

**Deerfield Park District
Golf Advisory Committee Meeting
July 7, 2022**

Meeting came to order at 7:00pm

Present: Kevin Butler, Seth Howard, Robert Klein, Dan Mazur, Joe Cohen, Jeff Nehila, Jason Mannina, Kris Oldeen, Mike Bavier

Absent: Jack Butler, Paul Franson, Casey Kremer, Derek Domaleski

Review of Meeting Minutes

A review of the April 14, 2022 minutes revealed no changes.

Matters from the Public

No members of the public were present.

Staff Reports

Golf Operations

Jason reviewed the newly developed internal Strategic Plan for the golf course that was created based on the committee's questions/comments from the April meeting.

Committee member asked if we track the tree removals. Jason responded that we do track the trees we remove and plant.

Committee member asked if the trees that were removed on holes 3 and 4 were on golf course or homeowner property. Mike responded that the majority were on golf course property.

Committee member thanked staff for responding to the committee's comments and suggestions and for all the work done on the course including the bunkers.

Jason reported that we are not hosting a lot of outings right now since the course is so busy. Anyone wanting to have an outing has to buyout the entire course. Staff would like to see a few more outings because the food and beverage revenue is nice to have.

Leagues are in full swing and are running well. The leagues are a big part of the course's core play.

Sunday Funday for families is well received. This program is \$25 per family and the course is only open to them during this time.

Permanent tee times are running on Saturdays and Sundays until about 9:10am. This does provide for a shotgun opportunity starting at 1:00pm.

The Pro Shop is doing a large amount of golf club sales. Clothing sales are also going well.

Jason reminded committee members that club fittings are available for many different brands.

We are fully staffed in all areas of operations.

Golf Course Maintenance

Mike reported that wet weather conditions were a thorn in the side in May. Staff spent a good amount of time cleaning drain lines to help with water flow. Staff added many new drain lines to the course over the years. This year staff added drain lines to holes 1, 16 and 17 in front of the greens. This has resulted in some scars from the winter, so staff has patched those areas instead of seeding to speed up recovery.

Irregular weather conditions have persisted throughout much of the month of June requiring different maintenance practices to help keep playing conditions consistent. The recent dry weather pattern has consumed much of our attention along with hotter than average temperatures throughout most of the month requiring continuous hand-watering of greens, newly planted sod areas and plant material. Daily troubleshooting of our irrigation system has also been necessary, making sure sprinklers and pumps are operating efficiently. We have also encountered days and nights with increased dew points and humidity intensifying disease and insect pressure and requiring more hours spraying. Applications on greens, tees and fairways have included fungicides to control dollar spot and pythium blight and insecticide treatments to control Japanese beetles/white grubs and cutworms. Wetting agents have also been applied to counter quick moisture evaporation rates during extended dry periods, helping maintain adequate moisture levels in the soils. Outside of these weather-related tasks, we have also been actively rolling greens this month striving for a smoother ball roll.

New sand was added to the bunkers this year.

We had a contractor pull the deep well pump during the winter, service it and it was reinstalled in May.

Staff will continue to raise and level tee boxes. New tee box projects include holes 2 and 11. Last year staff completed raised tee boxes on holes 6, 8, 11 and level off a tee box on 16. This work is all completed in house.

New plant material was added throughout numerous beds from the entrance to the clubhouse and 1st tee areas. A variety of annuals, perennials, and tropicals were planted that will provide a wide range of color. Also, our wildflower area on hole 17 was recently seeded and has started germinating. This area will attract many pollinators throughout the summer.

Greens will be aerified on August 2. The course will be closed in the morning but will open later in the day.

Early discussion and planning have begun for the fall renovation project on the golf course. Staff is reviewing material quantities and distributor options. Holes 11 and 14 are scheduled to be renovated beginning October 3.

Committee member shared some requests from the seniors including adding runways for the walkers and adding stairs to get up to the silver tee on hole 7.

Golf Advisory Committee

July 7, 2022

Page 3

Committee member asked what is happening with hole 2 and the neighbor. Jason responded that we will be adding a new tee to hopefully alleviate errant balls going onto his property. The new tee box will also provide an alternate for play.

Committee member asked why it is so hard to grow the grass on tee boxes especially the silver tees. Jason responded that one reason may be that we have so much play on those tees during the week. Mike also commented that the seed takes longer to grow if they get trampled on.

Committee member asked if the tee box on 12 could be leveled. Mike responded that it will be added to the list to level and increase the size.

Committee member asked if the cart path on 9 is on the list for repair. Jason responded that all of the cart paths are on the list.

Committee member asked if the rakes should go inside or outside the bunkers. Mike responded that they should go inside the bunkers.

Committee member commented that the maintenance team is extremely nice.

Board liaison Cohen asked if we could buy some inexpensive green repair tools and give them out to golfers to see if that would help with divots getting repaired.

Board liaison Cohen asked if the sign on Deerfield Road could be cleaned. Mike responded that it has been scrubbed but with the porous material it didn't clean-up well. Staff will try to power wash it with simple green and see if that works. Course signage replacement would need to be added to the 7-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Committee member asked if sprinklers get turned off when it rains. Mike responded that they do get turned off when it rains, and staff uses their judgement on when to turn them on based on conditions.

Committee member commented that the course is in great shape and thanked Mike and his team for a job well done.

Learning Center

Kris read Derek's report.

We have had a busy spring and summer on the driving range despite the April and May weather.

Classes and camps:

Overall registration for classes and camps has been down from where it was last year. From conversations with parents and clients, I have heard that many kids are heading back to sleep away camp for longer periods of time this summer.

Golf Advisory Committee

July 7, 2022

Page 4

Sunday Intro classes:

Sunday classes for our youngest golfers (ages 4–8-year-olds) have been running and have been going well. These classes offer an introduction to the game for the kids, and also help the parents learn how to interact and be involved with their child's golf development by keeping it fun.

Golf Camps:

Our weeklong (M-TH) golf camps are on their fifth week. With the exception of one week, numbers for camps have been pretty good, although still down from last year. We are seeing many familiar faces of kids that have done our camps or programs in the past, and we are also seeing kids coming back for multiple weeks which is good. I have also been noticing some last-minute registrations.

We have a staff of eight part-time assistants helping with the camps this summer. Their schedule rotates based on the numbers each week.

Adult Beginner Classes:

Our Adult Beginner classes have been a major success this season. Our first three sections of this class have been sold out. This season we decided to run a Saturday version of this class in addition to the normal Tuesday evening class. We are currently exploring ways to get this group of new golfers onto the golf course.

Short Game School:

We ran our first two-hour short game school several Saturdays ago. We had three participants and received great feedback from the group. I am hopeful that this class can gain some momentum.

Other Notes:

- The range has been busy and private training has been pretty steady
- We will be offering a Ladies Only Free Clinic on July 19 from 2:15-3:15pm
- We are receiving fewer calls for golf instruction this year as more and more people have to head back to the office, and therefore have less free time
- Titleist Fitting Days with Paul Franson have been great
- Looking forward to the rest of the summer

FORE Restaurant & Bar

Jason reported that while staff works hard to draw golfers into the restaurant, the food side is not a money-maker. Beer, pop and Gatorade provide lucrative sales.

The Fish Fry continues to do very well when the weather is nice.

New menu items such as the Cobb salad and avocado toast are a hit, especially with the card players.

The Halfway House continues to perform well.