

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

I. Call to Order

The Parks and Recreation Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Marc Silver at 6:40p.m. The following were present:

Board Members: Mr. Marc Silver- arrived at 6:39pm
Mr. Kevin Carden
Mr. Mark Gorman
Mr. Patrick Marshall- left at 8:44pm
Ms. Kaci Spirito

Staff: Mr. Joe Mobile, Superintendent of Recreation
Mr. Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks & Forestry
Ms. Dani Spann, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Valerie Gonzalez, Dance Supervisor
Mr. Rich Paulsen, Parks Supervisor

KemperSports Staff: Vince Juarez, Vice President of Operations
John Westly, General Manager of Deerpath Golf Course
Nick Yackle, Grounds Maintenance
Mary Kate Walsh- Regional Sales & Marketing Director

II. Approval of Minutes

Meeting Minutes of the June 27, 2023, Parks & Recreation Board Meeting were presented and approved with the amended date.

Board member Spirito motioned for approval of the minutes and Board member Marshall seconded. The Board meeting minutes of June 27, 2023, were then unanimously approved with the amended date.

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

No public in attendance.

IV. Lake Forest Dance Academy Spotlight

Valerie Gonzalez, Dance Program Supervisor, talked about the mission and goals of the Lake Forest Dance Academy (LFDA), the experienced teachers and dance class offerings. This year is the 48th year of dance programs being offered by the Lake Forest Dance Academy. Classes are offered to everyone from Preschool through Adult. There were 224 students that participated in this year's Recital. Ms. Gonzalez talked about a new class offering called Acrodance. Performance Companies are offered for students from 8 – 18 years and offers performance opportunities to engage with the community, perform in benefit concerts and compete in National competitions.

Chairman Silver inquired on the maximum capacity for the dance studios. Ms. Gonzalez stated there is limited room space with 8-10 dancers per class with 68 classes running per week. Discussion followed on needing designated performance space to be able to facilitate the influx of young families. Ms. Gonzalez commented the registration numbers are going up and getting closer to pre-pandemic numbers.

V. Deerpath Golf Course Spotlight

Vince Juarez, KemperSports, Vice President of Operations introduced John Westly, the new General Manager of Deerpath Golf Course. Mr. Westly went over the priorities for 2023/2024. The number one priority is offering excellent customer service to the community. Staff continue hosting community events and fundraisers. Improvements continue to be made to the golf course and facilities. Mr. Westly talked about DiscoverGolf, ran by Richard Franklin, as being one of the best Junior Golf Programs in the area. Deerpath Golf Course is ahead of budget on rounds and range traffic. The current financial outlook is good. The total revenue is 12% above budget YTD and EBITDA is at 18% above budget. Mr. Westly talked about goals for the year and upcoming projects.

VI. Deerpath Park Athletic Field Improvements Update

Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry, updated the Board on the progress of the Athletic Field Project. The project is still on schedule. Turf is scheduled to arrive the end of July. Drainage plans will be started as the turf is placed. Mr. Myers talked a little about the walking trail and the south building. The goal is to have this completed by October 15th.

VII. Northcroft Park Masterplan Committee Update

Chuck Myers, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry, talked about some updates on the Northcroft Park Masterplan Committee. A public meeting was held on May 24th. Comments were collected from various age groups that attended. Staff are compiling the data and working on an executive summary to be sent out to the community. An online survey was sent out with 443 responses returned. Mr. Myers went over some of the survey results on the desired park features. Next steps for the Committee will be getting input from the schools, creating a summary of the project, and getting Hitchcock Design Group the information needed to create some designs of the Master Plan. Discussion followed on the desired list of park amenities.

VIII. Director Comments

Joe Mobile, Superintendent of Recreation, gave a brief update on the Athletic Field Usage Committee. The group has sent out and received two surveys to the five athletic organizations. A Teams meeting has been scheduled with the group to help develop the fee structure. The committee plans to present a fee structure to the Parks and Recreation Board in August. The plan is to have the fee structure in place for the October 15th opening date of the athletic fields. Short discussion followed on the process. Mr. Mobile reminded the Board that Sally Swarthout will be sending out a survey regarding Board member's interests. The first day of Fall Registration had 372 registrations with a total of \$56,000 brought in. These totals are higher than last year.

Mr. Mobile informed the Board members of upcoming programs and events.

- New Fall 2023 Programs Offered
- Free Outdoor Concerts
- Live Music on the Patio- June 21st, July 12 & 26, August 2 & 16-Deerpath Golf Course Patio
- Lake Forest Day 5k- August 2nd at 7am at South Park
- Lake Forest Music Festival- August 19th from 5-10pm-Parking Lot behind City Hall

IX. Board Member Comments

Chairman Marc Silver thanked Staff and Board members for all their time, effort, and hard work they've put in.

X. Adjournment

Board member Spirito motioned for adjournment and Chairman Silver seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Dani Spann
Administrative Assistant