually and get reimbursements more quickly.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The proposed board meeting calendar was discussed and there were no objections.

RECREATION

Executive Director Schimmel asked staff to identify how much staff time was spent to support FOP events. This type of information would justify a request by the Park Board to share billing on these special events. Executive Director Schimmel noted that the Foundation Board is revamping its by-laws, including considering increasing the number of board members.

PARKS

Rylko Park Natural Areas Plan

Steve Konters of Hitchcock Design introduced Ryan Postema to review his five-year plan for the natural areas of Rylko Park . Mr. Postema did a brief site assessment of the park to determine what the goals would be for the natural areas that include woodlands, wetlands and prairie. The goals would include removing invasive species and adding native species to provide ecological benefits for the wildlife and aesthetic benefits for recreational uses of the park. The largest invasive species is buckthorn, but there is also garlic mustard, teasel, thistle and sweet clover. The plan identifies the tools and techniques to be used over the next 5-10 years to achieve these goals and prioritizes the steps. President Drazner asked the reasons for eliminating invasive species and Ryan explained that they crowd out the other native plants and do not provide food or cover for wildlife found in the park. Superintendent of Parks Bill Heider explained what removal of invasive species and restoration work has already been done in the parks. The key is to keep the efforts ongoing to restore native wildlife and to beautify the parks. Executive Director Schimmel commented that the core green area in the park district is the first area of concentration, and then the other parks radiating from there will be addressed. President Drazner asked whether there would be interpretive signs and Mr. Konters stated that was included in the master plan. Vice-President Reiner stated he is supportive of the “want to do” concept of natural restoration but wants to balance that against other “have to do” environmental projects. Executive Director Schimmel stated that expenditures were minimal this past year, the total investment of plants was \$800 and the investment in seeds was approximately \$1,200, but that labor was involved in terms of staff and volunteers. Director of Parks Heider stated that the cooperative environmental efforts between the park district and the village are being re-energized. Mr. Postema noted that the plan included estimates for the type of work suggested for the natural areas. Superintendent of Parks Heider stated that the park district had engaged in invasive plant removal in the past, but now staff is using better methods of control.

Rylko Park Plan for Public Hearing

Mr. Konters stated that a publicized public hearing for both Rylko and Willow Stream Parks could be held where written and oral comments from the public are solicited. The site for the public hearing was discussed to encourage the best attendance. The method is usually an open house type of format without a formal presentation of the plans. Drawings of the plans would be displayed and the planners and public officials available for questions.

PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Schmerer stated that there is a need for people to chair some sessions during the IPAD/IPRA state conference.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

ADJOURNMENT

President Drazner adjourned the workshop at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary