

**GOLF COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011**  
**7:30 pm**  
**EUNICE POSTOL RECREATION CENTER**  
**75 MILL PLAIN ROAD**  
**FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

**FINAL MINUTES**

Members Present: Craig Curley, Jack Slane, Andrew Janis, Tammi Peterson, Jordan Lustig, Ryan Morris, Lou Albrecht  
Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Jim Alexander, Peter Grace, Kevin Baker, Ronnie Wayne, Eileen Wenzel

Chairman Craig Curley called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Mr. Curley introduced Lou Albrecht, the Commission's newest member.

I. Approve Minutes-May 9, 2011

Jack Slane made a motion to approve the minutes. Ryan Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

II. Communications

Gerry Lombardo said he received an email requesting that he attend the June 16, 2011 Conservation Commission meeting on the golf driving range netting and bird interactions. Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Curley and Peter Grace will attend this meeting. Mr. Curley said he answered a letter about carcasses found on the course. The initial request was to consider an alternative for netting. Mr. Lombardo said St. Pius sent him an email requesting the Commission lower the price because they are playing for a charity event and they are not getting the number of people they thought they would. Mr. Curley responded and explained that most tournaments are charity and the group has to pay for all of the people they anticipated would play. Mr. Lombardo said that rates will be re-done this September and the Commission can look at whether or not they are too high.

III. Staff Reports:

1. Pro Manager Report-Jim Alexander

Jim Alexander said that rounds and the driving range revenues were down because of the bad weather in May. He suggested the Commission start tracking non-residential rounds and compare revenues to those from May 2010. He said that the 2011 non-residential rounds from January to May were down by about 31% as compared to 2010. He believes the rounds are down because of the bad economy and not so much of the bad weather. He suggested that rates and programs offered to non-residents be looked at. Mr. Alexander discussed the St. Pius outing and noted that the Fairfield American Little League paid for all 88 carts and players even though they only had 57 players. He said the problem with a lot of start-up outings is the difficulty of getting everyone to play and having to shut-down the entire course which is not fair to regular patrons. Mr. Slane asked what time tournaments begin. Mr. Alexander said 10 am if there is under 116 people and 1 pm if there is over 116 people.

Mr. Morris asked what would happen if the 1 pm was pushed to 10 am. Mr. Alexander said the course would lose players. Jordan Lustig suggested public shotgun start around 7 am or 7:30 am. Mr. Alexander said that can't be done because of the cart situation, but he would try it with the senior golf league even though it would be a lot of preparation and hard to run two shotguns in one day. Mr. Alexander said he received a request from CSGA for Fairfield to host a state tournament on October 1, 2012. Mr. Alexander said this is a very prestigious event and would be good exposure for Smith. Mr. Slane made a motion to accept to agree to host the CGSA event on October 1, 2012. Mr. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Morris said that he's heard there is a reputation that it's impossible to get a tee time at Smith and suggested improving this by sending blast emails two days before events to people who have signed up for them. Mr. Curley said he's reluctant to send email blasts out because they may annoy people with multiple reminders. Mr. Alexander said that people in the system know when to play, but emails may be useful for general announcements. Drew Janis wondered if not getting a good deal at Smith instead of getting tee times is the real issue. Mr. Curley said the Commission should address the non-resident rate issue. Tammi Peterson said she hears that people are reluctant to sign up at Smith because of the pace of play. Mr. Curley said the Commission should be comparing rates against Tashua and Whitney, not The Wheel. Eileen Wenzel, Vice-President of the 18 hole players, said the course must be cost effective for seniors and she noted that the water conditions at Smith turns some people away. Mr. Curley said the water conditions will be addressed. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Morris to work with Mr. Alexander on a plan for the Commission to consider on non-resident rates.

## 2. Administration Report-Gerry Lombardo

Mr. Lombardo said that the sign for the Carl Dickman Par 3 Course has arrived and a kick-off dedication will take place in July. Mr. Curley asked about the status of the putting green at Par 3. Mr. Lombardo said it is all sodded and will open in about three weeks. Kevin Baker said there is no air conditioning in the men's locker room. Mr. Lombardo said by July, if not sooner, an air conditioning unit will be put in.

## 3. Superintendent's Report- Peter Grace

Mr. Grace said he will look into the stakes on seven. There was an incident with kids throwing firecrackers off 13 and that may be why the stakes are down. The engineering department is working on permits for the drainage by the bunkers. He's trying to top dress the greens and got the irrigation system up and running on the front side. The bid for construction work went to Harborview and work on the bunkers should start at the end of June or beginning of July. Mr. Grace said a lot of bunkers need to be worked on. Mr. Curley asked if there is other drainage work to be done this fall. Mr. Grace said he has to have the pond drained first. Mr. Lombardo said he wants that work done by November, before winter, so there could be construction taking place while the course is being used. The pond drainage work will last for about 15-20 days.

## IV. Greens Committee Report-Drew Janis

Mr. Janis said the cups are too deep. Almost all bunkers need to be done. In general, the course is in good shape and he's getting very positive feedback.

#### V. New Business

Mr. Lustig noted the passing of Charles O'Leary, a former Golf Commission Chair. Mr. Lustig made a motion that the Commission acknowledges with sorrow the passing of Charles O'Leary. Mr. Morris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### VI. Old Business

Mr. Lombardo gave the Commission a copy of the feasibility study on the clubhouse. He recommends a subcommittee is formed to review the study. Mr. Curley noted that the previous subcommittee was never disbanded. Mr. Slane, Mr. Curley, Ms. Albrecht, Ralph Butera and Kevin Baker will serve on the subcommittee. Mr. Curley asked Ms. Wenzel to speak to her club's president about having a representative join the subcommittee. Mr. Lombardo noted that Chief of Staff Tom Bremer, he and Purchasing Director Twig Holland attended these meetings. Mr. Curley suggested the subcommittee meet about two weeks from tonight at 7:30 pm at the Recreation Center and then at 6:30 pm prior to each golf commission meeting. Mr. Lustig made a motion that Jack Slane, Craig Curley, Lou Albrecht represent the subcommittee on the feasibility study. Mr. Janis seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Curley asked about the parking lot at Smith. Mr. Alexander said it's not as much of a problem as everyone thought. Repeat customers are learning the new traffic pattern and so he will continue with that pattern.

#### VII. Public Input-None

Mr. Lustig made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Mr. Janis seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary