

**The City of Lake Forest
Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2023
Municipal Services Building**

I. Call to Order

The Parks and Recreation Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Pro-tem Kaci Spirito at 6:30p.m. The following were present:

Board Members: Mr. Timo Berger
Mr. Kevin Carden
Mr. Mark Gorman
Mr. Patrick Marshall @6:34pm
Ms. Kaci Spirito

Staff: Ms. Sally Swarthout, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Joe Mobile, Superintendent of Recreation
Mr. Michael Thomas, Director of Public Works
Mr. Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks & Forestry
Ms. Dani Spann, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Anthony Anaszewicz, Program Manager, Athletics
Mr. Ken Pierini, Program Supervisor, Athletics

Public: Ara Goshgarian, Alderman

II. Approval of Minutes

Meeting Minutes of the March 21, 2023 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting were presented and approved. The Minutes were edited to show Michael Thomas, Director of Public Works, was in attendance for the March 21, 2023 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting.

Board member Gorman motioned for approval of the minutes with stated changes and Board member Berger seconded. The Board meeting minutes of March 16, 2023 were then unanimously approved.

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

No comment

IV. Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Foundation Presentation on Festival & Fireworks

Rick Amos talked to the Board about the plans for the Festival & Fireworks event. Due to construction at Deerpath Park, the event will be moved to the east lot of Deerpath Middle School. Mr. Amos went over the schedule of the bands. Two local bands will play, Fletcher Rockwell is the opening band and Run Forrest Run is the headliner. Set up, parking, and fireworks location will remain the same as last year. There are two configurations planned for the stage location. The event entrance will begin at Golf Rd. Ticket sales went live on May 15th to purchase online. A contingency plan is in place for emergencies. A small discussion followed on the location for next year.

Rick Amos talked about the path at Forest Park Beach. The Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Foundation has volunteered to put together a fundraising committee. The goal is to raise 1.5 million dollars. A list of donor candidates has been started. Currently, options are being reviewed for professional fundraising, partners and marketing campaigns.

V. Spotlight on Baseball and Softball Programs

Ken Pierini, Athletics Program Supervisor, talked about the Jr. Scouts Girls Softball and Baseball House League. He gave a brief history on the Girls Softball program and the Philosophy. The program has 1st-4th grades and 7-11th grades. The travel program is new and includes surrounding communities. Tryouts will start in the fall with tournaments later in the year. Staff are working on getting included with the North Shore Fast Pitch League. Winter clinics are offered on the off season. Discussion followed on the low enrollment for certain age groups.

Mr. Pierini talked about the Baseball House League and enrollment numbers. They offer T-ball through Pony League. Currently, there are six t-ball teams, four Pinto League teams, and three Mustang League teams. The Bronco and Pony League play in the Chicago North Suburban League. The Baseball House League runs April – July. The staff is currently looking for House and Travel League coaches.

The B-Bash Tournament had a great turnout. Due to construction at Deerpath Park, local parks in Vernon Hills and Lincolnshire were used. 48 teams participated in the B-Bash Tournament.

VI. Deerpath Park Athletic Field Improvements Update

Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry shared pictures and updated Board members on the progress of the project. It is currently in Phase 2, which is excavation and field prep. This phase is mainly earth work. The drainage system and storm sewer will be done in the next few weeks. The next step will include stone work. Currently, the project is on schedule. A web cam is recording the project so public can watch the current activity by going to the City website or downloading the LF GO app on their phone.

VII. Committee Assignments Update

Joe Mobile, Superintendent of Recreation, updated Board members on the liaison Foundation Board Committee. The Committee members met in the middle of April to talk about the goals. These goals include helping to improve the support and communication between the Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Board. Members will act as advocates to the Foundation by helping with the events and spreading the word. Staff and the liaisons will help with identifying potential projects for funding with the Foundation. Bill Sheridan attended the Foundation meeting on May 8th, and members will continue to attend the Foundation meetings. The focus is to help support the mission and goals of the Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Anthony Anaszewicz, Athletics Program Manager, updated Board members on the Field Usage Committee. The group developed a new philosophy with two goals. These goals are to achieve an annual revenue goal of \$290,000 and have a policy that is realistic, relative to the market, and all-encompassing. The members would like to bring in the athletic organization and gain their feedback on the current policy and drafted policy. The group will continue to work on this information at upcoming meetings.

Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry, updated Board members on the Northcroft Master Plan Committee. A team of City staff has been organized to help the committee. Information will be sent out via social media and the city website. A public session, Planning and Pizza in the Park, will be held on May 24th. This session is designed for residents to give their input and ideas for the areas of improvement in the park. Mr. Myers went over the project timeline. An online survey has been created to be sent out to residents on May 25th. The schools will also be included. Hitchcock Design Group has been hired to help with the schematic design and options. Alderman Ara Goshgarian reminded the Board to ensure they include all groups of people, such as garden clubs, environmental groups, etc. when reaching out for community perspective and input.

Chuck Myers updated the Board members on the status of the Townline Park splash pad resurfacing. Everything is on track to be open by Memorial Day weekend.

Director Comments

Director Swarthout informed Board members of upcoming programs and events. Ms. Swarthout reminded everyone they are still hiring for summer help.

- Native Tree and Plant Sale- May 20th from 8am – 1pm at Melody Farm
- LFDA Dance Recital 2023 - May 20th at Lake Forest Academy
- Planning and Pizza in the Park- May 24th at Northcroft Park
- Fred Jackson Golf Classic- June 2nd at Deerpath Golf Course
- Free Outdoor Concerts in the Parks- Starting June 6th at Northcroft Park
- Lake Forest Fitness Center Special on 1-, 2-, and 3-month memberships

VIII. Board Member Comments

No comments.

IX. Adjournment

Board member Marshall motioned for adjournment and Board member Carden seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Dani Spann
Administrative Assistant