

Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, July 11, 2011
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT

Members Present:) Jack Slane, Tammi Peterson, Drew Janis, Lou Albrecht, Ryan Morris, Jordan Lustig, Craig Curley (arrived 7:45 pm)

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Peter Grace, Richard Ross, Marvin Taylor, Ralph Butera, Kevin Baker, Paul Hiller

Vice-Chairman Jack Slane called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

II. Act on Minutes June 13, 2011

Ryan Morris made a motion to approve the minutes. Lou Albrecht seconded the motion. Jordan Lustig made an amendment to replace “tournaments” with “public shotgun starts around” in the third sentence on page two. In section V, Mr. Lustig noted that Mr. O’Leary was the Golf Commission Chair and that the Commission acknowledges “with sorrow” the passing of Charles O’Leary. Drew Janis seconded the amendment which carried unanimously. The motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

II-Communications-None

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report-Jim Alexander said the income and play comparison numbers are pretty close to the numbers from June, 2010. There were a lot of events in the last few weeks and all of them ran smoothly. Mr. Alexander said that he was asked by a player from the women’s golf group to pass on to the Commission the course is too difficult to play so could additional tee boxes be added for the 9 hole group which will help the pace of play. Mr. Alexander would like to discuss this further as the season winds down. Mr. Slane asked if new tee areas would need to be created. Mr. Alexander said yes and it will involve some cost and labor. He also said that two holes—the 1st and the 6th—are very difficult. Mr. Alexander said that the USGA is pushing for a play it forward which involves playing appropriate distances for a person’s handicap. Mr. Morris noted that non-resident numbers are still down 10%. Mr. Alexander said resident rounds are up, but at Par 3, they are down by 15%. Mr. Janis asked if the bad economy is a key factor in numbers being down. Mr. Alexander said that is correct. Mr. Lustig asked that members receive the income and play comparison numbers before the meetings. Gerry Lombardo said usually members do receive this information in advance. Mr. Slane asked if the calendar is on the website. Mr. Alexander said the calendar tab is on the website, but not every item is listed because it would look like the course is filled up and that could deter players. Mr. Morris asked if the cart revenue is down because of the cart path only. Mr. Alexander said the numbers are not all related to only the cart path.

2. Administration Report-Mr. Lombardo said that page two of the income and play comparison report should say June instead of May. He emailed Mr. Morris information on the rates. He,

Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Morris will meet to review the rates. Craig Curley noted that Richter Golf Course offers a \$14 rate for juniors to encourage kids to play. Mr. Alexander said that it's his intent to draw people from out of town back to our golf courses on a consistent basis, not just one time. Mr. Curley asked about Fairfield bringing in Easton, but Mr. Lombardo noted there are other inland towns to consider. Mr. Slane suggested raising the non-resident rate to \$1000 but playing for just \$10. Mr. Lombardo said he'll have numbers by the September meeting.

3. Superintendent Report- Mr. Curley asked if there is a list of bunker priorities. Mr. Janis said the first six holes will be done. Mr. Lombardo said he advertised the legal notice from Inland Wetlands that needs to perform the bunker work. The notice needs to be advertised for one day in the paper and we must wait 15 days before work can proceed. Mr. Curley said three and nine will be done first. He would like to see the 12th tee finished and expanded and then have it get fill and sod dropped. Mr. Alexander repeated that he had been approached by the ladies players to shorten up some holes and build a ladies tee box on some holes.

IV. Greens Committee Report

Mr. Lombardo said the greens look terrific. Mr. Curley said some RTM members emailed him because they were surprised that some bunkers were not pumped. Mr. Curley explained to them the amount of manpower that is available, especially after a big storm. Mr. Morris told Mr. Janis that there is some leaking on the 7th green. Mr. Janis said this problem is being worked on. Mr. Janis also said that the cuts in cups are not consistent which is not good for the green. He said there is not enough sand in some of the bunkers. Mr. Lombardo explained that now that the new fiscal year has begun, there is money to start working on this matter. Mr. Janis said that he believes people are not marking the divots and it's important to replace them. He suggests putting up signs or mentioning this to the rangers. Mr. Alexander said that people do put back the divots and he believes crows flip them over. Mr. Lombardo said he will speak to Mr. Grace about these issues. Mr. Janis suggested either full-time employees or high school students put sand in the divots. Mr. Slane said that if full-time employees do this they may not be able to perform another job like mowing. Mr. Lombardo said sand for the bunkers was ordered last week. Mr. Janis said the sign regarding alcohol has not been changed. Mr. Alexander said he will inform Mr. Grace about this. Mr. Lombardo said to go ahead and remove the sign. Mr. Morris said the 9th tee marker is a huge liability. Mr. Curley suggested moving it to the other side of the cart path.

V. New Business

Ralph Butera said he is frustrated that the computer in the starter booth doesn't work. Mr. Curley suggested running an overhead cable. Mr. Lombardo will talk to the IT department.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Lombardo said the Par 3 sign that was named after the late Carl Dickman has been installed and there is also a new fence and new gate. Jennifer Carpenter said the date of the unveiling of the sign will be either July 27 or August 1 at 6 pm and she will let everyone know the confirmed date after she hears back from Maureen Dickman, Carl's daughter. Mr. Lombardo said the putting green is not open yet.

VII. Public Input

Marvin Taylor asked about plans to move the mats at the driving range. Mr. Alexander said they are on order.

Mr. Janis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Mr. Slane seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary