

**Town of Fairfield, Connecticut**  
**Golf Commission**  
**Monday, January 9, 2012**  
**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 and Drew Janis

Members Absent: Lou Albrecht

Others Present: Gerald Lombardo; Jim Alexander and Peter Grace

Chairman Craig Curley called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**II. Act on Minutes** December 12, 2011

*Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Drew Janis to approve the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0-0.*

**II- Communications-**

Chairman Curley took league tee time requests from audience members and stated that these requests would be considered at the Feb. meeting

**III. Staff Reports**

**1. Pro Manager Report** - Jim Alexander reported that December was a good month overall with almost 1000 rounds at HSR bringing in almost \$20K more in revenue than in 2010. The course closed on Sunday, Dec. 18.

**2. Administration Report** - Mr. Lombardo reported that he met with First Selectman, Mike Tetreau to review his budget request. Mr. Tetreau took the Clubhouse request out of the budget and may move that to a Bonding request. He placed the \$105 Bunker Request in Non-Recurring Capital and also deferred several Capital requests but put \$96K forward in capital requests. He did not have an opportunity to discuss the Clubhouse but he and Chairman Curley will be meeting with Mr. Tetreau again on 1/19/12 to review the specifics of the budgets as well as the revenue and marketing strategy for increasing revenue. At that time, they will probably get a better idea of where golf stands in the overall capital expense plan of the Town.

**3. Superintendent Report** – Peter Grace reported that there has been “a lot of action at the course”, between the dredging, the new tees and the disposal of fill from the ponds. They should be done with hole #3 in a few weeks and will move to the other side. Holes 18 and 6 will be done on 1/10. They have met with some issues on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole with regard to a gas line pipe. They are working through it. He continues to look for appropriate places to use the fill. Several suggestions were made from the members. Mr. Lombardo explained that he had met with Mr. Grace and Walt Stapleton and that they are looking at making improvements to the first tee and putting green with the fill but they are not looking to remove the arbor vitae trees in the area. He feels they are needed for buffer. Already they will be adding 3000 sq. ft without taking out the trees. Sodding was discussed and Mr. Grace was not concerned that the new areas would be unsightly. Mr. Grace also stated that he would email the financial standing of the projects to Mr. Janis.

**IV. New Business**

**1. League Tee Time Reservations For 2012** – Chairman Curley asked the members to consider Mr. Alexander’s proposal of limiting league block times to every other week as many are not being used and no shows are also a problem. All groups other than the HSR 3 Ladies 9-hole league were present in the audience. Some suggestions were to have the leagues play a modified shot gun. This would also assist in keeping the league together in order to enjoy lunch/dinner afterwards. After a lengthy discussion, the Commission took no action to change the present policy.

Chairman Curley also asked the Commission to discuss the agreed upon “Tournament” rate. Evidently, Mr. Alexander is often asked for special rates by groups and it puts him and his staff in an uncomfortable position. Mr. Jordan agreed that it should not be left up to the Pro. Ms. Peterson agreed that if there is a Tournament rate, then he should abide by that. However, during the discussion, a specific tournament that the HSR Senior League participates in, with Tashua Knolls and Richter Park was discussed. When this league goes to these other two courses, they are charged that courses’ resident rate. They want to be able to reciprocate this offer. Ms. Peterson understood that this makes it tough not to reciprocate. The Women’s leagues stated that they too would like to be able to offer special rates to visitors.

Motion: Mr. Curley asked for a vote as to whether they should allow the Fairfield Senior Club to offer resident rates for the Tashua/ Richter Interclub Tournament.

Vote 5-1 (J. Slane Opposed) Motion Passed.

**2. “Off-Season” Ice Rink Proposal** – Chairman Curley explained to the members that in December he had gone to the Parks & Recreation Commission to garner support for the possibility of creating an off-season ice rink at HSR and partnering with the Golf Commission on the project. He explained that if the new clubhouse proposal goes forward he and Mr. Lombardo had been exploring the idea and felt that if it was agreed upon, it should go forward as part of that larger plan. He distributed a schematic plan with possible locations explaining that at no time would he put forth a plan that would negatively impact the course or play. Presently, the estimate, including the Clubhouse, Parking lot, Cart Barn and the rink would total \$4 million. Mr. Lombardo explained HSR is the most logical location for a rink since the amenities such as restrooms; restaurant; skate shop (Clubhouse) and patio are already there. If the bonding for the clubhouse goes forward, then they would put the plumbing in the lot before they pour the concrete. He added that his Recreation Commission was extremely interested and felt a larger rink might be the best idea in order to bring in revenue from leagues Mr. Janis said his support might depend on the type of revenue that the rink could bring in. Ms. Peterson wanted to be sure of the location and that it didn’t impinge on the new clubhouse. All agreed that the concept was a good one but if the plan goes forward, they will want to see an architect’s vision of the proper location for it before approving it.

**V. Old Business** Mr. Morris noted neither the website nor the new brochure reflect the new Carl J. Dickman name on the Par 3 Course. Mr. Alexander noted that this is a Front Page change that he needs to work with the website company and there will be a charge. Mr. Lombardo stated that it will be done as will the brochure change.

**VI. Greens Committee Report** – Mr. Janis asked that in the future, if there is a new proposal regarding the course, (eg. the ice rink) that he and the other members be given a “heads up”, as he had to field a few questions after the rink proposal hit the media. Chairman Curley apologized stating that he wanted to be sure he had support from the Parks & Recreation Commission before he went any further with the proposal.

**VII. Public Input** – Members from the Par 3 Women’s League asked about the status of the Tennis Building. Mr. Lombardo explained that they are not yet prepared to take down the building but it is

imminent, he added that they would not have access to a building this summer. Ralph Butera suggested that they use the portable Score Board that is presently housed at HSR. All agreed that this might be a good plan. Mr. Butera also let the Commission know that this is going to be the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HSR Course.

Mr. Janis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan  
Recording Secretary