

**The City of Lake Forest
Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023
Municipal Services Building**

I. Call to Order

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

Board Members: Mr. Marc Silver
Mr. Timo Berger
Mr. Mark Gorman
Mr. Patrick Marshall @ 6:34pm
Ms. Kaci Spirito @ 6:43pm

Staff: Ms. Sally Swarthout, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Joe Mobile, Superintendent of Recreation
Mr. Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks, Forestry & Special Facilities
Ms. Dani Spann, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jen Eggert, Kinderhaven Program Supervisor

II. Approval of Minutes

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

Board member Gorman motioned for approval of the minutes and Board member Sheridan seconded. The Board meeting minutes of November 15, 2022 were then unanimously approved.

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

No public in attendance

IV. Kinderhaven Preschool Academy Spotlight

Jen Eggert, Program Supervisor, presented a spotlight on Kinderhaven Preschool Academy. Ms. Eggert talked briefly about her background and experience. Kinderhaven Preschool Academy is a Reggio Emilia inspired preschool, which means the curriculum is student driven and based on what the children are interested in. Kinderhaven Preschool Staff consists of 4 teachers and 5 teacher assistants. Ms. Eggert talked about the training and continuing education required for all the teachers. A minimum of 15 hours of training is required annually.

There are currently 4 core classes offered, ranging in ages from 2.5 years to 5.5 years. Baby Reggio and Lunch Bunch programs are also offered. After Open House, enrollment from returning families is at 70%. After new family registration, staff are anticipating being at 100% enrollment.

Ms. Eggert talked about the Compassion Projects the students have participated in. These projects include raising money and donations. One project was RISE International Coin Drive. \$1600.00 was

raised to help 4 students go to school in rural Angola. One project is called “Caught You Being Kind” and a child is recognized by their peers as being kind and another kindness award is the Benny Waters Kindness Award. Past projects were mentioned.

Ms. Eggert said the biggest challenge is the lack of space. Discussion followed on ideas to add space for more classrooms. A video was shown highlighting the children and their acts of kindness.

V. Update on Deerpath Community Park Synthetic Turf Field

Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry, updated the Board members on the progress of the Deerpath Community Park synthetic turf field. The final design recommendations were presented and approved by City Council at the January 17, 2023 meeting. City Council approved the field materials recommended by the Advisory Group. The field material chosen was based on five very detailed criteria. The final design phase is at 100% and the project has gone out to bid, with a pre bid meeting held on January 17th. The bid opening will be in early February. City staff will go back to City Council on February 6, 2023, with an update on revenue and programming, and again on February 21st to present the core costs and menu options of the project. Staff will be presenting and requesting final approval of costs from City Council at the March 6, 2023 meeting.

Superintendent Myers presented updates to the conceptual vision plan. Mr. Myers talked about some of the field position changes and the buildings. The Tennis courts have been added to the plan and will be completely redone and funded by the Parks and Public Land Fund. The courts will include 4 tennis courts and 4 pickleball courts.

Superintendent Myers gave a high-level overview of the evaluation process and criteria used by the Advisory Group when evaluating the turf field material. Reference checks were done along with numerous site visits by City staff. The top recommendation by the Advisory Group was IRONTURF by GreenFields with Brock Natural Infill and Brock YSR Shockpad. Samples of the recommended material was passed around. The products were evaluated based on the following criteria.

1. Player Safety- Shock Pad
2. Playability- Carpet, Fiber, Infill
3. Maintenance- Turf, Infill, 25-year warranty
4. Durability
5. Environmental Sensitivity

Director Comments

Sally Swarthout, Director of Parks and Recreation, informed Board members that Rob Carmichael will be retiring, and the Wildlife Discovery Center will be closing after 25 years. The last day to visit the Wildlife Discovery Center will be March 24th.

Director Swarthout also informed the Board members of upcoming programs and events.

- Lake Forest Fitness Center New Annual Membership Promotions until January 31st
- Valentine Workshops- February 11th at Everett

VI. Board Member Comments

No comments at this time.

VII. Adjournment

Board member Sheridan motioned for adjournment and Board member Gorman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Dani Spann
Administrative Assistant