



Meeting Minutes

Rick Kahen Commission for Residents with Disabilities
Regular Meeting: March 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Lower Level EOC Conference Room, Village Hall
50 Raupp Blvd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

1. Call to Order at 7:04pm

2. Roll Call:

- a. **Commissioners Present:** Chair Samuels, Vice Chair Sussman, Commissioners Mark Weiner, Dean Klassman, Allie Zalay, Matthew Dragon, Gowri Magati, Leo Njongmeta and Lexi Robinson
- b. **Commissioners Not Present:** Commissioners Beth Shapiro, Kate Jauregui, Amy Parker, Jack Shapiro
- c. **Staff Liaison Present:** Tyler Ankney
- d. **Trustee Liaison Present:** Dave Weidenfeld

3. Approval of Minutes: January 28, 2026; February 25, 2026

- a. Motion to approve January 28th minutes: Commissioner Allie Zalay
- b. Second: Commissioner Dean Klassman
- c. In Favor: All Present
- d. Oppose: None
- e. Abstain: None
- f. **Motion passes**
- g. Motion to approve February 25th minutes: Vice Chair Marty Sussman
- h. Second: Commissioner Mark Weiner
- i. In Favor: All Present
- j. Oppose: None
- k. Abstain: None
- l. **Motion passes**

4. Chair Report (Judy Samuels)

- a. Commissioner Anniversary – Commissioner Matthew Dragon celebrating 6 years, congratulations!

5. Trustee(s) Report (David Weidenfeld)

- a. A new French Bakery will be opening on Friday, March 20th near Jewel Osco.

6. Staff Liaison Report (Tyler Ankney)

- a. Commissioner name tags and hoodies have arrived, make sure to get yours!
- b. Eventbrite is fully set up with all our registration for events throughout the calendar year. We are in a good place, and the communication is all scheduled for throughout the year.

- c. Staff Liaison Ankney worked with Molly from the Village to help make sure they are helping to promote and be present at our events, including a photographer for the Buffalo Groove and for the Buddy Baseball Spring League.

7. Working Groups Report

a. **Ensuring Opportunities for Hands-on Fun** (Commissioners Amy Parker and Mark Weiner)

i. **Buffalo Groove Dance** (Sunday, April 12th from 3:00-5:00 pm)

1. Commissioners should arrive by 2:00pm to help set up.
2. It will be hosted at the Buffalo Grove Community Arts Center on Route 83.
3. There will be two tables for registration.
 - a. Registration volunteers will be Commissioners Gowri Magati, Dean Klassman, Lexi Robinson and Vice Chair Marty Sussman.
4. Chair Samuels and Commissioner Magati will help with clean up.
5. Commissioner Jauregui will bring supplies and décor.
6. Commissioner Jauregui has confirmed with the photobooth that they will participate again this year.
7. Commissioner Jauregui also reach out to the Movement and Sound Dance Studio to inquire if they would be able to help dance and help people get excited on the dance floor, they are going to ask their dancers and get back to her.
8. Staff Liaison Ankney will get the snacks, Commissioner Weiner will provide him a list to purchase the snacks and beverages.
9. The quiet/sensory room will be run by In2Great.
10. Staff Liaison Ankney will create a sign for the sensory room and a sponsor sign to thank our sponsors and a few “let’s dance” or “let’s groove” signs.
11. The Park District has been a great partner for the event and does not want any accolades on the signage.
12. The Rotary Club will help with security, dancing, and set up, they are also great partners with this event!

ii. **Buddy Baseball Spring League** (May 10th through June 28th; Sundays at 11:00 am) Allstar game: June 21st; Rain date: June 28th)

1. There are currently 22 players registered.
2. The flyer and registration site are all set and have been sent out.
3. Commissioner Klassman is discussing with some high schools about having National Honors Society Members come as Volunteer Buddies.
4. Jerseys will be ordered and ready for players at the first game.
5. Volunteers will be provided with new Buddy Baseball hats.

iii. **Future 2026 Events**

1. Buddy Baseball Exhibition Game Event (Saturday, September 5th) *
2. Fun & Food Event (Monday, September 7th)
3. Buddy Baseball Fall League (September 13th through October 25th; Sundays at 11:00 am) *
Allstar game: October 18th; Rain date: October 25th)
4. Bowling with Buddies Event (October 29th)

- iv. A draft Communications plan was shared with the Commission and the Village Communications Department.
- b. **Sponsorships / Donations**
 - i. None.
- c. **Advocating for Inclusion and Access** (Lead: Vice Chair Marty Sussman)
 - i. Collaborative subcommittee meeting update – list of recommendations, to the Village, regarding potential changes to State laws that would make things more accessible for residents in Illinois.
- d. **Trusted Resource for Accommodations and Services (Sharing of Best Practices and Developing a Resource Guide (Education))** (Lead: Commissioner Zalay)
 - i. Commissioner Zalay has a date set with Staff Liaison Ankney and The Communications Team in April.

8. Unfinished Business

- a. None.

9. New Business

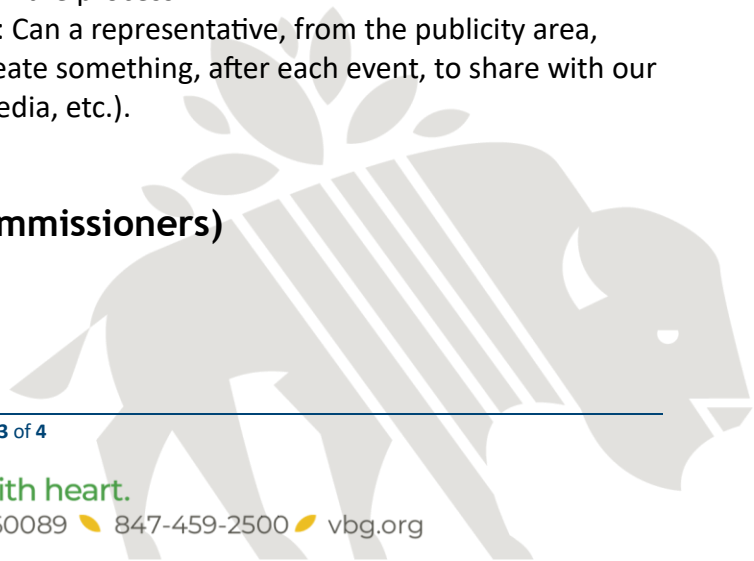
- a. Consideration for interaction/involvement
 - i. Possibility of Guest Speaker (Commissioner Weiner)
 - The Jewish Federation has a Jewish Vocational Services program. Commissioner Weiner would like to have them come to speak to the RKCRD and they can explain how they find employment opportunities for the disabled and the community at large.
 - Motion to invite The Jewish Vocational Services program to guest speak at a future meeting: Commissioner Lexi Robinson
 - Second: Commissioner Gowri Magati
 - In Favor: All Present
 - Oppose: None
 - Abstain: None
 - **Motion passes**
 - ii. Autism Hero Project / Blue Envelope Project (Commissioner Jauregui)
 - 1. Tabled until a future meeting.
 - iii. Publicity (Vice Chair Sussman)
 - 1. Prior to RKCRD events: earlier in the process.
 - 2. During and Post RKCRD events: Can a representative, from the publicity area, attend all of our events and create something, after each event, to share with our community (via print, social media, etc.).

10. Good and Welfare

11. Public Comment (Non RKCRD Commissioners)

12. Adjournment at 8:27pm

- a. Motion: Commissioner Leo Njongmeta
- b. Second: Commissioner Lexi Robinson



- c. In Favor: All Present
- d. Oppose: None
- e. Abstain: None
- f. **Motion passes**

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 22, 2025

The village of Buffalo Grove, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities contact the ADA Coordinator at 847-459-2500 to allow the village to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

