

Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, December 10, 2012
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT

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

Members Absent: Lou Albrecht

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo; Jim Alexander and Peter Grace

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

I. Act on Minutes: November 5, 2012

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

II- Communications – Requests for Block Tee Times were given by HSRWGA and the Sr. Par 3 League. The requests were passed onto Jim Alexander.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that November was not a very good month due to the poor weather, hurricane, etc. Mr. Alexander handed the members a packet (see attached) and asked to address a few issues:

1. 2012 CSGA/GHIN Statistics - Let the Commission know that HSR has posted the most total rounds by club members.

2. The CSGA has a Value Pass program that will advertise for “member clubs” and allow them to get news out about specials, etc. The service is free and is a means of attracting new players to the course. Commission members were concerned that the users could print out as many coupons as they wished. They thought that using it to advertise the Fall Special was a good idea. There was also discussion about how many rounds the course, which is at close to 44,000 rounds now, can handle. Many would like to increase the non- resident use which has decreased to 27% from a previous 33% of play. It was decided that Mr. Alexander would contact the CSGA rep. to see when any decision needs to be made.

3. Resident application from Tashua Knolls was distributed by Mr. Alexander who asked that they suspend online renewals for IDs and Passes in the coming year in order to be sure that those renewing are in fact still Town residents. He noted that this was done 5 years ago and since has not been verified. Members liked the idea as well as the idea that the application would be signed and certified by two forms of ID. It would verify email and also force the applicant to choose the membership that they wanted.

Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by Jordan Lustig that for the 2013 season, the requirements for any type of membership or ID necessitate that application be made in person, showing two forms of identification as stipulated in the Rules and Regulations.

The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Mr. Alexander also noted that golfers are not keeping their IDs on their person and the staff has to look them up in the computer system. He wondered if at some time the Commission should attach a fee to issuing replacement cards. No action was taken.

2. Administration Report – Mr. Lombardo reported that there have been two incidents that he is aware of with regard to parties taking place at Brennan’s Shebeen restaurant during golf operations. The two incidents involved 50-75 children with some running throughout the locker room, on the putting green etc. Mr. Lombardo will be meeting with Kieran McAlinden to go over the contract and to be sure he adheres to the rules in the future.

Mr. Lombardo then presented the budgets for the two courses as he did last month, explaining any changes now including Salary and Benefits line items and that he would be meeting with Mr. Tetreau for the first meeting on December 21. For HSR, while asking for a total of \$186K in capital items, he hopes for approval of the Fairway Mower and a likely total budget increase of \$40K. At CJD Par 3 he asked for no capital expenses and expects a decrease of \$16K.

Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by Drew Janis to approve the proposed budgets as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Lombardo explained that he’ll be evaluating the revenues after the fee determination is made later in the meeting.

Mr. Lombardo explained that the Management position for Peter Grace’s Staff is still being discussed.

3. Superintendent Report – Peter Grace reported that they are still doing hurricane clean-up. They are getting fence estimates and estimates to repair the damaged Maintenance building. They have hired a company to haul away the large trees, etc. They have a stump grinder and will continue working on that. Mr. Slane asked about replacing the yardage markers and Mr. Grace agreed. He also let the members know that after an estimate of \$1800, the parking lot would be relined with spacing and crosswalks in March. The Driving Range and Par 3 are both closed and the Commission agreed to keep HSR open so long as weather permits (at the discretion of Jim Alexander, Peter Grace and Gerry Lombardo) but will remain open no later than Sunday, Dec 23.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis asked Mr. Grace about the work that Zach has been doing and when he was expected to return to continue work. Mr. Grace reported that there is approximately \$16K left to spend and they hoped to do the 2nd and 8th tees and then perhaps the two bunkers on the 12th hole. Mr. Lombardo reported that the postponed Bonding meeting had not yet been rescheduled.

V. New Business –

1. Election of 2013 Officers

Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to nominate Craig Curley as Chairman for 2013. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ryan Morris made a motion, seconded by Tammi Peterson to nominate Jack Slane for Vice Chairman for 2013. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Set 2013 Meeting Calendar - *Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to approve the 2013 meeting calendar as presented (see attached). The motion was approved unanimously.*

3. Golf Carts – Mr. Lombardo explained that several weeks ago, 16 of the 30 carts that went out onto the course were not able to come back in due to battery issues. He has spoken to Club Car and they will be sending someone to test all the batteries in order to see the extent of the issue. The lease runs out in October, 2013 and there may be the option of going out to bid to see if someone will buy out the remainder of the lease. It is anticipated to increase the Budget \$4-5K for new Golf Carts.

1. Golf Fees – Mr. Lombardo distributed several rate comparisons with other area courses (see attached). In general, most members were not anxious to raise HSR fees and felt that we were in line with others. Since they had raised the ID cards last year, they did not want to increase that at all. Mr. Alexander agreed that they are

“in a good spot.” He added that the rate being on the higher side will help sell more non-residents season passes as he has definitely seen an increase this season. He will be looking into whether or not the reporting in GEN has accurately shown those as non-residents since they are paying the resident rate.

The members decided that they wanted to focus on the CJD Par 3 course as they note a decidedly lower rate than most other area courses. There was discussion as to whether they wanted to increase senior or junior golfers.

Motion: J. Lustig made a motion, seconded by D. Janis to raise weekday resident rates for Greens Fees at the CJD Par 3 by \$1.

Discussion- When asked by audience member Diane Warren when the rates were last raised, the Commission let her know it had been three or four years. When concern over discouraging youth players was raised, Mr. Lombardo gave the example that a new lacrosse league is charging \$250 for several hours of instruction and no one is thinking twice.

Motion: C. Curley made an amendment to the stated motion, seconded by J. Slane to increase the Resident weekend rates for adults only from \$9 to \$10.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The amended motion will thus read:

It is so moved to raise Resident Weekday rates for Greens Fees at the CJD Par 3 by \$1 and to increase the Resident Weekend rates for adults only from \$9 to \$10.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to keep all HSR Greens Fees the same as the 2012 season. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was decided that cart fee increases would come only if needed due to any new leases that may arise.

VI. Old Business. 2012-13 Budgets *See Administrative Report

VII. Public Input - None

VIII. Executive Session - *Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to enter Executive Session at 9:05 to discuss Personnel Matters. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to come out of Executive Session at 9:30. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to give Golf Pro Jim Alexander a \$2500 increase as per his contract. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Janis to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan
Recording Secretary