

**The City of Lake Forest  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2019**

**I. Call to Order**

The Parks and Recreation Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Best at 6:30p.m. The following were present:

Board Members: Mr. Paul Best  
Mr. Steve Reimer  
Mr. Jared Rhoads  
Ms. Melanie Walsh  
Ms. Nancy Duffy  
Mr. Will Elliott, Student

Staff: Ms. Sally Swarthout, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Joe Mobile, Superintendent of Recreation  
Mr. Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks, Forestry & Special Facilities  
Mr. Aaron Dalzot, Lakefront Manager  
Mr. Jason Busdeker, Facility Manager  
Ms. Dani Spann, Administrative Assistant

Special Guests: Mr. Sean Collins, Lake County Health Department

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes of the October 15, 2019 Park & Recreation Board Meeting were presented and approved.

***Board member Duffy motioned for approval of the minutes and Board member Reimer seconded. The minutes were then unanimously approved.***

**III. Opportunities for the Public to Address the Board on Items not listed on the Agenda**

No comments

**IV. GO Lake Forest Presentation**

Jason Busdeker introduced Sean Collins from the Lake County Health Department. Mr. Collins gave a short history of the GO Lake County walking initiative and went over the Mission Statement. It started in Gurnee, IL as GO Gurnee in 2016. They had 350 participants in their first event. In 2017 Lake County had a startup program. In the first year they went from 3 to 18 participating communities with 24 in 2019. A Start Up Guide is given to each community wanting to participate.

Since 2017 there have been over 5,793 total participants throughout the communities. Go Waukegan has held night glow walks with at least 100 people in attendance at each walk.

Mr. Collins talked about the website for GO Lake County at [www.GOLakeCounty.org](http://www.GOLakeCounty.org). and includes an interactive map to find any walk in any community.

2019 GO Celebration at Independence Grove was held on September 28<sup>th</sup> to celebrate all participants. GO Lake County helps work with communities through the business and industry, the parks, recreation and green spaces, in addition to educational institutions. Currently there are not any other counties in Illinois participating.

Chairman Best talked about the possibility of connecting with running/walking clubs in the communities. Mr. Collins answered they work with the Forest Preserve and North Shore health systems to encourage patients to participate in the walks.

Program Manager, Jason Busdeker and Program Manager, Aaron Dalzot run the GO Lake Forest walks in the community. The kickoff event was in May of 2018 and have hosted 9 walks since May of 2018. Mr. Dalzot talked about the various walks held along with the various businesses that have teamed up. So far there have been seven walk events held in 2019. The Fire Truck Demo and Walk was a very popular one with 79 participants. The Lake Forest Hospital Walk had the largest number of participants at 155.

Mr. Busdeker pointed out the majority of the walks are themed and try to tie in the community with the walk. The next walk is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> and will be a Holiday Lights Stroll. The next years kick off will be a Family Bike Ride scheduled for May 2, 2020. Board member Duffy talked about the possibility of tying in Market Square with the completed Veterans Park.

**V. Stirling Hall Art Center Tour**

Joe gave a brief overview of the Stirling Hall Art Center and talked about the success of the Center and how it has touched and helped the community. He went over some of the art events held at the Center and gave a tour of the various classrooms and programs offered.

**VI. Comments by Director**

Superintendent Joe Mobile talked about the Parks and Recreation Department's new website that went live. The website is easily navigated with all the information in a few clicks. Mr. Mobile gave a demonstration of the website and went over all the amenities and tabs.

Director Swarthout talked about the following events coming up in November and December.

- Lake Forest Tree Lighting Ceremony- November 29<sup>th</sup> at Market Square
- Stirling Hall Holiday Art Sale- December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Stirling Hall
- Dinner with Santa- December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at Northcroft Park Pavilion
- Lake Forest Dance Academy Winter Dance Spectacular- December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Lake Forest Recreation Center Gym
- Santa Visits- December 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>
- Santa Calling- December 18<sup>th</sup>
- GO Lake Forest Holiday Lights Stroll- December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at Market Square

**VII. Comments by Chairman**

**VIII. Comments by Board Members**

Comments were made on how great the new website looks. Board members commented on how great the tour was of the Stirling Hall Arts Center.

**IX. Other Comments**

**X. Adjournment**

Board member Walsh motioned for adjournment and Board member Reimer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dani Spann  
Administrative Assistant