

**Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, July 8, 2013
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT**

Members Present: Lou Albrecht; Drew Janis; Jordan Lustig; Ryan Morris and Jack Slane

Members Absent: Craig Curley, Chairman

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo and Jim Alexander

Vice Chairman Jack Slane called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Act on Minutes: June 10, 2013

Ryan Morris made note that in the Staff Report from Jim Alexander the last sentence should be corrected to read: 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.

Motion: L. Albrecht made a motion, seconded by J. Lustig to approve the minutes as corrected.

The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

II. Communications – 1. Fran Cormier- Greater Fairfield Bd. of Realtors- Ms. Cormier requested permission to serve beer and wine at their October CJD event. Mr. Lombardo reported that Ms. Cormier was not able to be present but that he has spoken to her and informed her that she would require insurance and a one-day liquor permit if the Commission approved the request.

Motion: R. Morris made a motion, seconded by L. Albrecht to approve the request with the stipulations of insurance and liquor permit as discussed. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Bill Zilliox-Drinking Water at the Course- Mr. Zilliox sent a letter (see attached) stating how disappointed he was to find warm water at the water stations throughout the course. The Commission members were displeased to hear that this was an issue again, as they believed it to have been remedied last year. Mr. Grace was not present but Mr. Lombardo will speak to him to see how they can come up with a workable solution.

3. Eileen Wenzel- Praise for Jim Alexander – A letter was distributed to the members praising Mr. Alexander's assistance during the Women's recent Member-Guest Tournament.

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that rounds are up at HSR but slightly down at CJD. The Driving Range continues to be up. They have several tournaments coming up.

2. Administration Report – Mr. Lombardo reported that he will be compiling a report to show the fiscal numbers with expenses and income once all the expenses are posted. He should have it by mid-August. His revenue projections have been missing the mark with all the storms, rain and cold month of March etc. and he feels that the Town may be better served if he takes a 5-year average of revenue to make his projections. He was up at the course several times in the last few weeks and is very pleased.

3. Superintendent Report – Mr. Peter Grace was not present but asked Mr. Alexander to report on his behalf that Zach is finishing up the 9th hole bunkers and will hopefully be done in a few weeks. They have had 9.25 inches of rain in recent days and 90 degree heat. Both are taking a toll on the course but they are working to have minimal damage.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis stated that while he feels the course is in very good shape, he feels that the tees are “getting chewed up” and again wants to try putting seed at all the tees and not just the Par 3s. Mr. Alexander remarked that if the tees were rotated more frequently (a matter of educating the grounds crew), the problem would improve. Mr. Janis said that the same can be said for the Pins. They agreed that Jim would speak to Mr. Grace about this and also the continuation of the top dressing program before they resort to the seed.

Mr. Janis asked what hole would be next after Zach finishes 9. Jim stated that it would be 18 and then either 13 or 15. He added that he would like to stay away from any temporary greens until the fall.

Mr. Janis asked about a new foreman position. Mr. Lombardo stated that with the management issue still up in the air, he had chosen to bring John Johnson over to work at both courses and that has been working well.

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. Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that he has to have further conversations with the Town attorney and Prosecutors office about the age that a child may be left alone.

The matter was tabled until next month.

2. HSR Ladies 9-Hole Group – Block Tee Times – As a continuation of last month’s discussion, ladies from the 18 hole group were in attendance to continue the discussion of Block tee times for the 9 holers and whether or not the two groups should play on the same day and if so on what day they should play. Mr. Slane remarked that no decision would be made tonight that would effect this year. Any changes would take place next year. Eileen Wenzel, Pres of the 18 Holers Ladies Group asked the reason that this was being brought up for discussion. Mr. Lombardo Slane explained that the Commission was looking for ways to maximize the use of the course and bring in more income. Diane Warren of 330 Parkwood Rd. remarked that if they are not using their allotted tee times then the answer seems to be to reduce the times. Mr. Morris explained that the number of block times are distributed across the board equally so as not to discriminate. Both groups gave reasons why their particular groups cannot change their days of play. Also, the 18 hole group’s charter does not allow someone to be a member of both groups. The pace of play was also discussed; however, Mr. Alexander felt that this was not a pace of play issue. He feels the greater issue is not showing up for blocked times. After lengthy discussion, it was asked that Mr. Alexander and the two groups try to get together and come back with a workable solution.

The matter was tabled for two months.

3. Course Management Update- Mr. Lombardo reported that he and Craig Curley visited Wintonbury Hills to look first hand at a course that uses a Management Company. The Golf Pro there was very informative and the course is well-maintained. Presently they are focusing on the maintenance end. He will have a draft report for the Commission in the next month or two pinpointing the ways to lessen the expenses at the course which are mostly Salaries, Wages and benefits.

VII. Public Input –

Betsy Hulme of Pratt St remarked that the discussion about Block Tee times was enlightening and that people need to understand that this is a luxury and not a standard. Perhaps it’s time to look at the groups that are allotted these block tee times and reevaluate.

Pat Kirmeyer mentioned that nowhere on the tee boxes is there a place to dispose of anything like coffee cups or broken tees. Mr. Slane remarked that the disposal receptacles didn’t work. Ms. Hulme remarked that she felt it might be time to try them again.

R. Morris made a motion, seconded by J. Slane to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan
Recording Secretary