

**Town of Fairfield, Connecticut
Golf Commission
Monday, September 9, 2013
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 and Phillip Collin

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Peter Grace, Jim Alexander

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

I. Act on Minutes: August 12, 2013

Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by R. Morris to approve the minutes as written. The minutes were unanimously approved

II. Communications – None

III. Staff Reports

1. Pro Manager Report - Jim Alexander reported that August was a very good month and HSR was up, though CJD was flat. The Driving Range is up 31% over last year however that must take into consideration that they were working on it last year as well as a fee increase. He suggested that the Commission may want to look into splitting the range with a wire and netting to have half as grass and half as mat since both can't be used simultaneously. Mr. Alexander reported that the Green Tee/Red Tee issue has been resolved and that there are new score cards that he's been printing out for those who want them. Robin McPhillips was present and the Commission thanked her for working on the project. The course has been re-rated. The course is 273 yards shorter using the forward tees. Ms. McPhillips asked that the four temporary forward tees be worked on in the future as the greens staff is able.

Mr. Alexander discussed Non Resident Fall Specials and suggested \$10 off on weekdays after 10 or 11 am. He mentioned that he could publish any specials in the CT Post and the CSGA.

Motion: J. Slane made a motion, seconded by J. Lustig to adopt a Fall Special for Non Residents reducing their greens fees by \$10 Monday through Thursday beginning at 11am. This would begin on October 1

Vote: Unanimously approved

2. Administration Report – Mr. Lombardo reported that he is beginning to work on 2014-15 budgets. He also mentioned that he would suggest the Commission move forward in its request for Capital Funding for the Clubhouse Project. A feasibility committee did handle this several years ago and plans were created. It now needs to move forward through the Town Boards. Chairman Curley asked that Mr. Lombardo make an appointment with the First Selectman to move ahead with possible plans. In response to Mr. Slane's question as to the work that Zach has been doing, Mr. Grace let the Commission know that this year's funds have been spent and that the next \$100,000 has to wait for approval from the Bonding Projects requests to be approved.

3. Superintendent Report – Mr. Peter Grace reported that the aeration has been completed. Zach is finishing up on the 18th bunker and the funding is down to the last 1000 or so. He and his staff are now working on small projects around the course. There was a discussion about a diseased tree on the 15th hole. Mr. Grace noted that he got an estimate of \$1000 to try to save the tree with no guarantee. He is leaning toward taking the tree down and replacing it with several large trees. Mr. Curley asked him to come to the next meeting with estimates for both solutions and the Commission will make a decision. Mr. Grace noted that the liner on the 4th hole bunker has been addressed.

IV. Greens Committee Report – Mr. Janis asked if Mr. Grace could address the issue of the cutting of the holes. He feels it's a quality control issue. He also asked about verti-cutting the greens. Mr. Grace let the Commission know that he is doing it this week after the course dries from the aeration. He does it once a month.

V. New Business – Chairman Curley introduced Mr. Phillip Colin who is taking over Tammie Peterson's position following her recent resignation. Mr. Collin explained that he is married with two children and has lived in Fairfield since 2007. He is very pleased to have the opportunity to serve on the Commission.

VI. Old Business – 1. Minimum age of players at Carl J. Dickman Course –This discussion was a continuation from the past several months. As Chairman Curley explained, it actually pertains to both courses and at what age children should be permitted to play at HSR and at what age they should be permitted to play alone at CJD. This matter will also have an impact on the age that IDs are sold. Chairman Curley worked on a policy with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Lombardo and presented it to the members (see attached). The recommended rule would encompass both courses in one rule.

Players using the golf courses 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 the golf rules and etiquette. The Pro/Manager may require that the underage child is accompanied by a golfing parent or an adult known to the child. Children younger than age 6 will not be permitted to play or be sold a golf pass.

Ms. Jane Pogoda , 83 Deer Run Rd. reminded the Commission that this rule will really only be enforceable for residents since kids don't have IDs and there is no way to verify age unless they are a resident and happen to have an ID or are in our database for another reason. There was further discussion as to whether the Commission should make two separated policies or whether this is going to put a burden on the staff especially if Jim doesn't happen to be available. Mr. Lustig was concerned about the liability this puts on the Town. Mr. Lombardo agreed that the Town Attorney did have some concerns. Ms. Albrecht mentioned that when one plays any sport there is an inherent risk that they take on when they choose to play that sport. It was decided that Mr. Lombardo would present the policy to the Town attorney for his input. The matter was tabled until next month.

2. HSR Ladies 9-Hole Group – Block Tee Times – This issue has been discussed over the past several months as it had come to the attention of the Commission that the Town may be losing revenue on Tuesdays when this group plays. Much of the discussion revolved around the fact that they had not consistently been returning unused tee times in a timely matter. Mr. Slane and Mr. Janis made note that some people do not like to play after this group goes out due to a pace of play issue. Following a lengthy discussion it was resolved that the HSR 9-hole group would:

- play fewer shotgun tournaments
- Add more back 9 play when possible
- return unused tee times
- take a smaller number of block tee times.

No Further Action was taken.

3. HS. Golf Teams – Following June's meeting, Mr. Curley, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Alexander and the two HS Athletic Directors met to work out the details of H.S. Team play. Mr. Dave Schulz wrote a letter (see attached) stating some adjustments that the two schools will make with all of their teams in order to free up more time for revenue-producing rounds. As summarized:

Thursday matches will be scheduled "Away" or they will practice at CJD or Range

M-Wed will have matches or practices as in the past.

JV will schedule only two matches at HSR all others will be at CJD. JV Boys will now practice at CJD as the girls do.

One item that Mr. Lombardo felt was excluded was that they would try to have as many tri-matches as possible. This may need to be done with the assistance of FCIAC. He will remind the Athletic Directors of this item.

Audience members asked about the use of private courses in Fairfield and Mr. Curley responded that on occasion teams were fortunate enough to have a club member on the team who might be able to get a

sponsorship but that is not always the case. The Commission was pleased with these adjustments and took no further action.

4. Course Management Update- Chairman Curley reported that he is still working on the written report of their findings that he will share with the members as soon as possible.

VII. Public Input – Mr. Mike Herrington offered to help advertise the Fall Specials to other senior groups at Tashua and Richter. He also suggested that Jim Alexander might make accommodations to a travelling Senior group of 28 players from Tashua who might take advantage of the course. Mr. Alexander told the members that he'll be happy to try to accommodate the group if possible.

*R. Morris made a motion, seconded by D. Janis to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm.
The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Ryan
Recording Secretary