

GOLF COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011
EUNICE POSTOL RECREATION CENTER
75 MILL PLAIN ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

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

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Jim Alexander, Peter Grace, Members of the Public

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

I. Approve Minutes - March 14, 2011

Jordan Lustig made a motion to amend the minutes under Golf Course Policies to correct the vote from 8-1-0 to 6-1-0 and to state that the main motion carried with the same vote of 6-1-0. Jack Slane suggested another correction under the Greens Committee Report to read after being asked about golf cart paths, "Mr. Alexander replied in the affirmative." The sentence "Mr. Alexander said that when the course opens he plans on rolling around the paths" should be removed. *Drew Janis seconded the main motion with both amendments which carried unanimously.*

II. Communications:

1. Mr. Curley reported to the Commission that he wrote an email to First Selectman Ken Flatto regarding the posthumous honoring of Carl Dickman. He said it would be discussed under Old Business.

2. Tony Hwang was present to discuss an email that he sent to Mr. Curley regarding the practice area near the first tee. Mr. Hwang distributed pictures and suggested ways to enhance and enlarge the area to make it more inviting and more of a "hub" not only for the practice but also to watch the first tee. There was discussion with Peter Grace as to the amount of work needed; cost to take down trees, etc. Mr. Grace remarked that the trees, planted as shrubs, are overgrown and can be removed. He added that his crew could handle tree and stump removal, as well as fill but it would be wise to hire someone to do the rest. Mr. Curley thanked Mr. Hwang for his input and asked Mr. Grace to report back to the Commission with cost estimates. Mr. Hwang, understanding the cost issues, offered to look for a possible donor who might in turn receive a plaque at the site. No further action was taken.

III. Staff Reports:

1. Pro Manager Report- Jim Alexander reported that both courses opened on March 17 but since that time it has been "Stop and Go" with cold and wet weather, therefore revenues are down. He did state that locker sales are up and that he is very pleased with the renovated locker rooms. Asking for their support, Mr. Alexander explained to the Commission that the pull carts stored above the lockers are unsightly and should not be dragged through the building. He asked for a ruling to prevent this long-accepted practice. After discussion, *Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Drew Janis that storage of pull carts in both men's and ladies' locker rooms be prohibited. The motion carried unanimously.* Mr. Alexander was complimented on the improved website. Audience member, Kevin Baker asked about a tee time glitch in the software. Mr. Alexander and Mr. Lombardo were both aware of the issue and stated that this has occurred because of an upgrade that was done prior to the start of the season. There is another upgrade that may fix the issue but it will not be done until November so as not to lose this year's membership pass information.

2. Administration Report - Gerry Lombardo reported that the golf budget was heard on March 16, 2011 and that the \$98K bonding was reduced to \$50K. Peter Grace will now put together a bid package for the work. The BOF approved 1 truck and 2 of the 3 requested mowers. Mr. Lombardo will attend the RTM Sub-Ctte. meeting will follow this meeting and explained that they can only cut,

not add, to the budget though he cannot imagine any further cuts they will make. The final vote will take place on May 2. Mr. Lombardo added that he and Mr. Curley responded to recent requests from the RTM Sub-Ctte. to explain the golf revenue and expenses as they have been reported over the last 10 years determine if the courses are making or losing money. It was mentioned that Westport's Longshore generates \$1Million in revenue but that was determined to be misinformation as they in fact run at break-even or at a deficit. Mr. Curley believes that they satisfied their inquiries.

3. Superintendent's Report- Mr. Grace reported to the Commission on work done stating that paving was complete and that sod was delivered in and he will begin patching work. He hopes to begin mowing rather than rolling the greens in a day or so. Fred Joseph asked that the island area in the parking lot be reviewed as it is difficult to maneuver from the handicap spaces. Mr. Grace stated that he will mark off areas as needed. When asked about a stump on the 7th hole, Mr. Grace reported that there is a lot of work to be done by DPW in the next month and that stump will be ground and removed.

IV. Greens Committee Report- Drew Janis reported that the water is now working and cold. The rakes have been ordered and they will have one at each hole. There was discussion about the Tee cups that were purchased. It was decided to wait and evaluate the success of the ones that have been placed before buying one for each tee. Craig Curley also asked Peter Grace to make sure his staff gives consideration to all pin placements when setting the tee markers for the day.

V. New Business None

VI. Old Business- 1. Carl Dickman Memorial Naming – Mr. Curley reported that he sent a summary of the Commission's thoughts to Selectman Flatto (see attached) but had not received a response. Mr. Lombardo reported that the Bd. of Selectmen voted unanimously to name the Par 3 course the Carl J. Dickman Par 3 Golf Course. Mr. Lombardo showed a sample of signage (Green with gold lettering) to be used at the course and also reported that he plans, at the neighbors' request, to erect a sign on the corner of Old Dam and So. Pine Creek Rd. using arrows to direct to the various recreation venues in the area such as the beach; Tennis Center; ball fields; and the golf course. This same type of sign will be used at H. Smith Richardson to direct to the range, the course and Brennan's Shebeen. 2. Member Terms- Mr. Curley reported that both Fred Joseph and Susan O'Donnell's terms are complete with this meeting and as of yet he has not heard of their replacements. Mr. Lombardo reported that he believes that their replacements will be on the next Bd. of Selectman's meeting. Mr. Curley thanked both members for their service and contributions to the Fairfield golf community over their term as golf commissioners.

VII. Public Input – Mr. Ronnie Wayne congratulated the Commission on the new restaurant at the course. He complimented that food and especially likes the \$6 menu for seniors.

Mr. Janis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Mr. Slane seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ryan
Recording Secretary