

GOLF COMMISSION
Monday, October 16, 2023, 7:00 pm
H. Smith Richardson Clubhouse Conference Room
2425 Morehouse Highway, Fairfield, CT
& Via Conference Call Bridge

MINUTES

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [Golf Commission 10.16.2023](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keith Varian, Vice-Chair Peter Secrist, Michael Feinstein, Mike Herrington, Liam Herron, Christine Hogan, Priscilla Schulz

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Golf Professional Robert Bigonette, Golf Course Superintendent Peter Grace, Junior Golf Committee Chairman Chris Flowers, members of the public

1. Call to order

Chairman Keith Varian called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Varian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Act on minutes of 9/11/23

Peter Secrist made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/11/23 as written. Priscilla Schulz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. Staff Reports

a. Pro Manager Report- Golf Pro Bob Bigonette

- Outing today in the afternoon allowed players to be on the course in the morning. The golfers raved about the golf course.
- Even with wet weather, tee times have been full. Successful season.
- Ball machine didn't work anymore. Company sent a new motherboard that will be replaced.
- Results for bid for covered bays at the driving range came back. Mr. Bigonette and Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese will meet with Purchasing and one of the companies who submitted a bid for a scope review on Monday, 10/23/23.
- There is still one more outing at the course. That is a total for the season of 15 outings.
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b. Administration Report-Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese

- Numbers are down in the September Golf report due to weather.
- They are looking for \$60,000 which they could get by extending the season.
- Two additional monthly/quarterly reports were presented to the BOF and now can be shared with the Golf Commission. Mr. Calabrese added them for the commission.

- Even with the debt cost of the clubhouse, the revenue is still over budgeted amount.
- Debt burden is not captured in the report but is covered and will stay in the positive.

c. Superintendent Report-Peter Grace

- There has been a lot of rain. The 18th fairway is very wet.
- Working on the trees on 16 but it's too wet right now.
- The course is crowded every morning.
- There is a lot to do, but he is moving forward.
- Primary focus is on the cartpath on 7.

5. Greens Committee Report-Priscilla Schulz/Mike Herrington

- The course looks great despite the weather we've had.
- Peter and his crew are doing great.

6. Par 3 Committee Report-Mike Feinstein, Liam Herron

- No one has played there but Bob Bigonette has been there and it looks great. There are 60 kids there daily for Junior Golf.

7. **To hear and or act upon old business:**

- There is no old business to discuss.

8. To hear and or act upon new business

a. Chris Flowers, Junior Golf Committee Chairman – Petition-Change.org

- Chris Flowers is the chair for the Junior Golf Committee. Mr. Flowers shared stats on Jr. Players and said HSR rates are higher than the local clubs and kids are going to the other clubs in the area. After a short presentation, Mr. Flowers asked the commission to revisit possibly lowering the rates to align with the local clubs.

b. Tee Time Reservations

- There was a discussion about algo rhythms. Right now there is no evidence of it, but after an outing was cancelled, Golf Pro Bob Bigonette saw the same name on all the tee times. Christine Hogan said while she was doing some research, she came across a site where you could sign up for a Bot and H, Smith Richardson was on the list of clubs to choose. Limiting tee times to one time per day was discussed.

c. Golf Professional Contract Renewal

- Priscilla Schulz made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mike Herrington seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Executive Session began at 8:00 pm.
- Priscilla Schulz made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mike Herrington seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Executive Session ended at 8:04 pm
- Priscilla Schulz made a motion to renew Golf Professional Bob Bigonette's contract for another year. Mike Herrington seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

9. Communications

There were no new communications.

10. Public Comment

- Don DiMartino asked if the audio equipment has been ordered. Keith Varian said it has been ordered and we are just waiting for it to come in.

11. Adjourn

Mike Herrington made a motion to adjourn. Peter Secrist seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary