

GOLF COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 13, 2010
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT

FINAL MINUTES

Members Present: Craig Curley, Susan O'Donnell, Fred Joseph, Jordan Lustig, Jack Slane, Andrew Janis, Tammi Peterson

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Jim Alexander, Kevin Baker, Mike Duke, Ralph Butera, Ronnie Wayne, Joan Barbarich, Lou Albrecht, Members of the Public

Chairman Craig Curley called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Act on Minutes August 9, 2010

Vice-Chair Susan O'Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes. Jack Slane seconded the motion. The two sentences before the last sentence under Pro Managers Report in the Staff Reports section were removed. Under the Alcohol Policy section on page three, the following sentence, "Mr. Curley clarified that prior to June 14, 2010, there was ambiguity on what the policy meant" was reworded to: "Mr. Curley clarified that prior to June 14, 2010, there was inconsistency between the policy and the enforcement." The motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

Chairman Craig Curley said that he had not received any correspondence. Parks and Recreation Director Gerry Lombardo reported he did not receive any correspondence either.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report

Chairman Curley gave the Committee a handout on Income and Play Comparison for H. Smith Richardson and Par 3. Pro Manager Jim Alexander said August 2010 and August 2009 were pretty identical in revenues. He received a call from CSGA which wants to host the Mixed Championship next August. Fred Joseph made a motion to allow CSGA to host this event next August. Jack Slane seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Alexander wants the Committee to be aware of how block times are given out and how they are used by different groups because he believes times can be used more effectively to maximize income. He said there is no repercussion if groups don't show up and suggests each member registers their credit card. Mr. Lombardo discussed the existing policy. Mr. Curley opened up the discussion to the public. Ronnie Wayne, Fairfield Seniors Golf Association, said he puts up sign up sheets on the bulletin board two-three weeks in advance and when a member questioned why he couldn't sign up after it was taken down, he reminded the person of the policy. Joan Barbarich, President of the Women's Golf League, says she turns in her group's sign up sheet eight days in advance, but said the problem is if it's cart path only, some players can't walk.

Ralph Butera, President of the Men's Club, suggested club presidents remind members of the policy at their annual meetings. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Alexander if there was any way to update the credit cards in the system. Mr. Alexander said it's not worth doing. Mr. Curley said he wants to see clubs follow the policy, turn back open times eight days in advance, and require every group member to put their credit card on file. They would only be charged if they don't show up. Mr. Alexander said the biggest issue is not having the credit cards on file. Bev Apt, Par 3, said it's great to have the policy, but the problem with some of the older women is playing in the heat. Mrs. Barbarich asked if the cancellation is 24 hours in advance. The Committee said yes. Ms. O'Donnell made the following motion-In regards to the group block times issued by the Commission, groups will return any unused block times eight days in advance of their scheduled time, and, in addition, prior to giving out block times on an annual basis, every group must have a credit card on file at the Pro Shop. Jordan Lustig seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Regarding expired credit card information in the system, Mr. Lombardo said that when people re-register, they can include updated credit card information.

2. Administration Report

Mr. Lombardo said he's getting budgets ready and will have rates information at the next meeting. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Lombardo about the status of the softball field and the driving range. Mr. Lombardo said that TP&Z will discuss the item at its September 14, 2010 meeting and there will probably be a couple of public hearings. Mr. Curley asked for an update on the memorial benches. Mr. Lombardo said a new one for the late Selectman Ralph Bowley has been placed on the 18th hillside by the green.

3. Superintendent Report

On behalf of Peter Grace who could not attend the meeting, Mr. Alexander said Mr. Grace had aerated the front and back of nine; he's been a lot more aggressive with the top dressing; the holes have been filled in and there's new growth. Everything looks really good. The bench on six is about to be installed by the end of the week. The trees at the end of the driveway were cut down and the view is much better. Drew Janis asked about the status of the purchase of boxes. Mr. Curley said he received a call from someone wanting to donate boxes with a sticker on the side showing the name of their restaurant. Ms. O'Donnell said the Committee should be careful not to set a precedent with labels. Mr. Curley is going to let the person know the Committee will accept the donated boxes. Mr. Curley asked for a status on the cart paths that are to be redone this fall. Mr. Lombardo said that Mr. Grace told him that DPW will try one out to see how it works. Mr. Alexander said the millings have been delivered to Mr. Grace and it's just a matter of getting the contractor up there. The contractor has through October to do this.

IV. Greens Committee Report

Mr. Janis said that there's a bare spot as a result of one of Mr. Grace's machines blowing a hose. It will be gone by next spring. Mr. Curley told Mr. Janis that he should come up with a priority list of off-season projects. Mr. Janis said Par 3 is in good condition. He talked to 20-30 people and got positive feedback. Mrs. Apt asked why the fairways are torn up. Mr. Lombardo said because of skunks and crows. Mr. Curley said he and Tammi Peterson discussed the condition of Par 3 which they feel is in good shape. Ms. Peterson said that the greens and putting are different from Smith Richardson.

She said the speed is slower than Smith Richardson and it's a great course to learn on. The Committee had a brief discussion on the problem with the geese droppings. Mr. Lombardo asked for suggestions to alleviate the problem. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Lombardo to ask the Superintendent at Par 3 to discuss quickening the speed of the greens at the November commission meeting.

V. Old Business

1. Conservation IWPA 2004-11 –Report

Mr. Lombardo said he met with the Conservation Department staff. In place of dredging ponds at Smith and in order to get needed retention, 18th/10 will be enlarged and the other side of six will be made bigger. Conservation is researching putting in a retention basis down in the gully, off the fairway to capture and slow the rate of water which will drain into the woods and avoid erosion. Mr. Lombardo is hoping to see plans by mid-next month. Work may start next winter. The goal is to have DPW do the work to enlarge the ponds on three and four. Mr. Grace will build a tee adjacent to the pond or near the 4th side. The goal is to increase water capacity levels. Mr. Lombardo said Phase I will involve getting the ponds dredged, making the capacity bigger and putting the drainage in.

2. Alcohol Policy

Mr. Slane checked the concessionaire's license and said it's a restaurant liquor permit which is a limited permit with regulations. The concessionaire is allowed to sell one drink at a time per person and liquor can't be sold off the premises. In order to sell liquor on the golf course, a special exception is needed and it would be treated as a patio. Ms. O'Donnell also performed some research. She called Sterling Farms Golf Course which sells one beer per person every nine holes. The beer is bought from the concessionaire. After someone who has received a warning for abusing this policy abuses it again, they are suspended. Ms. O'Donnell did not hear back from the others she contacted. Mr. Lombardo said Simsbury Farms serves alcohol in cups and no coolers are allowed. Westport has no policy because there's no grill room. Tashua Knolls in Trumbull allows alcohol on its course and has a separate concessionaire. Mr. Curley said the Commission has to set policies and the administration, under Mr. Lombardo and Mr. Alexander, enforces these policies. He wants to reverse what the Commission decided in June and revert back to the policy as written.

Mr. Joseph asked Michael Duke if he has a special patio license if the concessionaire sells liquor outside the restaurant. Mr. Duke said he did not know. He said he is willing to work with the Commission on this policy. He said coolers are usually banned on golf courses, but if allowed, it's fair they can be inspected. Mr. Slane made a motion to reinstate rule 9, sub paragraph 11J, but to strike the word, "obviously" in that rule. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Duke asked if there have been any efforts to have a ranger on the course between 5-8/8:30 pm. Mr. Curley asked if Mr. Alexander and Mr. Grace could keep track of what they see after hours so the Commission could consider including a ranger in the budget process.

VI. New Business

Ms. O'Donnell asked when the concessionaire is up for renewal. Mr. Lombardo said the end of December, 2010. A one year option is available. Mr. Lombardo said the Commission can renew the current concessionaire's contract in November or go out to bid with the Commission's recommendation.

Mr. Slane asked about the proposed new clubhouse. Mr. Lombardo said he would ask for funding in fiscal year 2011-12. Ms. O'Donnell made a motion to work with the Purchasing Department to explore options for a concessionaire at Smith Richardson at the expiration of the current term contract. Mr. Janis seconded the motion which carried four in favor (Curley, O'Donnell, Peterson and Janis); 2 against (Slane and Lustig); and one abstention from Mr. Joseph.

VII. Public Input-None

Mr. Joseph made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. Mr. Lustig seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary