

Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, February 13, 2012
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT

Members Present: Jack Slane; Ryan Morris; Craig Curley; and Drew Janis
Members Absent: Lou Albrecht, Tammi Peterson and Jordan Lustig
Others Present: Gerald Lombardo; Jim Alexander and Peter Grace

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

Chairman Curley let the Commission and audience know that Ms. Albrecht was recovering from an injury and would not be able to attend meetings for a few months. They all wished her a speedy recovery.

I. Act on Minutes January 9, 2012

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to approve the minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously 4-0-0.

II- Communications-

1. Chris Mira – Greens Farms Academy Request- Jim Alexander stated that he had spoken to Mr. Mira and that GFA needed a new “Home Course” and were asking for the use of H.S. Richardson for two home matches and practice M-F beginning at 3:45. There was lengthy discussion as to whether the realized income would outweigh any frustration felt by those who wish to play at that hour when the course already hosts 8 Fairfield high school teams.

Chairman Curley made a motion to modify the proposed request by permitting access to HSR twice a week and supplementing that with access to the Driving Range and CJD Par 3, at the discretion of the Pro as well as adding rounds where he can accommodate them four days in advance where available. There was no second to this motion. Motion Failed and no further action was taken on this request.

2. League Block-Time Requests - Chairman Curley stated that he had received league tee time requests from the 6 Leagues including Ladies Club/CJD from Beth Randall who handed it to him at the meeting. He asked that, for the future, the Commission members consider allowing the requests be forwarded to the Pro for his handling as long as the requests are in compliance with the guidelines, rather than requiring the yearly approval of the Commission. The members agreed as did the Club members in the audience. They will continue to submit in the Jan/Feb timeframe.

Chairman Curley explained that this year there was an exception to the Men’s Club request that needed to be addressed. It is HSR’s turn to host (once every 9or10 years) the 2012 Greater District Golf Tournament in September for approximately 108 players.. They request:

27 tee times on Mon., 9/10/12

6 tee times on Sat., 9/15/12 am

3 tee times on Sat., 9/15/12 pm

2 tee times on Sun., 9/16/12 am

1 tee time on Sun., 9/16/12 pm

They would also like to be able to offer greens fees at no charge as this is how it is handled by other clubs who host this event. This is the 4th time that HSR has hosted, always at no charge. They will pay a certain set fee for carts, food, and prizes. The Concession will be used as well as the Pro Shop for all prizes.

Mr. Slane moved, seconded by Mr. Janis to approve this block of times with the understanding that there will be no greens fees charged for this tournament to be held in September, 2012.

The motion was approved unanimously 4-0-0.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that the website has been updated to reflect Carl Dickman Par 3 and no more mention of South Pine Creek. He also added tabs for links to the Clubs/Leagues and asked that they all keep their sites clean and up-to-date. He also asked that their applications be placed on their sites as well.

Mr. Morris asked about the new interest in “grow the game” idea generators that are being discussed by the PGA and others as ways to address the decline in golf. Mr. Alexander said he was aware of the initiative and will keep the members aware of any ideas that he feels are worthwhile and might be implemented in Fairfield.

2. Administration Report - Mr. Lombardo reported that they have sold 75 IDs so far in January. He let the Commission know that this week in his absence, Peter Grace and Chairman Curley will be attending the BOF meeting asking for the approval of the \$105K Bunker Restoration funding. The meeting will take place Thursday 2/16/12 at the BOE Center at 7pm if anyone would like to attend. Mr. Curley remarked that he will briefly educate the new BOF members of the 10-year plan without going into detail. He believes it is a “fluid plan” and after tweaking it over the next several months he will bring it back to them for review. Mr. Lombardo added that Mr. Tetreau would prefer that they put together a “presentation” not asking for the funds for the new clubhouse, etc, but rather showing the Town Boards the preliminary plans and getting important feedback from them before making a more formal presentation and request for funding.

3. Superintendent Report – Peter Grace reported that there continues to be a great deal of work at the course. The ponds are dredged and enlarged. There are many piles of soil left and they will be used on the 10th and 6th tees. They should be completed by spring. Following that work he will turn to the 18th fairway and work on the drainage at the 2nd hole after approval from the Conservation Comm. He has rented a bulldozer for the next month to help complete a lot of the work. A discussion took place regarding installing a split rail fence on the 4th hole around the pond for safety reasons. Options such as a thorny shrub or boulders were also discussed. It was decided that Mr. Lombardo would consult the Town atty. for legal advice. Mr. Grace added that the parking lot would be cleaned up and paved where needed prior to the course opening.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis credited Mr. Grace for the work done and asked that at the March meeting the members be given an “Action Plan” or priority list for the remaining money and, or the \$105K, if approved. Mr. Lombardo reminded the members that even though they seem to have approximately \$30,000 left over, some of the remaining projects, such as 2nd hole, will require more than simple bunker work.

V. New Business

1. FOI/ Robert’s Rules of Order Meeting – Chairman Curley asked Commission secretary, Joan Ryan to inform the members of a recent meeting that she attended on this topic. She explained that the meeting highlighted the importance of FOI and the need to steer away from emails or gatherings of members which could be considered illegal meetings. She gave the chairman handouts from the meeting.

2. No-Shows - Chairman Curley made a suggestion that the Pro track league and club “no shows” throughout the season and then limit their next year’s request by that number, with every 4 “no shows” equaling one lost tee time. Each year they would begin with the agreed upon number and work back

from there. This would take effect whether or not the Pro could fill the open slot. The club members in the audience agreed and also felt that being charged the \$25 was warranted.

Mr. Curley moved, seconded by Mr. Slane to institute tracking no-shows and accumulating the data to share with the clubs, whereby every four no shows would constitute one tee time taken from the club in the following year. The motion was approved unanimously 4-0-0.

VI. Old Business None

VII. Public Input – None

VIII. Executive Session

Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Contract at 8:30pm

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Janis to come out of Executive Session at 8:43.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Curley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Slane to recommend a contractual increase for the Golf Pro. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Janis to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan

Recording Secretary