

Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, July 9, 2012
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT

Members Present: Craig Curley; Jack Slane; Ryan Morris; Jordan Lustig and Drew Janis

Members Absent: Lou Albrecht and Tammi Peterson

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: May 14, 2012

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to approve the minutes with the following typographical correction: "bus" should be changed to "busy" under the second communication. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0-0.

II- Communications

1. Dot Collison- Chairman Curley shared a thank you email from Dot Collison regarding a bench on the 18th hole (see attached).

2. Paul Chesek- Chairman Curley asked that the recent email and response (see attached) be discussed during the Administration Report. See below.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that May and June were very good months as the numbers reflect. Mr. Alexander added that he and a few of the women golfers are experimenting with forward tees and will continue to report their findings. Most feel they need to get about 300-400 yards off the course for them without changing the course too drastically for the better golfers. Robin McPhillips, 11 O'clock Rd mentioned that through her position with the state golf Assn. she can assist, if needed, in getting the course re-rated after they make the final changes. The golf report was discussed and questions were asked about the complimentary numbers. Mr. Lombardo will look into whether or not there was a flaw in his formula. Mr. Morris also mentioned that while the revenue is coming from the non-res rounds, he sees that number declining. Mr. Alexander attributes this to some tournaments where non-res pay res rates.

2. Administration Report – Mr. Lombardo reported that he is pleased with the final revenue numbers, and that had they not been closed for that one weekend in October HSR might have made their estimate. As it stands HSR missed in total by \$19.5K and CJD missed by \$25K. Mr. Lombardo reported that he has had to make some maintenance staff budget cuts in order to assist the Town in making up the cut to the Contingency Fund. In all areas, both Golf and Recreation, he tried to make cuts where it would least affect the public. When asked how the profit loss sheet looked with expenses included, Mr. Lombardo reported that he would try to have all the numbers for the August meeting.

3. Superintendent Report – Peter Grace reported that it has been an extremely hot month. He reported that the upper half of 10 is finished and they will now be working on the water course at 7, then moving to #2. Following that work they will turn to tee and bunker work. They have plans to work on the patio and gardens. Mr. Grace is looking into purchasing an ice machine in order to keep cold water

in the coolers. There was a short discussion regarding the length of the greens and Mr. Grace discussed his cutting and rolling schedule. He added that he will be aerating on Aug 13 and 14. A member expressed concern that the course looks great for large and important events and holidays, and then often falls back to looking mediocre. They want Mr. Grace and his staff to be more consistent. Mr. Janis asked if it is a “training” issue or an “effort” issue. When asked by Mr. Pat McKinley about the tees on the tee boxes, Mr. Grace stated that he blows them off once or twice a week. The Commission concluded that it is not necessary to put boxes out at this point. The Grass Range will be closed and allowed to grow and mature with a possible opening in the fall.

Mr. Curley asked Mr. Lombardo to discuss an email that he received and responded to (see attached) regarding the condition of the course. Mr. Grace responded by stating that it was a rainy morning and it was a judgment call. He realizes in hindsight he should have cut the course on July 4th but feeling that it would have delayed play, he opted not to. Members of the audience and Commission felt that the letter was rather harsh and agreed that it was a rainy morning. Mr. Lombardo stated that he feels maintenance needs to be “stepped up”. Mr. Janis made the remark that “the greens are the thing that people notice first and if you need to allocate staff then get the greens right”. All understood as Chairman Curley stated that they are working on a municipal budget and to get the Greens, fairways and tees right, in that order and then to move to the “aesthetics”. Just doing the first cut of rough and the dew walk will be aesthetically pleasing.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis felt that all his concerns were previously addressed but asked who keeps the water coolers filled if Mr. Grace’s staff is off. Mr. Alexander stated that his staff steps up to do this.

V. New Business - None

VI. Old Business - Caddy Rule-This topic was previously discussed following a letter from Mr. Tony Hwang. Chairman Curley explained that in an effort to keep the Pro Manager from having to qualify caddies as the existing rules require, he put together a form (see attachment) to address procedures and registration. Following a lengthy discussion, members agreed to keep the existing caddy rules. Though he was concerned with a threat to the pace of play, Mr. Alexander felt comfortable that he understands that the Commission wants to open this opportunity up to fathers who wish to teach their children how to caddy. Mr. Lombardo stated that he would take the proposed registration form to the Town Attorney & Risk Management offices to be sure that the Town is protected, eliminating #1.

Motion: Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to maintain the current caddy rules but with the addition of a registration form (eliminating #1 and following approval by the Town’s legal department to assure responsibility and liability. The motion was approved 4-0-1 (J. Lustig abstained).

VII. Public Input –

1. Nancy Leguere of the Par 3 Ladies Club let Mr. Lombardo know that the air hose has still not been repaired and needs more air pressure in order to work better. Mr. Grace was asked to follow-up on that. She asked about the timing on taking the tennis/golf building down. He will keep them informed.

Mr. Slane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Janis to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan
Recording Secretary