

**Deerfield Park District  
Golf Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2021**

Meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Brian Bradford, Kevin Butler, Sharon Edwards, Casey Kremer, Terry Levy, Bob Neary, Joe Cohen, Jason Mannina, Kris Oldeen, Derek Domaleski, Joe Martinez, Jeff Nehila

Absent: Mike Bavier

**Golf Advisory Committee Members**

**Service Term Ended January 2021 and Welcoming Paul Franson as a New Member**

Jason thanked Mat Smarjesse for his three years of service on the committee and welcomed Paul Franson to the committee.

**Review of Meeting Minutes**

A review of the September 9, 2020 minutes revealed no changes or comments.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was received prior to the meeting.

**Staff Reports**

**Golf Operations**

Despite not opening until May last season, the course had a successful year. The course was open through mid-December. We finished the season with 1,624 rounds over from 2019 to 2020 with 10-minute intervals. Many new players took up golf and this was recognized by our teaching staff. The course saw a lot of wear and tear from the high volume of golfers, but staff did a great job of maintaining the course.

Capital projects and purchases were deferred last year due to COVID. We did get the pump house irrigation project completed last season.

To get our residency tracking back on course, golfers will go into the pro shop to get a receipt to give the starter. During COVID, we were taking bookings online only and everything including carts went into one revenue code so there was no tracking of residents and non-residents. We are asking people to arrive 30 minutes prior to their tee time to keep the number of people in the clubhouse to a small number.

The single rider carts are not being used as much as last year. We will return these rental carts as use declines. Single rider carts are \$6 more per round. We are waiting for the leagues to get started to determine the need for them. We will possibly increase the cost of the single rider cart in the future as the opportunity to have extra carts decreases.

Ball washers, rakes and water fountains are still unavailable for use on the course; however, benches will be put back on the course. With 10-minute intervals people aren't really using the benches very much, but people are requesting to see the memorial benches back on the course.

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Clubhouse restrooms are available for use but the lower-level locker rooms are not yet available. Golfers are asked to limit restroom capacity to a maximum of 3 people. Driving range restrooms are still available for use by all.

Grab-n-Go refreshments are available in the pro shop again. FORE opens at 11:00 a.m. and for spring could remain open until 6:00 p.m.

Our in-house leagues on Monday and Wednesday evenings are sold out. Staff will be developing a new in-house league for men and women to meet the demand. The PTC Men's League is strong and have a bunch of new members. There are a lot of passholders within these groups, so we are seeing steady play Monday through Thursday mornings.

We are still only selling medium buckets at the range. The range is currently mats only but staff is working on the grass trees. In order to get them open overnight temperatures need to be above 50 degrees to promote growth of the grass. The number one phone call right now is asking if the grass tees are open.

New this year is the offering of four club fitting days. We have a large selection of clubs to try and people available to perform club fittings. We are seeing a spike in club sales already this season.

Banquets and outings are very limited again this season. Currently we have four outings booked. When we did our budgeting forecast for 2021, staff assumed we would still be in this position with restrictions limiting indoor capacity.

### **Learning Center**

For 2020, we had to adjust our operations to allow for social distancing in our junior programs. We created pods of 4 students that worked out so well that we are going to continue that model for our summer camps this year.

We are fielding many phone calls from new golfers and those that have been away from the game that want to start playing again.

Our junior classes begin at 4 years of age and continue through high school. We have made an effort to create a progressive program. One new class we are offering this year is the tryout prep class for any junior golfer planning to try out for their high school golf team. Last year we were not allowed to have our junior programs in April or May, so it's great that this year we are able to do so.

Staff has already had some fittings. We have a staff member that can fit Titleist clubs.

We have the same teaching staff returning this year. We are offering a variety of adult group classes including short game and putting classes.

### **FORE Restaurant & Bar – Chef Joe**

FORE opened on March 26 and the spring menu is going strong. We have an intern working in the kitchen this season from Kendall College. Staff is being trained on COVID guidelines, PPE requirements and general safety guidelines. The Friday Fish fry will officially end on April 9, but fish will be a regular item on the menu.

### **Golf Maintenance**

The 2020 season ended with bunker work on holes 11 and 14 both and opened this season with no restrictions. Also completed at the end of the 2020 season was a deep tine aerification. This allows for the greens to remain healthy. Drainage work on holes 1, 2, 6, 7, 14 and 15 was completed late last season.

With the start of the golf season, part-time staff have returned and are eager to start another season of maintenance on the golf course. Much different than last year's start-up, most returned for another season, maintaining stability with a group of employees who have widespread golf course maintenance knowledge and experience.

Staff have been busy cleaning the golf course, removing sticks, tree limbs and dead trees. We have also prepared bunkers and added sand to green-side bunkers along with early spring turfgrass management procedures. The turfgrass procedures coincide with the increase in ground temperature and the removal of frost in the upper surfaces, giving the turf's drainage system the ability to remove any extra moisture. This process has started on the golf course and gives us the opportunity to start rolling the greens, leveling the putting surface before our first mowing. We started mowing all turf areas, vertical cutting (a process of removing the turf's "winter coat" and stimulating new growth) greens, tees and fairways, followed with aerifying collars and approaches.

Overall, the early spring condition of the golf course turf appears to be in very good condition. There are very little concerns with ice accumulation damage and snow mold patch even after experiencing above average snowfall amounts. Annual preventative treatment for snow mold patch before winter and the continued drainage improvements pay off in the long run, preventing damage to turfgrass after a wet, cold winter. As soil temperatures continue to rise, growth regulator treatments will be made to greens, tees and fairways for poa annua seed head suppression followed by herbicide and insecticide treatments for crabgrass and grub control.

Bunker renovation work will continue in fall 2021 with work to hole 3. Only 2 holes will remain to be renovated.

Staff will be redoing the bronze tees in-house. The project includes leveling or expanding the bronze tees.

**Permanent Tee Time Lottery – December 8, 2020**  
**Lottery Summary/Results/Availability for 2021**

The Permanent Tee Time Lottery was held on December 8, 2020. Due to the popularity of golf and with Sportsman's being closed for the season, we saw a spike in the desire for tee times. There are still tee times available on both Saturday and Sunday. Staff will continue to market the available times.

**2021 Marketing**

**2021 DGC Digital Golf Guide**

Direct emails have been sent out to all past participants of junior golf programs and adult programs showcasing the new 2021 Digital Golf Guide. This new digital guide has been well received.

**Marketing – Social Media, Email Blasts, Mobile App – Promotion, GPS Enhancements & Website**

- The website and mobile app have been updated with all the live 2021 DGC golf instructional programs, fish fry and the course opening info.
- Weekly email blasts and mobile app notifications have been sent promoting the Fore Fish Fry, junior golf camps, leagues, permanent tee-time availability and the information on the course and driving range opening as well as instructional programming.
- New GPS units have been installed and they include enhanced messaging features, and the zoning of cart paths and encroachment to within 60 ft. of greens for auto-alarming notifications.
- The DGC Mobile app QR code will be uploaded to a GPS ad on hole 7 for golfers to download and allow for quicker ordering on the 8<sup>th</sup> tee for turn food.
- The new Golf Simulator(s) are in and 1 is almost completely set-up in the restaurant. (Final safety measures are in the process). The unit will be available for golfers to view and try this Spring and Summer to assist in the booking of November 2021 thru March 2022 leagues and special events.

**2021 Important Dates and Events**

Important dates and events include:

- Final FORE Open – Saturday, April 3
- Permanent Tee Times Begin – Saturday, April 10 & Sunday, April 11
- Pro-Am Scramble – Saturday, September 18
- Club Championship Weekend – Saturday, October 9 & Sunday, October 10

**Other Items**

Terry praised staff for getting the bronze tee project started.

Paul praised the staff for the great events, good food and outstanding junior programs that are offered.

Sharon asked if the driving range pass will be available this season. Staff responded that we are not offering those passes this season but are honoring the passes already out there. Staff hopes to return to the pass next year.

Sharon asked if the bunker renovations change the course rating. Staff responded that the renovations do change the rating and we requested for CDGA to come out in 2020 to evaluate the course. They didn't come last season so staff will be requesting an evaluation for this season.

Sharon asked if there are any opportunities to do events with CDGA. Staff responded that the challenge is that Glenview donates the course. We partner more with the IPGA and IJGA to get practice rounds, exposure for the course and highlight our juniors.

Sharon asked if we could get information about our club championship in the CDGA publication. Staff responded that we can certainly send them the information to share.

Sharon asked if there could be healthier grab-n-go food items in the pro shop and on the beverage cart. Staff will contact her to discuss her ideas.

Sharon asked if the beverage cart was a significant revenue generator. Staff responded that it is on Saturdays and Sundays but it's more of a service that we provide for leagues.

Sharon asked if there would be a demo day with multiple brands. Staff responded that vendors are not interested in doing these multiple brand days as they feel people just come out to try clubs but not purchase clubs. We are offering fitting days with specific vendors instead.

Kevin asked if vendors provide feedback on your existing golf clubs. Staff responded that they do provide feedback, provide data from the launch monitor and give you recommendations.

Kevin asked if there was a way to put information on the website about range availability. Staff responded that we tried this when we were taking reservations but weren't selling out. The busiest time on the range will be from 3-5 p.m. after the grass tees open.

Dan asked if staff knows where the sewage smell near 13 is coming from. Staff responded that the pond to the right of 14 has more algae than we've ever seen. This pond belongs to the homeowners' association and staff shared information with them on who takes care of our ponds.

Board Liaison Cohen asked about accessibility to the course. Staff responded that we do have a single rider cart if anyone needs it and we do allow people to get closer to the green if need be.

Director Nehila thanked committee members for their input, time and support and note that staff is always available to committee members and patrons to share feedback.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2021 at the Deerfield Golf Club.

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.