

**Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, June 10, 2013
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT**

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

Members Absent: Drew Janis

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Peter Grace, Jim Alexander

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

I. Act on Minutes: May 13, 2013

Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by R. Morris to approve the minutes as amended with simple typo correction.

The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

II. Communications – None

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that rounds are up for both courses and the Driving Range is up \$7800. New Range balls have arrived and are being worked in. The grass tees at the range opened but then the wet weather closed them. It will be a work in progress. The course has been very busy and today there were 97 players from Redding Fire Department and tomorrow they will be hosting the US Public Links. Mr. Alexander reported that on May 29 the Pro Shop was broken into for the second time in two years. Approximately \$4000 worth of merchandise was taken. He added that other shops in other Towns have been hit as well and thinks that perhaps it is the same person or persons targeting Pro Shops. When asked by Mr. Morris about the increase in rounds with a decrease in non-resident revenue, Mr. Alexander explained that they are selling more non-resident rounds.

2. Administration Report – Mr. Lombardo had no report.

3. Superintendent Report – Mr. Peter Grace reported that it has been an extremely rainy month, with more rain from June 1 to 10 than in all of April and May combined. They are working hard to keep up. Zach built the tee on 3 and the new Ladies forward tee on 9. They will be sodding on Wed 12th. He is now working on the bunker on the 9th hole. Mr. Grace explained that they would go on to the bunkers on 18 and then the path to the right side of the cart path on 18, then to 15 or 13. He was asked again to remove the plastic on the 10th hole tee box. Mr. Alexander added that Robin Phillips is working on getting a new CWGA rating for the course with the new tees.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis was not present. No Reporting

V. New Business – None

VI. Old Business – 1. Minimum age of players at C.J. Dickman Course – This discussion was a continuation from last month when Mr. Alexander stated that he had a request from a father to have his 3-year old son play the CJD course. After further discussion about the proper age to have a child play alone and or with a parent, Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that there may be State statutes regarding the age at which a child can be left alone by a parent. He stated that the age of 12 is required at the beach. He will look into this prior to next month's meeting. Ms. Ryan, in a Staff-related question, asked at what age they should sell the ID cards to young players. Mr. Curley explained that the issues to determine are as follows:

The age they children can play alone on each course

The age they can play with a parent at each course

The age they can acquire an ID

Some felt that the residency matter should also be looked at since children can't prove residency easily under the present rules. Mr. Lombardo asked that they address any rules and regulations that they feel need tweaking.

The matter was tabled until next month.

2. HSR Ladies 9-Hole Group – Block Tee Times – Mr. Alexander introduced, Pat Kirmeyer, President of the HSR Ladies 9 hole group who was asked to attend after last month's discussion regarding the Ladies 9-hole group's inefficient use of Block tee times. One idea was to roll them into the 18- holers group on Thursday. This was met by some resistance. She let the Commission know that some like to be part of both groups and this plan would not allow that. Ms. Albrecht let the members know that the majority of the 18 hole membership group does not want women to have membership in both groups as that allows for double-dipping of block times. Ms. Kirmeyer gave the following statistics:

They have 49 members

9 honorees,

32 who belong to both CJD and HSR,

9 who belong only to HSR and,

61 who belong only to CJD

Another part of the discussion pertained to whether or not to put both groups on one day, likely Thursday, thereby allowing the course to be open on Tuesday.

Some of the Commission felt that this was not a Commission issue and that the leadership of both groups should get together and iron out the matter. Mr. Alexander felt that the Commission needed to be involved just as it is when determining who gets block tee times.

Both Ms. Albrecht and Ms. Kirmeyer will have discussions with their membership prior to the next meeting. The matter was tabled until July and the secretary will invite the president of the Ladies 18 hole Club from HSR to attend.

3. HS. Golf Teams – Following last month's discussion regarding the large amount of tee times that HS teams are using and the loss of revenue to the Town, Mr. Alexander shared information that he received from Coach Dave Henry of Warde HS. Of the 1064 rounds played in 2013 season, 763 were on HSR and 301 on CJD. At HSR, Warde had 77 practices and 22 matches prior to Spring Break followed by 66 practice rounds and 89 matches after spring break. Chairman Curley stated that this could be close to \$20K in lost revenue and at least \$10K. Members wondered if the BOE is now instituting "Pay to Play" for some sports but wasn't sure if golf was one of the sports. Mr. Alexander shared that Norwalk gives 4 tee times per day per facility to their teams, adding that most area courses are dealing with the same issue. Members agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from the ADs. This matter was tabled until September at which time the two HS Athletic Directors will be invited. along with their coaches if they so choose, to discuss the matter.

4. Course Management Update- Mr. Lombardo reported that they have a tentative meeting with Wintonbury Hills on June 21. He has also been in touch with Valley Crest Golf Course Maintenance out of California.

VII. Public Input – Ms. Albrecht asked that the restaurant try to camouflage the empty bottles that are being housed outside the kitchen. Mr. Grace stated that he'd look into some sort of fencing screen.

R. Morris made a motion, seconded by J. Slane to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan

Recording Secretary