

Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, May 14, 2012
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT

Members Present: Craig Curley; Jack Slane; Ryan Morris; Tammi Peterson; Jordan Lustig 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 7:30 pm.

I. Act on Minutes: April 9, 2012

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to approve the minutes with the following corrections as noted by Peter Grace under the Superintendent's report:

*Work on 10 and 16- should read work on 10 and **6th tee***

*And the pond on the 7th should read – and the **open water course** on the 7th*

The motion was approved unanimously 6-0-0.

II- Communications

1. Rep. Tony Hwang- Caddy Rule – Chairman Curley read the attached letter and then Mr. Alexander's response to that request as well as the following request from Mr. Wm. Harke who asked about related Youth Golf issues. The caddy rule as stated in the approved rules and regulations is as follows:

Caddies must register in the pro shop on the day they are caddying. The Pro Manager will be responsible for verifying that the caddie has requisite knowledge and instruction in duties to be performed and that the caddie is properly attired and equipped to perform his services. Caddies must be at least 12 years old and must be carrying one or two player's bags.

This sparked a discussion among the members as to whether or not this rule left Mr. Alexander in an untenable position of really not knowing whether or not a youngster was knowledgeable. Some members felt that this was an ideal time for sons/daughters to learn the game of golf with a parent. Others, including Mr. Alexander felt that after the age of 12 they can be paying greens fees and also there was a pace of play concern. Mr. Ralph Butera, Hitching Post Ln. explained that historically, the caddy rule was used strictly for tournaments and special events and that the public course was not the place for caddies. Some members were concerned that often the foursome does not know each other and may not appreciate a caddy being present. Chairman Curley asked that Mr. Lombardo reach out to neighboring Public Courses to see how they handle caddies. After no motion was made the members agreed to take the issue up next month under old Business.

2. William Harke- Youth Golf Opportunities – Mr. Morris spoke on behalf of Mr. Harke who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Harke who has three young boys asked about opportunities for making the courses in Fairfield more "Kid Friendly" as he feels that Fairchild Wheeler is. He cited US Kids, allowing strollers on the courses and giving free IDs to children 12 and younger. Mr. Lombardo responded by stating that he feels that the Commission has made great strides to include young children and added that the Carl J Dickman Par 3 is a perfect training ground however he does not agree with the options that Mr. Harke suggested. Mr. Alexander agreed stating that he is most concerned with pace of play on such a busy course and that during his tenure as Pro he has not turned away any child under 12 who has proven themselves qualified. Mr. Curley added that perhaps in the Fall when rates

are being discussed, they can look at adjusting prices for kids. Mr. Morris stated that he would let Mr. Harke know the Commission's feelings on the matter.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that April was an excellent month and that he is pleased with the work his staff is doing.

2. Administration Report – Mr. Lombardo reported that the budget has been approved and with the RTM cut of \$850K from the Town Contingency Fund, he imagines that the First Selectman will probably be looking for specific items to fill that gap. He will be meeting with him next week

3. Superintendent Report – Peter Grace reported that they sodded the range and while it needs a little more grooming it should be ready for Memorial Day weekend. There is still some work to be done on 18. With the excessive amount of rain they have been trying to keep up with the cutting. Zach will be starting work on the 10th he and it should take approx. 3 weeks. That hole will see work similar to the work done on the 18th hole. Work will then move to 2 and then 7. Work on 9th tee along with the bunkers would take place after that. Chairman Curley asked that Mr. Janis be kept apprised of the work and when schedules change. Mr. Morris questioned when the second cut would be made to the roughs. Mr. Grace stated that they would start that around Memorial Day. When asked about the wall around the pond on 18, Mr. Grace stated that it was a fiscal issue at this point but when funds were available he would start work there. The recent goose problem was discussed and many felt that if you don't stop the problem early, it becomes increasingly difficult to manage.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis asked Mr. Grace about the possibility of putting in stairs on the 10th hole on the side of the tee. Mr. Grace agreed with that plan and will implement it. Mr. Janis also asked about water fountains and was told by Mr. Grace that he has purchased 6 large and simple coolers to be placed on every few holes and should have them in a week or so. They will discuss the locations. All members agreed that the course is in very good shape.

V. New Business - None

VI. Old Business - None

VII. Public Input –

1. Ellen Everard requested that the Ladies Club be given permission to charge Resident rates for their Member-Guest to be held on July 12. After discussion as to what other clubs at HSR have been permitted, the members felt that on event per club was a good arrangement and helps the groups who support the club all year long.

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to allow the Women's Club at HSR to charge Resident rates for their July Member-Guest Tournament.

The motion was approved unanimously 6-0-0.

2. Richard Ross -144 Federal St. asked if, on the 18th hole, they can begin to allow carts halfway down the fairway. Mr. Grace responded that now that the work is complete he will take care of that and in time they will be permitted to go all the way along the fairway.

3. Nancy Leguere of the Par 3 Ladies Club thanked Mr. Lombardo for the shoe brush but stated that the hose needs more air pressure in order to work better. Mr. Grace will follow-up on that. She also asked about putting boxes on the holes for broken tees. Members stated that this was done at HSR but was not utilized. Mr. Lombardo reported that the contract for the New Building at the tennis Center was to

be signed in the next few days and work should start in late June. the following day. He stated that they could have a picnic table near the bulletin board.

*Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lustig to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.
The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan
Recording Secretary