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Local News

Cincinnati.com » Community Press & Recorder » Kushner appointed Anderson parks director

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Kushner appointed Anderson parks director

BY JEREME SIMMONS | JSIMMONS@COMMUNITYPRESS.COM

ANDERSON TWP.- Ken Kushner was appointed as the new director of the Anderson Park District Dec. 29, 2007.

Kushner, the interim director after former Director Molly McClure's resigned in 2007, is a 15-year veteran of the district, a 1985 Turpin High School graduate and Anderson Township resident.

"Anybody who has met him knows that he has what it takes. He comes with a lot of history and he is an Anderson Township guy. This is his community," Assistant Director Emily Armstrong said.

Kushner was among 70 applicants from across the nation seeking the position, Park Commissioner Nadine Gelter said. The park board commissioners narrowed the field to 17 applicants and conducted telephone interviews with the full board participating. The commissioners then further narrowed the field to four candidates and interviewed them in person, again with the full participation of the board, Gelter said.

"We had two follow-up meetings following the in-person interviews to discuss the pros and cons of each candidate. The decision was unanimous for Ken," Gelter said. "We'll see a great new direction for the park district. I don't think the residents will see much of a change, but there is a good amount of internal change."

For his part, Kushner said he is looking forward to all the challenges his new appointment brings with it. He said the biggest change for him will be a greater need for him to communicate with the community.

"I love it," Kushner said. "I have been maintaining these parks for years. I personally believe that the township is well off because of what we do, and I feel that they are definitely getting their money's worth."

Other recent changes in staff include the appointment of Chris Skidmore as the recreation supervisor in September and Scott Lehman's appointment as the recreation manager, Gelter said. Former Recreation Manager Emily Armstrong said she has been the assistant director since October.

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