

Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, May 13, 2013
7:30 pm
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT

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

Members Absent: None - Ms. T. Peterson sent a letter of resignation prior to the meeting.

Others Present: Peter Grace, Jim Alexander

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

I. Act on Minutes: April 8, 2013

Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by Lou Albrecht to approve the minutes as written.

The motion was approved unanimously.

II. Communications – Chairman Curley let the members know that he had received a new communication request from Dave Henry of Warde H.S. He asked that it be added to the agenda.

Motion: C. Curley made a motion, seconded by J. Slane to add the request by Dave Henry of Warde H.S. to the agenda.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Eileen Wenzel - Chairman Curley read a thank you letter from Eileen Wenzel of the HSR Women's 18-hole group thanking for his help with their tournament.

2. Roger Ludlowe HS Reunion Request Follow-up– The class of 1986 Reunion Ctte. requested a block of tee times between 11 and 12:30 on Sat. July 13 and that request was denied at last month's meeting. Chairman Curley explained that Saturdays were not a good day. They are now requesting the Friday, July 12 at the regular rates depending on whether they are residents or non-resident. See vote below.

3. Dave Henry- Warde H.S. Fairfield Teacher Tournament – Mr. Henry, a teacher at Warde and also the Warde Boy's JV Golf Coach was present to request a block of tee times for the Friday following the end of school (June 28) to host an 18-hole tournament between approximately 24-32 Town of Fairfield teachers. They have previously been playing at out of Town courses and most recently, Fairchild Wheeler.

Because these two requests are so similar, Chairman Curley asked that they be discussed together.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Lustig was opposed to the approval stating that it starts a precedent. Chairman Curley felt that the Course/Town was not going to lose money and that perhaps people would be introduced to the course that might otherwise not play there. Mr. Alexander was concerned that regular Friday players would wake at 5 am to sign up and find that a whole large block had been reserved. He felt it may frustrate some and/or cause some to go elsewhere. Mr. Morris was concerned that once we approve these many others will make the same requests. Mr. Alexander stated that he has always told people that the policy is no tournaments on Friday-Sunday. Mr. Henry stated that he completely understood the issue and in the future they would not ask for a Friday. Mr. Slane suggested approving them both but making sure that they are given the latest possible tee times that will enable them to play 18 holes, likely around 3pm.

#2 - Yes/No Vote was taken - C. Curley made a motion to allow Roger Ludlowe HS Reunion class of '86 block times for up to 20 people on July 12, that they contact Jim Alexander letting him know the exact number and that they are given tee times late in the afternoon.

Vote-5-1 (J. Lustig Opposed)

#3 -- Yes/No Vote was taken - C. Curley made a motion to allow the Town of Fairfield teachers to hold an End of Year Tournament on Friday, June 28 for up to 32 people, that they contact Jim Alexander by June 14 letting him know the exact number and that they are given tee times late in the afternoon.

Vote-5-1 (J. Lustig Opposed)

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that both courses were down for the month of April but it was extremely cold. May is up for the first 12 days. Driving Range continues to be up in revenue. The new carts arrived on April 26 and one day later the new \$1 increase took effect. He has had no complaints. The Fire Dept. performed CPR and AED training for the staff. The course clean-up took place on April 30 and May 1. The effort was appreciated and noticeable however the turn-out was low. The Commission asks that next year the cleanup be arranged on a weekend prior to the course opening. They have received the new shipment of Range Balls. Mr. Alexander was pleased to let the Commission know that he applied for, and was awarded, the Walter Lowell Public Golf Course Distinguished Service Award. He will be attending a ceremony in Simsbury on May 28. The members congratulated both Mr. Alexander and Mr. Grace on this well-deserved award. Mr. Morris asked that the link to this news be placed on the website.

2. Administration Report – Mr. Lombardo was not present – No Report.

3. Superintendent Report – Mr. Peter Grace presented his report on the work taking place at the course:

They cut and top-dressed the greens today

The bridge on the 7th hole is complete

The tree behind the 10th Green was taken care of today.

The fence behind the Maintenance Bldg is taking a long time to be fixed. He has told the contractor that he has until next week or he'll find someone else.

Zach is working on Bunker on 9th hole. Some like it some don't.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis reported that he is still seeing a lot of broken 150 yard markers. P. Grace said that they are being replaced by new larger ones. All agreed that they should remain red, white and blue. He asked about the Men's Club doing an "adopt a hole" as they had agreed to in the past. Mr. Butera stated that they don't have many interested in doing it. The Commission discussed leaving out a divot box and bottles, Mr. Grace replied that they haven't worked in the past and they are often broken. The members decided to give it a try and see if people use the supplies. Ms. Albrecht mentioned that this simple etiquette is part of the 18-holer's education.

V. New Business –

1. Minimum age of players at C.J. Dickman Course –Mr. Alexander stated that he has had a request by a father to have his 3-year old son play the course. All agreed that this was too young however it does bring up the fact that the policy actually states that "players using the course must be at least 12 years of age. Children under age 12 may be allowed to play if they are able to satisfy the Pro/Manager that they have an adequate understanding of golf rules and etiquette, and are accompanied by a parent or an adult known to the child". Most felt 12 was too old for the Par 3 players and that perhaps they should define an age for each course. Some felt 5 or 6, with a parent was a better age for Par 3 but that

they should also define an age without a parent. The matter was tabled until next month at such a time when the Pro might discuss this with Mr. Lombardo and suggest new policy.

2. HSR Ladies 9-Hole Group – Block Tee Times – Mr. Alexander noted that the Ladies 9-hole group is not filling their Block of times and they are not canceling. His thought is to give them a year to consolidate into the 18-holers. Mr. Curley suggested that they table this matter until next month and invite the 9-hole group to the meeting.

The matter was tabled until next month and the secretary will invite Pat Kirmeyer of the Ladies 9-hole Group to the meeting.

3. HS. Golf Teams – Mr. Alexander noted that the course hosts 6 thriving golf teams and that since revenue has become an issue they may need to look into how they schedule these teams and if they should be given so much block time or perhaps be asked to do more work on the putting green or the Driving Range. Mr. Alexander added that many do not want to follow the teams during match play. A thought was to charge the BOE who is evidently beginning to charge outside programs for use of their facilities. Most did not agree with this concept. Coach Henry was present to listen to the concerns and was also asked to look over their schedule and see if it was possible to have the teams use block time prior to April Break and that following April Break, they are permitted only to use the walk-up system. Otherwise they would travel to the Range. Mr. Henry will report back on Practices vs. Matches and what they utilize. This matter was tabled until Next Month.

VI. Old Business – 1. Course Management Update- Chairman Curley asked for a report from Mr. Slane and Mr. Morris who had met with Valley Crest Golf Course Maintenance out of California. Mr. Slane reported that this particular group is a maintenance-only company. Longshore in Westport is very close to going forward with them and is preparing an RFP and bid. He hopes that we can look closely at this deal and see how it goes. The expected savings may be between \$100K-200K. Mr. Lombardo had been asked to forward this group the Budgets for the two courses and then they will get back to us. Chairman Curley, when asked, stated that at least for the last 11 years the course has made money and that they are, as asked by the Town Boards, doing their due-diligence in researching whether or not this is a smart decision for the Town. The Commission will continue to hear updates on this matter.

VII. Public Input – None

*J. Slane made a motion, seconded by R. Morris to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.
The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan
Recording Secretary