

**Deerfield Park District**  
**Golf Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of July 11, 2024**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Golf Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Director of Golf Operations Jason Mannina via a in person meeting. The following were in attendance:

Present: Brian Bradford, Jack Butler, Seth Howard, Robert Klein, Paul Franson and Faye Solomon.

Absent: Lucia Liu & Board Liaison Joe Cohen

Staff: Director of Golf Operations Jason Mannina, Clubhouse Operations Supervisor Kris Oldeen, Head Teaching Professional Derek Domaleski & Superintendent of Grounds Mike Bavier Jr.

**(1) Review of Meeting Minutes**

A review of the March 14, 2024, minutes revealed no changes. The Advisory board was updated on the CDGA coming out to re-rate the golf course in the fall. The minutes were approved as circulated.

**(2) Matters from the Public**

No members of the public were present.

**(3) Staff Reports**

**(a) Golf Operations**

Golf Director Mannina reported that the golf course is averaging 275 players a day, hitting 300 on four of the days of the week. Reported that it's been unpredictable on which days are going to be busy with changes in work from home. Staff is looking for Fall workers for the driving range once the college kids go back to school. Weather impacted the season so far being down 6.5 playable golf days due to heavy rains. The driving range did \$80,000 in June and is packed almost every day. Mobile app downloads have increased this year so far as well. The golf course is taking on less outings again this year due to the increased revenue from not hosting them. Golf Director Mannina and staff hosted a company outing on the driving range aimed at teaching their employees some swing tips and then having food and drinks with Tap House Grill inside. This has helped increase visibility to our facility for people who work locally that might not have ever been to our facility. With all the rain the golf course was only down 558 rounds for the year which is pretty good considering the week of playable days that they lost. Staff has renamed twilight golf to sunset golf to help golfers understand when they need to be off the golf course at night.

## **(b) Golf Course Maintenance**

Mike Bavier discussed the heavy amounts of rain that has been happening this year with an average of over 4 inches of rain per month. A lot of the focus of June and July has been on spraying to prevent certain diseases and insect damage, and as well as working on fixing some of the drainage on the golf course. Staff will be looking at doing drain work on hole 14 later this summer. The more drain lines we replace the less of a chance that water will sit on the grass and cause burnout on the hot summer days. Staff has been measuring the root depth this season to make sure that the grass is happy and healthy despite the weather variations that it has faced so far this season. Maintenance practices that have been put in place such as Aerification, drainage improvements, vertical cutting and top dressing the grass with sand help to make this course look great all season. Mike Bavier discussed that they have been applying growth regulators to the greens to keep the greens from getting puffy or swollen over the summer as well as grooming them and rolling them to help keep a smooth putting surface. Our range maintenance staff has been busy repairing divots as well as filling seed on the range and in the short game area. This hard work has allowed the driving range to stay open on grass 7 days a week.

Mike discussed how his team has done an incredible job all year and are in good spirits and are all looking forward to the second half of the season.

## **Q & A Golf Maintenance**

Bob Klein mentioned that he was concerned about golfers driving on the brand-new asphalt before it had time to cure. He also mentioned that he would like to see little boxes on the tee area to put broken tees in. Bob also mentioned that hole 18 bronze tee box could use a leveling and Mike mentioned that is in in the works for later this year.

Jack Butler mentioned that the ball washers should be cleaned a little more often as they seemed a little dirty.

## **(c) Learning Center**

Head Teaching Professional Domaleski reported that spring sessions of camps and classes went very well. The beginner junior classes had a 70% enrollment for the spring which happen on Sunday mornings. The Junior Masters class is always on a waitlist due to the popularity of it and staff will be looking to adjust for next year in adding more availability for that class. Drew Barnes took over the travel feeder program this year and the spring season went very well. Derek and Kris helped Drew run this class which has 15 kids on the travel team. Junior summer camp is in full swing and has only 4 more weeks left of classes. The Adult Beginner class has had waitlists for its Tuesday and Saturday classes so far this year which has led to staff considering adding more classes for next year. Derek mentioned that since the covid boom we have seen a significant increase in signups for adult beginner classes and private lessons which shows a strong interest in the game of golf.

## Q & A Learning Center

Jack Butler mentioned that there could be more information in the Proshop to advertise the program offerings at the golf course besides what is in the Park District brochure.

Bob Klein asked if there is a better way to announce to golfers of a cart path only day.

Seth Howard mentioned that the short game area is much nicer now that range balls are not allowed in that area.

Faye Solomon mentioned that the wooden fences by the short game are getting older and showing nails. Staff mentioned that they will look into replacing them.

### **(d) Tap House**

Kris Oldeen reported on how things are going with the new restaurant Tap House Grill. They are off to a great start, and everyone is loving the renovations to the interior of the restaurant. Tap House did a Mother's Day event which was very well attended, and staff gave out roses to every mother that day. Tap House has daily chalkboard specials, Bingo on Tuesday evenings, Fish Fry Fridays with live music and Kids Eat Free on Sunday's.

Tap House held a Bogies with Bluey putting event that was sold out a month in advance and has been requested to be done again soon by many people.

Tap House will be doing free hotdogs and brats during halftime of each home Bears game this year as well as doing raffle for Bears jerseys.

Later in the year plans include a 5k Run, a Santa Hustle, Kids Halloween Event, Lynford Wine and Dinner Night, Super Bowl event and a Turkey Bowling Day.

## Q & A Learning Center

Seth Howard mentioned that the Beverage Cart Staff could use more training on the proper etiquette of driving a golf cart around the golfers.

Faye Solomon suggested that Tap House should do a kid's bingo before the regular bingo on Tuesday nights.

**(5) 2024 Important Dates and Events**

Staff went over the upcoming important dates and events include:

- Cart Path Replacement - Ongoing
- Club Championship Weekend – October 5 & 6
- Chili Open & Deerfield Township Food Pantry Drive – Saturday, October 19

**(6) Other Items for Discussion**

.

**(7). The next meeting of the Golf Advisory Committee shall be held September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jewett Park Community Center.**

**(8). There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Mannina  
Director of Golf Operations