



## Meeting Minutes

**Rick Kahen Commission for Residents with Disabilities**  
Regular Meeting: April 22, 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 7:11pm

### 2. Roll Call

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

### 3. Approval of Minutes: March 18, 2026

- a. **Motion:** Commissioner Kate Jauregui
- b. **Second:** Commissioner Allie Zalay
- c. **In Favor:** All present
- d. **Oppose:** None
- e. **Abstain:** None
- f. **Motion passes**

### 4. Chair Report (Judy Samuels)

- a. Commissioner Anniversaries
  - i. Congratulations to Commissioners Leo Njongmeta and Lexi Robinson on 9 years on the Commission!

### 5. Trustee(s) Report (David Weidenfeld)

- a. New comprehensive plan for land use, housing, commercial, etc. There will be a public hearing in June in front of the Planning and Zoning Commission. This will help with future planning for the Village. The RKCRD will be provided plans to provide any necessary feedback relative to the mission of the Commission.
- b. Village President Eric Smith mentioned and provided gratitude to the RK-CRD Buffalo Groove event at the last Village Board Meeting.

### 6. Staff Liaison Report (Tyler Ankney)

- a. Great job at the Buffalo Groove event!

### 7. Working Groups Report

- a. **Ensuring Opportunities for Hands-on Fun** (Commissioners Amy Parker and Mark Weiner)
  - i. **Buffalo Groove Dance** (Sunday, April 12th; 3-5 pm)

1. Debriefing
  - a. It was a wonderful event, and all went well! It was so touching to have a resident from Riverside hop on the microphone and share her gratitude and joy at the event.
  - b. Next year, add a “Security” job to help ensure participant safety.
- ii. **Buddy Baseball Spring League** (May 10<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup>; Sundays at 11 am)  
Allstar game: June 21<sup>st</sup>; Rain date: June 28<sup>th</sup>)
  1. Preparation updates
    - a. Cheerleaders would like to connect with Staff Liaison Ankney about partnering to become a cheer squad
    - b. First game is Mother’s Day. Commissioner Kate Jauregui contacted a local floral shop, and they are donating flowers for the players to give to their mothers as a special treat.
    - c. There are currently 39 players registered and 7 buddies registered.
- iii. **Future 2026 Events**
  1. Buddy Baseball Exhibition Game Event (Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>)
  2. Fun & Food Event (Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>)
  3. Buddy Baseball Fall League (September 13<sup>th</sup> through October 25<sup>th</sup>; Sundays at 11 am)  
Allstar game: October 18<sup>th</sup>; Rain date: October 25<sup>th</sup>)
  4. Bowling with Buddies Event (October 29<sup>th</sup>)
- b. **Sponsorships / Donations**
  - i. Floral shop is going to provide a donation of the flowers for Mother’s Day.
- c. **Advocating for Inclusion and Access** (Lead: Vice Chair Marty Sussman)
  1. Subcommittee meeting report, and request to go forward through our Trustee Liaison.
  2. Start with the Village to see if there is a way to make an impact first locally.
  3. Vice Chair Sussman discussed inviting local representatives or their staff members to an upcoming meeting to support our hopes and goals for increased accessibility in the state.
  4. Trustee Liaison Weidenfeld noted the importance of specific updates. For example, identify what specifically is in the Village codes or laws that should be changed and why.
  5. The subcommittee will meet to work on the specific codes (i.e., curb cuts) and present those to Village Trustee Weidenfeld.
- d. **Trusted Resource for Accommodations and Services (Sharing of Best Practices and Developing a Resource Guide (Education))** (Lead: Commissioner Zalay)
  - i. Collaborative meeting update
  - ii. Website layout outline (draft)
  - iii. The RKCRD can put sponsor logos on the bottom of the page.
  - iv. The RKCRD can have a QR code for donations that can be displayed at the various events.
  - v. The Village Communication Manager will start compiling a video with footage from the events to display on the website and interviews of participants and Commissioners.

- vi. If any Commissioners have ideas for the website, let Commissioner Allie Zalay know.

## 8. Unfinished Business

- a. Guest Speaker (Commissioner Weiner)
  - i. Jewish Vocational Services will be coming to speak to RKCRD next month in May to explain how they find employment opportunities for the disabled and the community at large.

## 9. New Business

- a. Consideration for interaction/involvement
  - i. Autism Hero Project / Blue Envelope Project (Commissioner Jauregui)
    - Drawing attention to stress responses of individuals with special needs and provides an easy visual if someone is pulled over. The blue envelopes can be shown and provided to police and shares important information about the individual and their communication status or needs. It will also help build visibility. Commissioner Jauregui shared the information with the Social Worker at the Buffalo Grove Police Department. The Police Department would like to partner with the RKCRD to support their home information program as well and how we can partner to make this a well-known program. Elgin is launching a festival to promote and launch the program. Staff Liaison Ankney will work with the Police Department to help partner and marry the programs so that we can work together to support and promote the programs.
    - Staff Liaison Ankney will connect with Vice Chair Sussman and Commissioner Kate Jauregui about following up with the Police Department.

## 10. Good and Welfare

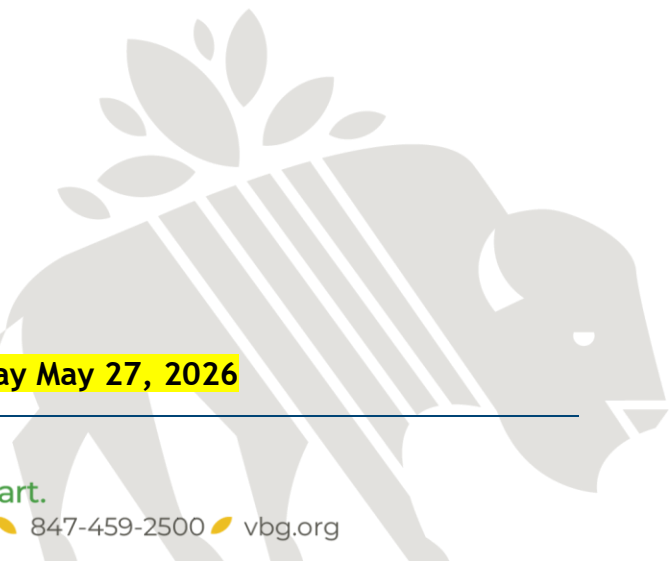
## 11. Public Comment (Non RKCRD Commissioners)

- a. The Blue Envelope Project may be nice to have for those who are deaf or hard of hearing as well.

## 12. Adjournment at 8:31pm

- a. **Motion:** Vice Chair Sussman
- b. **Second:** Commissioner Leo Njongmeta
- c. **In Favor:** All present
- d. **Opposed:** None
- e. **Abstain:** None
- f. **Motion passes**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday May 27, 2026**



---

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.

