

**Town of Fairfield, Connecticut  
Golf Commission  
Monday, August 12, 2013  
Eunice Postol Parks and Recreation Center  
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT**

**Members Present:** Craig Curley, Chairman; Lou Albrecht; Drew Janis; Jordan Lustig

**Members Absent:** Ryan Morris and Jack Slane

**Others Present:** Gerry Lombardo and Peter Grace

Chairman Craig Curley called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**I. Act on Minutes:** July 8, 2013

*Jordan Lustig made note that in the Old Business #2. The two ladies groups were not to “merge” but rather to “play on the same day”. Mr. Curley noted that it should be the 18-holers and that under #3 (Golf Course Management Update) Ryan Morris was not present at the Wintonbury Hills visit.*

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

*The minutes were approved as corrected.*

**II. Communications – 1. Andy Paules-** Mr. Paules wrote a complimentary letter praising Mr. Grace and his crew who have the course in excellent condition.

**III. Staff Reports**

**1. Pro Manager Report** - Jim Alexander was not present. Mr. Lombardo will make that report under Administrative Report.

**2. Administration Report** – Mr. Lombardo reported that the numbers in July at both courses were lower than they hoped but it was largely due to rain and extreme heat. The past weekend was beautiful and they had 297 rounds at HSR according to Ralph Butera. Mr. Lombardo applauded Mr. Grace for keeping up with the weather issues and even sited other area courses that have been dealing with disease while HSR has not.

Mr. Lombardo reported that Woodridge CC has been asking six area courses to send information on rounds and they plan to compile a spreadsheet in order to let courses see how they are doing relative to other courses. Mr. Lombardo hopes to share that information with Mr. Curley in the Fall and subsequently the other Commission members.

At Mr. Curley’s inquiry, Mr. Lombardo explained that the Parks & Recreation Commission had been investigating placing a seasonal ice rink in the parking lot at HSR. After inquiries to a few providers he learned that there is not three-phase power in the area so that will not be an option at this point. Mr. Lombardo is only certain that the Penfield Area has three-phase power but that is not a place that they want to pursue at this point. If anything else comes of this topic he will keep the members informed.

**3. Superintendent Report** – Mr. Peter Grace reported:

- that they continue to work on tees and bunkers however, the non-recurring capital is coming to an end. He will present a detailed report to Mr. Lombardo.
- The Bunker on 17 and 18 will likely be the end of the work for now. Drainage on 9 is completed.
- They will do aerification on the Tuesday and Wednesday after Labor Day.
- They will be working on the divots on fairways and tees this week with two loads of top-dressing.
- He and Mr. Janis and Mr. Alexander will discuss the 18<sup>th</sup> hole and whether there should be two small bunkers rather than one large on.
- It was decided that a grass bunker on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole is preferred.

**IV. Greens Committee Report** – Mr. Janis passed on some points from Ryan Morris who was not able to be present: There are some areas on #2 that don’t seem to be growing back.

The liner in the bunker on #4 (left, green side of bunker) continues to come up.  
#14 green seems to be browning out.

Mr. Janis suggested that the restaurant may want to place a sign on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, for call-in orders. It may help with business at Brennan Shebeen's.

## **V. New Business – None**

**VI. Old Business – 1. Minimum age of players at C.J. Dickman Course** – This discussion was a continuation from previous months. Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that he has had further conversations with the Town attorney and Prosecutor's office about the age that a child may be left alone and the liability to the Town as to such practices. He stated that while it is not illegal to allow an 11 year old to be left alone, the Town attorney is concerned with the potential liability it places on the Town. Mr. Lombardo recommended that the rules be amended to add: CJD Par 3 - Children must be 6 years of age to play the course and only when accompanied by a parent or guardian who is playing as well. He recommends leaving the other rule alone, stating that they must be 12 years old at HSR and be tested by the Pro.

All understood that these rules are meant to give the staff flexibility so that if there is an issue, they have something to fall back on. The staff would only sell ID cards to those 6 years old and older.

Chairman Curley offered to meet with Mr. Lombardo and Mr. Alexander to draft something for the Commission. The matter was tabled until next month.

**2. Course Management Update-** Mr. Lombardo reported that Chairman Curley will be preparing a draft of their recent findings and will present it at the next meeting. Mr. Lombardo explained that this is being done to show the Town that they took a serious look at reducing expenses. If approved by the Commission, it would then need to go through some more channels, the Union, an especially important one. "It is not something we are going to run out and do tomorrow." Mr. Curley agreed and reminded the members that they also have two important contracts; the Pro's and the restaurant's contracts coming up for renewal.

Chairman Curley asked for an update on the warm water at the drinking fountains and coolers, a subject that was discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Janis reported that the issue was much improved but asked about the process. Mr. Grace explained that in the morning, he takes blocks of ice and places them in the coolers. On an extremely hot day he will return midday with more ice. He replaced the nozzles on the coolers and now that the fountains are working, the problem seems to have been eliminated or at least lessened.

**VII. Public Input** – Mr. Lustig said that in light of some of the new Forward tees and the "Play it Forward" program marketed by Jack Nicklaus, it may be wise to market HSR's own forward tees in some way so that people don't see it as such a difficult course. P. Grace remarked that Robin McPhillips has been spearheading the re-rating of the course with the new tees. Some members were confused as to how many tees there would now be at some holes and whether or not new score cards would be needed for next year. . Mr. Curley asked that Ms. McPhillips be invited to the next meeting to explain her work with Mr. Alexander in order to clarify it for the members.

Mrs. Albrecht showed a sample of a Broken Tee box that she and Betsy Hulme had built. The members were pleased and asked if she could make more. Mr. Grace offered to supply the materials or pay for anything that had been purchased. They hope that the players will make use of them.

*D. Janis made a motion, seconded by J. Lustig to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.  
The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan  
Recording Secretary