

**The City of Lake Forest  
Parks and Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2022  
Gorton Community Center**

**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. Kevin Carden  
Ms. Nancy Duffy  
Mr. Patrick Marshall  
Mr. Marc Silver  
Ms. Kaci Spirito

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. Anthony Anaszewicz, Program Manager, Athletics  
Mr. Rich Paulsen, Supervisor of Parks  
Ms. Dani Spann, Administrative Assistant

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes of the February 15, 2022 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting were presented and approved.

*Board member Carden motioned for approval of the minutes and Board member Spirito seconded. The Board meeting minutes of February 15, 2022 were then unanimously approved.*

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

**IV. Approval of Contract- Recreation Center Multi-Year Bussing Services**

Athletics Program Manager, Anthony Anaszewicz, presented to the Board, the proposed vendor fees for multi-year bussing services for summer camps. Mr. Anaszewicz gave a brief overview of the history and purpose of the bussing services. CROYA will use the bussing also, however, the CROYA services are not being approved by the Parks and Recreation Board. A bid opening was held on February 18<sup>th</sup> with two companies submitting bids. The two companies that submitted bids were Positive Connections and First Student. First Student came in with the lowest 3-year contract.

<b>Recreation Programs</b>	<b>2022 – 2023</b>	<b>*2023 – 2024</b>	<b>*2024 - 2025</b>
Positive Connections	\$ 59,925	\$ 157,950	\$ 165,746
First Student	<b>\$ 24,977</b>	<b>\$ 82,208</b>	<b>\$ 87,777</b>

**\*2023 – 2025 includes route bussing for McCormick and All Stars & Beyond Day Camps.**

<b>*CROYA</b>	<b>2022 – 2023</b>	<b>2023 – 2024</b>	<b>2024 - 2025</b>
Positive Connections	\$ 9,987.50	\$ 10,500	\$ 11,025
First Student	<b>\$ 5,890</b>	<b>\$ 6,080</b>	<b>\$ 6,270</b>

**\*CROYA services not approved by Park and Rec Board.**

**Requested Action:** *City Staff requests approval to award First Student a 3-year contract for Recreation Bussing Services from 2022-2025.*

***A motion was made by Board member Duffy to approve to award First Student a 3-year contract for Recreation Bussing Services from 2022-2025. The motion was seconded by Board member Carden.***

**V. Approval of Recommendation to Proceed with Request for Proposals for Design of Athletic Fields at Deerpath Park**

Director of Parks and Recreation, Sally Swarthout, presented to the Board, the staff recommendation to move forward with a Request for Proposals for the design of synthetic turf athletic fields at Deerpath Park. Ms. Swarthout gave a brief background on the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan developed in 2019 and the importance of Parks and Recreation athletic fields as a priority. Ms. Swarthout went over the Project Timeline to date.

The first community engagement workshop was held in December 2021. The second community engagement workshop was held in February of 2022. This meeting was virtual and responses to questions from Workshop #1 were addressed. Director Swarthout went over the results from the workshops. The top three take aways were player safety, maximize playability and maximize field usage and conditions. Staff reached out to neighboring communities with questions addressing natural and synthetic turf in both usage based and maintenance-based questions. Neighboring communities with synthetic turf fields gave positive feedback with the turf fields and saw no increase in injuries. Staff utilized all input from community feedback, user group preferences and criteria obtained from the workshops and surveys throughout the evaluation process and creation of design options.

Four design options were considered:

- Option #1- Business as Usual- This option would leave the fields as they are.
- Option #2- Natural Grass Improvements
- Option #3- Synthetic Turf Improvements
- Option #4- Hybrid Natural/Synthetic Improvements

Director Swarthout went over the high-level estimated installation costs for synthetic turf and natural turf. Real numbers will be generated when the design is completed. Based on the priority ranking from the community survey, the engagement process and the staff matrix it shows that Option #3 meets the needs of the community and the top priorities expressed. Option #3 gives users the choice to use multi use synthetic turf fields and 14 other natural grass areas.

Discussion followed by Board members on the difference between athletic field parks and natural play parks. Superintendent Chuck Myers said the flexibility and playability is greater with synthetic turf rather than natural grass and the flexibility to turn over fields more frequently is higher with synthetic turf. Contaminants were discussed with natural vs. synthetic turf. Mr. Myers answered the design process will include and stress environmental concerns. Bioswales will be a significant buffer to catch contamination from synthetic turf. The amount of synthetic turf will be 10.2 acres. Chairman Best asked about the Summary Matrix and player safety between natural and synthetic turf. Director Swarthout answered with proper maintenance they are even with each other in regard to player safety.

**Public comment was allowed with the following commenting:**

Debbie Gallagher offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Jim Crawford offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Mike Mangiaracina offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Tom Ford offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Amy Lincoln offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Marion Cartwright offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Fred Arazon offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Mary Goy offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Mary Matthews offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Kate Rother offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Reid Kelly offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
David Holmes offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Fred Jackson offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Rommy Lopat offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Peter Lacase offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Kat Buckhardt offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Steve Malin offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Rick Amos offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Yuh Schabacker offered her opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Mark Schabacker offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park  
Alton Shader offered his opinion on the topic of artificial turf at Deerpath Park

The Board members had a chance to comment and give their opinion on the recommendation of proceeding with synthetic turf athletic fields at Deerpath Park.

**Requested Action:** *City Staff requests the approval to proceed with requests for proposals for the design of synthetic turf athletic fields at Deerpath Park.*

**A motion was made by Board member Silver to approve to proceed with requests for proposals for the design of synthetic turf athletic fields. The motion was seconded by Board member Marshall. The motion was passed with a roll call of 5 yeas and 1 nay.**

**VI. Comments by Director**

Ms. Swarouth informed the Board of the upcoming programs and local events.

- April Fun with the Bunny- You Got Egged, Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza, Bunny Baskets
- Go Lake Forest-Lake Forest College Walk- April 7<sup>th</sup>- 10:00am
- Girls Softball Registration Starts on April 19th
- Family Drive-In Movie Night- Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm – 9:00on at Deerpath Middle School Parking Lot

**VII. Board Member Comments**

Board member Duffy recommended emailing a program for the virtual Passion for Dance Company recital and commented everyone did a great job. Board member Marshall thanked everyone for a great job on putting everything together for the presentation. Chairman Best complimented staff for doing such a great job on this process.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Board member Marshall motioned for adjournment and Board member Spirito seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dani Spann  
Administrative Assistant