

GOLF COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011
7:30 pm
EUNICE POSTOL RECREATION CENTER
75 MILL PLAIN ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

FINAL MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Jordan Lustig

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Jim Alexander, Peter Grace, Ralph Butera, Mike Brennan, Kieran McAlinden, Mike Harrington, Richard Ross, Joan Schmidt, Kevin Baker, Ronnie Wayne, Members of the Public

Chairman Craig Curley called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

I. Approve Minutes-January 10, 2011

Fred Joseph made a motion to approve the minutes. Jack Slane seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence-None

Mr. Curley noted a letter he and other boards and commission members received from the First Selectman and Police Chief regarding steps to avoid conflict and remain safe at town meetings.

V. New Business

The Commission heard the following item prior to the other items.

1. Introduction of New Concessionaire

Mike Brennan, the new concessionaire, introduced Kieran McAlinden and gave an update on plans for renovation. A new bar, wood floors and six televisions are part of the renovation. Mr. Curley asked if there is concern with anyone slipping on the floors. Mr. Brennan said no. Mr. Brennan anticipates opening the restaurant and bar in March with a grand opening about a week later. Mr. Curley said the Commission will discuss at its next meeting the alcohol policy for the entire course.

III. Staff Reports:

1. Pro Manager Report-Jim Alexander had no updates.

2. Administration Report-Gerry Lombardo reviewed the Income and Play Comparison reports from December and January. Mr. Alexander noted that it was a pretty bad Fall for the New England region because of the weather. Mr. Lombardo said people are using the online registration system, which is the same system as last year. Mr. Alexander is updating the website. Mr. Lombardo said the golf budget will be heard on March 16, 2011 at the joint BOS/BOF budget hearing. He discussed how much the First Selectman has proposed in the Golf budget.

3. Superintendent's Report- Peter Grace is aiming to open the course by March 1, 2011.

IV. Greens Committee Report-There was nothing to report.

V. New Business

1. See above

2. Tournament Policy-Mr. Curley said that with the new concessionaire, some organizations are starting to inquire about coming back to play at Smith. Mr. Alexander discussed the old "Outside Tournament Regulations." He said that policy was very restrictive with what dates were available for making people come back to play at Smith, but the new policy, which Mr. Lombardo shared with the Commission, is open any Monday, except Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day and Veteran's Day which makes it easier to get more groups back. Mr. Alexander encouraged a 10 am shotgun which would still make the course available after about 3:30 pm. He would like to keep larger group's 1 pm shotgun time. Mr. Alexander said he's receptive to smaller outings, such as about 40 people, playing and can accommodate them on Mondays with the new policy. Mr. Alexander then reviewed items four, six, nine and eleven in the new policy. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Alexander if he's open to the senior group taking an earlier time. Mr. Alexander said yes because the shotgun event causes logistical problems with walkers.

Mike Harrington, President of the Men's League, said there are typically 25-30 players and most of them don't walk. He doesn't see how his group can play at a start time of 10 am. His group has the choice of playing on either Mondays or Wednesdays which Mr. Alexander said is almost unheard of at other courses. Mr. Curley said he's concerned with the impact on Mondays. Mr. Harrington and Ronnie Wayne told the Commission the schedules. Mr. Curley asked if 7:30 am was a good time to start and both Mr. Harrington and Mr. Wayne said yes, but Mr. Alexander said the shotgun time has to be 7 am. Mr. Harrington was concerned he may lose some of his players if the time is 7 am on Mondays. Mr. Harrington explained how those days were chosen. He wants to keep both days which he said doesn't have to be Mondays and Wednesdays. Mr. Curley asked if just Wednesday would work and Mr. Wayne said it was hard to say. There's about 120 total members that split between either day. Mr. Alexander said this current two-day scenario makes it confusing to the public. Mr. Curley said once the website is updated, it will carry the schedule more. Jack Slane suggested the Senior Group give up Mondays or come at 7 am. Mr. Alexander noted that that would only occur if there are events. Mr. Curley asked what steps should be taken for a transition. Mr. Harrington said if a 10 am tournament is booked on Mondays then double Wednesdays or give back the 7-8 am Friday morning. Mr. Alexander said it's best to double the time on Wednesdays. Fred Joseph made a motion to accept the recommendation as presented by Jim Alexander for outside tournaments and that Mr. Alexander will work with the Senior Group to transition their golf dates from Monday/Wednesday to Wednesdays in 2012. Mr. Slane seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Lombardo said he's looking into getting a tent for tournaments.

VI. Old Business

1. Conservation IWPA 2004-11-Report- Mr. Lombardo said the Inland Wetlands Commission unanimously passed the work and granted a three year permit.

Work will start by early March on the pond on 18 and then the pond at three and four. Around October, drainage work will begin. The whole project may have to wait until October. Mr. Lombardo said that the 2004 permit is now closed.

2. Review of 10-Year Plan-Drew Janis has concerns with the budget priorities. Mr. Curley reviewed the First Selectman's guidelines for budgeting items. Mr. Lombardo said he reviewed FY 12-13 requests. Mr. Curley said in May, after the RTM vote, the Commission will readdress budget priorities.

VII. Public Input

Richard Ross asked why groups were removed from the website. Mr. Alexander said once the website is updated they will be put back on. Joan Schimdt, President of Par 3, asked who approves golf times. Mr. Alexander said the Commission does that. She also asked about plans for the Beanery and Tennis Center.

Mr. Slane made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Fred Joseph seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary