

**Town of Fairfield, Connecticut**  
**Golf Commission**  
**Monday, March 11, 2013**  
**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 and Jack Slane

**Members Absent:** Lou Albrecht and Tammi Peterson

**Others Present:** Gerry Lombardo, Jim Alexander

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

**I. Act on Minutes:** January 14, 2012

*Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to approve the minutes as written.*

*The motion was approved unanimously.*

**II. Communications – None**

**III. Staff Reports**

**1. Pro Manager Report** - Jim Alexander reported that they hope to open both courses and the Driving Range on Saturday 3/16 if weather permits. They will try a soft opening on Friday if possible. When asked by Mr. Lustig of the course was not too wet, Mr. Alexander assured the Commission that Mr. Grace is extremely cautious about the opening and he feels confident that he won't open if there is danger to the course. They noted that this year they are opening two weeks later than last year. Mr. Alexander reported that he has been working with the software company (GEN) and has been seeing some improvements there especially with the tee sheets. His staff is ready and he has hired Matt Holub who is a 1995 Prep graduate and is hoping to become a golf professional.

**2. Administration Report** – Mr. Lombardo reported that the RTM had postponed the vote on the \$100K continuance of the 10-year plan. There were six issues on the bonding agenda and they had some questions for DPW before they passed anything. It will be voted on Monday 3/18. Mr. Lombardo will begin his Budget Review before the BOF on 3/21 at 7pm. He added that there will likely be no Capital Expenses passed this year due to the large budget increase that is a result of the BOE side, contracts and benefits. There were no pieces of equipment that he felt was a necessity for this budget.

**3. Superintendent Report** – Mr. Peter Grace was not present but submitted a written report through Jim Alexander (see attached).

**IV. Greens Committee Report** – Mr. Janis appreciated Mr. Grace's report of the work done and the prioritization. He would additionally like to ask Mr. Grace to submit estimated completion of the projects as well as a schedule of the mowing, rolling and divot replacement. Mr. Janis was not overly concerned with the opening date's effect on the course. He noted that most of the cleanup that still needs to be done is out of the way and can be done while the course is open.

**V. New Business – 1. Par 3 Block Tee Times** - Barbara Saltman and Sheila Muscott; Co-Presidents of the Women's Par 3 Group were present to ask for an additional ½ hour of Block Time on Mondays. It was determined that this extra time would take them over the allotted time for groups. Members agreed

that the allotment is there to protect the public availability, though they also agreed that the Par 3 course is different because it doesn't have the volume of play that HSR does. Mr. Morris stated concern that this sets a precedent and if an over-allotment is granted for one group it may be asked for by other groups. Mr. Lombardo and Mr. Alexander did not feel that this particular request would create a problem at the Par 3.

*Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by D. Janis to approve the Par 3 Ladies Group receipt of 396 Tee Times extended from 7-10am or 8-11am depending on the time of year.*

*The motion was approved 4-1 (Morris opposed).*

**2. Golf Cart Rate Increase** –Mr. Lombardo reported that he had looked into battery replacements for the carts which seemed to be presenting a problem at the end of last season and it seemed that it would be a \$10K investment. It was decided that the Town should go out to bid. Club Car won the bid and a deal was made for a buyout of the last lease with a mid- April delivery. The increase in the lease will be \$35K over the 5 year term. He wondered if the Commission wanted to increase the cart fee at this time. One dollar was suggested. Some asked if they could do .50 cents and Mr. Alexander stated that he didn't want to deal in coins. Mr. Lustig commented that he believes the brunt of an increase will be felt by the Seniors. Mr. Alexander explained that Seniors account for 40% of cart use on both 9 or 18 holes. Mr. Morris noted that a dollar increase would take the Non Res. w/e play to \$70 and he wondered if that would take it to the point where it would discourage play. Chairman Curley let the Commission know that this would be the first cart fee increase in over 5 years, perhaps longer. He suggested that improvements have to be paid for in some way and that the introduction of the new carts would be the best timing if the Commission chose to have an increase. Mr. Janis asked if it was possible to implement an increase on all but the Senior carts. Mr. Alexander will look into it.

*Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by Ryan Morris to postpone the vote on a cart fee increase until the April meeting.*

*The motion was approved unanimously.*

**3. Driving Range Rate Increase** –Jim Alexander explained that he feels it is time for an increase in the rates at the Driving Range. Comparatively, HSR is on the low side. He suggested \$6 per bucket of 40-45 balls an increase from the present \$5. Mr. Morris asked about the discount key that is used and thought that if they increased the bucket rate then perhaps they should decrease the discount that is given with the key. Chairman Curley asked about getting rid of the key altogether as it was meant as an initial introduction to using the key and it has been three years since its inception. Charlie Roy who works as a range cashier asked if they considered lessening the balls that are given in each bucket because often people don't hit them all. Most Commissioners felt this would look like they were trying to trick the customer in some way.

*Motion: Ryan. Morris made a motion, seconded by D. Janis to increase the buckets to \$6 per bucket with no key and 10 buckets for \$50 with the key.*

*The motion was approved 4-1 (J. Slane opposed).*

**4. Discuss Golf Course Management Options** – G. Lombardo reported that both last year and this year during Budget time he had been asked by the RTM whether or not the Commission had investigated outsourcing the Golf Course Management. After making some initial inquiries of Billy Casper Golf, Troon Golf, and Kemper Sports, Mr. Lombardo invited Casper Golf to come make a presentation to him, as well as Mr. Slane and Mr. Morris and Chairman Curley. This company manages the Oxford Greens, Lyman Orchard, Wintonbury and Woodbridge courses. Westport's Longshore course is already a few steps ahead and if they do an RFP, they will forward it to Mr. Lombardo. All were in agreement that it is important to investigate this to see whether or not this is the best plan for the Town and those who use the course. The Commission does not want to lose control over policies, fees or

overall management of the course. All agree to continue looking into this and that Commissioners will email Mr. Lombardo with any questions that they may have along the way. Mr. Lombardo added that if they get as far as making a recommendation of some sort, he believes that a report similar to the 10 year plan is the best way to present it to the Town Boards.

**VI. Old Business – None**

**VII. Public Input** – 1. Barbara Saltman and Sheila Muscott; Co-Presidents of the Women’s Par 3 Group presented Mr. Lombardo with a letter explaining their needs for the upcoming season when the construction will be taking place down at the Tennis Center. Mr. Lombardo explained that he building will not be available to them this year. He will call to go over what he can do for them this year.

*Jack Slane made a motion, seconded by Jordan Lustig to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.  
The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan  
Recording Secretary