

**Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, December 12, 2011
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT**

Members Present: Jack Slane; Ryan Morris; Jordan Lustig; Craig Curley; Tammi Peterson; Drew Janis and Lou Albrecht

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Gerald Lombardo; Jim Alexander and Peter Grace

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

II. Act on Minutes November 14, 2011

Motion: Ryan Morris made a motion, seconded by Tammi Peterson to approve the minutes with the following correction as requested by Mr. Alexander: Pro Manager Report: should read "HSR" is running specials rather than He. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously 7-0-0.

II- Communications-

1. Chairman Curley explained that Jack Slane had emailed the Commission a few thoughts and Mr. Curley wanted to be sure that it became part of the Public record. (see attached). He will discuss it later in the meeting as it pertains to rates.

2. Chairman Curley also sent a survey to the Commissioners to gauge their opinions on various rate ideas. (See attached). This too will be discussed later in the meeting.

3. Chairman Curley received an email from Michael Burke (see attached) and since it gave ideas as to Sterling Farm's Non-Resident rates, he would like the members to review it and give it thought later in the meeting as well.

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to table these three communications until the Old Business portion of the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0-0

4. Par 3 Senior Schedule for 2012- Mr. John Pynch was present to present the request and Chairman Curley explained that this would likely come before the Commission in February with the other schedules.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that November was a better weather month and that is reflected in the rounds. Rounds are up 600 at HSR and 300 at Carl Dickman Par 3.

Carl Dickman Course closed on Dec 9 and HSR will close on Sunday, Dec. 18.

2. Administration Report- Mr. Lombardo reported that he will make his report during the Budget section under New Business.

3. Superintendent Report – Peter Grace reported that the 3rd hole pond dredging will be done at the end of the week and they will move on to the 6th hole. They will also begin the 18th hole pond dredging. They are using the fill up at the range. At the 6th tee they are planning to move the tee forward at the water course area. He will be expanding the 10th tee and leveling off the ladies tee bringing it closer to the pond. When the pond work is complete they will return to the 10th and 18th hole dredging and weather permitting be done at the end of January. When the permits come through for holes 2 and 11, they will go there and if money is still available they will do whatever work can be done. Chairman Curley asked him to prioritize and to stay on task with one project at a time whenever possible to complete and then move on.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis reported that he is pleased with all the work that’s being done but would like a financial reporting to see where they stand with the projects. He would like to be able to tell golfers, who ask about certain holes, what will and won’t be completed and when. A prioritization would also be helpful. Mr. Lombardo has already asked for that reporting from Mr. Grace and will share it when he receives it. Mr. Lombardo explained that the pond dredging is a larger job than anticipated and that the 2nd hole which is important to everyone will be completed as soon as the permits come through, hopefully in March or April.

V. New Business

1. **Elect 2012** – *Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lustig to re-elect Craig Curley as Chairman. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0-0*

Motion: Ms. Albrecht made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lustig to re-elect Jack Slane as Vice-Chairman. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0-0

2. **Set 2012 Meeting Calendar** - *Motion: Ryan Morris made a motion, seconded by Jack Slane to approve the 2012 calendar of meetings. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0-0*

3. **Review and Vote on 2012/2013 Budgets** – Mr. Lombardo presented the 2012-13 Budgets to the Commission explaining all the pertinent information and that \$3.3 million dollars of the HSR budget is for the clubhouse renovation. He fully expects that if that is retained it will be done as a bonded item, therefore removed from the Department’s budget. When asked by Mr. Janis about the status of the renovation project, Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that he expects to know more in January and that if approved it would likely take the same route as the renovation of the Penfield Pavilion; a building committee would be formed as an out reach of the Town Facilities Cttee. and that it would likely be made up of two Golf Commission members, the Pro, the Superintendent, Mr. Lombardo and a few members of the TFC. The members noted that over the years, previous to the last two years, the two courses have been able to make a surplus and that they hope to now put that money back into the club through the ongoing projects and hopefully the renovation to continue to provide a good product to the community.

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Lou Albrecht to approve the 2012-13 Carl J Dickman Budgets. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0-0

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Lou Albrecht to approve the 2012-13 H. Smith Richardson budget. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0-0

Mr. Lombardo reminded the members that these budgets are subject to change throughout the budget process.

VI. Old Business

1. **Fee Structure – Vote** Chairman Curley reviewed all three items from the tabled communications section; an email from Mr. Slane enumerating his thoughts and suggestions for the rates suggesting to leave the passes alone and raise greens fees \$1 across the board. He also felt “Twilight rates” would be beneficial. Mr. Curley’s survey was addressed one question at a time and discussed, in order to gain feedback from each member. He also explained the informative email regarding Sterling Farms Non-Resident Card in Stamford. Following a lengthy discussion Mr. Curley took each rate item and asked for discussion and then a vote.

1. **ID cards-** It was decided to take no further action on the ID cards and to leave the 5-2 vote from the Nov. meeting, increasing the cost of IDs for adults and seniors from \$35 to \$50. The Jr. ID would increase from \$25 to \$30.

2. **Friday consideration as Weekend or Weekday** – No action was taken.

3. **Twilight Rates** – After discussion it was decided to table this until next month when Mr. Alexander can present some possible ideas. All felt that advertising was key to success.

4. Res/Non-Res Greens Fees –

***Motion:** Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Janis to raise the Resident greens fees \$1 at H. Smith Richardson. The motion was approved 6-1 Mr. Lustig opposed.*

***Motion:** Mr. Lustig made a motion to raise the rates for only 18 holes, but hearing no second that motion did not go forward.*

***Motion:** Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Slane to leave all non-resident rates as they are. The motion was approved unanimously.*

***Motion:** Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Albrecht to leave all Carl J Dickman rates as they are. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0*

5. Carts- The fleet was discussed and members agreed that they did not want to raise the rate until a new fleet came in a year or two.

***Motion:** Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lustig to leave all cart prices the same: \$15 per rider for 18 holes and \$9 per rider for 9 holes. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0*

6. Season Pass Rates –There was a great deal of discussion regarding the non-resident season passes as members feel that an effort must be made to entice non-residents to make HSR their home course.

***Motion:** Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Albrecht to price the Adult Resident Season Pass at \$360 and \$15 per/round. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0*

***Motion:** Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Albrecht to price the Senior Resident Season Pass at \$185 and \$12 per/round on M-Fri only. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0*

***Motion:** Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peterson to price the Senior Non-Resident Season Pass at \$250 and \$22 per/round. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0*

***Motion:** Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Albrecht to price the Adult Non-Resident Season Pass at \$500 and \$28 per/round. The motion was approved 6-0-1. Mr. Lustig abstained.*

VII. Public Input – Audience members, Mike Herrington and Kevin Baker gave their approval of all the decisions throughout the meeting. .

Ms. Albrecht made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan
Recording Secretary