

GOLF COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, December 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: Jim Alexander, Gerry Lombardo, Peter Grace, Michael Duke, Ellen Everard, Members of the Public

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

I. Act on Minutes November 8, 2010

Jack Slane made a motion to approve the minutes. Fred Joseph seconded the motion. Ms. O'Donnell made a friendly amendment to change the date of the bid opening of the concessionaire bid to November 16. The motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

1. Conservation Dept-Driving Range Netting

Mr. Curley read a memo from the Conservation Director regarding bird mortality at the Golf Ball Netting for Practice Tee/Driving Range at Hoydens Hill Open Space Area. The memo asked the Commission to consider alternatives to protect the habitat. Mr. Slane said the memo was completely speculative. Peter Grace said he has never seen any mortality of birds on the driving range. Jim Alexander concurred with Mr. Grace. Gerry Lombardo said he had walked the area and had spoken to the Conservation Department's Open Space Manager, Ed Jones. Neither has seen any bird mortality. Mr. Jones will perform more inspections. Mr. Lombardo noted there are animals in the woods and they may be harming the birds. He does not believe the netting is harming any birds. Mr. Curley will respond by letter to the Conservation Director and will reconvene in a year, following tracking of this issue for a year.

2. Mr. Curley said that the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Inc. sent him a letter thanking H. Smith Richardson for "an extraordinary reception extended to our association for our monthly meeting that was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2010." After reading the letter, Mr. Curley submitted it for the record.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report

Mr. Alexander said H. Smith Richardson was up in almost all areas of revenues and total income went up while rounds were down. Par 3 was down 1500 rounds for the year. Mr. Alexander said he will speak to staff on how to increase business and why this has happened. Mr. Lombardo suggested first checking the numbers to see if they are correct. The courses officially closed yesterday.

2. Administration Report/Review and Vote on 2011-12 Budgets

Mr. Lombardo reviewed the proposed budgets for Par 3 and H. Smith Richardson. For Par 3, he is requesting a \$24,800 increase over last year's budget. He said many of the requested items are capital expenditures and most of the other items stayed at about the same amounts. Mr. Lombardo explained what each column meant. He noted seasonal has a \$2700 decrease. Mr. Lombardo said the cost for water went up. There is one meter for the entire complex. He said the course needs a new mower and a pick-up truck, which DPW has been trying to find. Mr. Lombardo said he'll be meeting with the First Selectman and his budget team this week.

Mr. Lombardo then reviewed the proposed budget for H. Smith Richardson. He said he's asking for a 37% increase over last year's budget. Most of the items are capital related. He anticipates some of the items being bonded which he said is part of the Ten Year Master Improvement and Financial Plan. There are increases in seasonal and special department supplies. Mr. Grace said every capital item is a need. Mr. Curley asked if any existing equipment can be auctioned online. Mr. Lombardo said he's working with the Purchasing Director on this. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Lombardo if the new putting green is budgeted. Mr. Lombardo said it's been budgeted in this year's operating budget and will be done this fiscal year. Mr. Slane made a motion to approve the 2011-12 budget for Par 3. Mr. Joseph seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Slane made a motion to approve the 2011-12 budget for H. Smith Richardson. Drew Janis seconded the motion which carried unanimously. On the revenue side, Mr. Lombardo said HSR has projected a \$17,600 decrease and Par 3 is projected to have a \$19,006 decrease. Mr. Curley asked for a status on the girl's softball field. Mr. Lombardo said the zoning process will begin in January and work should then begin either in the spring or early fall.

3. Superintendent Report

Mr. Grace said the course is now closed. He didn't get to resod the 6th fairway. The cart path on two was redone.

Mr. Grace gave an update on Conservation IWPA 2004-11. He met today with Mr. Lombardo and Scott Bartlett, DPW Supervisor regarding the dredging of the ponds. He is trying to get on the January 6, 2011 Inland Wetlands agenda and hopes with approval to start excavating on February 7, 2011. The dredging will start at three then eighteen. Three is the biggest project and he's working off of the construction sequence plan. DPW estimates 2-3 weeks to finish the dredging.

IV. Greens Committee Report

Mr. Janis said a lot of tree work was done on seven and twelve. Every tree on the side of the rock wall except one has been taken down.

V. New Business

1. Election of Officers

Mr. Slane made a motion to approve Craig Curley as Commission Chair. Mr. Janis seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Slane made a motion to approve Susan O'Donnell as Commission Vice-Chair for the remainder of her term which ends March, 2011.

Mr. Joseph seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2. Approve 2011 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Slane made a motion to accept the proposed 2011 meeting calendar and to change the year on the proposed memo from 2010 to 2011. Jordan Lustig seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. Review and Vote on 2011-12 Budgets (see item III2)

4. Golf Assoc. Tee-Time Requests for 2011

Mr. Curley said he has put together a new summary sheet on submitting a certain number of tee times. He said it will be easier for players, Mr. Alexander and the Commission to track. Mr. Lombardo thought all requests were approved at the same time. Mr. Alexander said he can go ahead and approve the ladies groups and then approve the men's and other groups after that.

VI. Old Business

1. Conservation IWPA 2004-11 –Update Report (see III. 3)

2. Concessionaire Bid –Vote on Recommendation

Mr. Slane briefly described the process, including the selection subcommittee members that included he and Mr. Curley, and the interview process. After bids opened on November 16, 2010, the Town's Purchasing Authority received bids from Michael Duke of Andrews Café and Michael Brennan of Brennan's Shebeen. The subcommittee unanimously recommended Brennan's as their choice for concessionaire. Mr. Curley asked for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Joseph made a motion to accept the subcommittee's recommendation to select Michael Brennan as the new concessionaire. Mr. Slane seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Joseph asked if the improvements Mr. Brennan will be making will be complete before the course opens. Mr. Lombardo said yes.

VII. Public Input

Ellen Everard thanked the Commission on behalf of the Woman's Golf Association for putting in the plaque at HS Richardson.

Mr. Janis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm. Mr. Slane seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary