

GOLF COMMISSION
Monday, February 13, 2023
7:00pm
Fairfield Parks & Recreation Conference Room
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT
& Via Conference Call Bridge

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [Golf Commission 2.13.2023](#)

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Keith Varian, Michael Feinstein, Mike Herrington, Liam Herron, Christine Hogan, Priscilla Schulz

Members Absent: Vice Chair Peter Secrist,

Others Present: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Course Superintendent Peter Grace

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Varian led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Act on Minutes of 1/9/23

Mike Herrington made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/9/23 as written. Priscilla Schulz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. Staff Reports

a. Pro Manager Report

Golf Professional Bob Bigonette was not able to attend but submitted his report. He had suggestions for the course goals:

- Liam Herron has access to design new monthly reports and analytics.
- New mats and ball machine for the driving range have been ordered. They should be delivered in 3-4 weeks.
- ForeUp has the ability to send notifications out, but ForeUp fees will go up.
- Notify Bob about any specific updates.
- Programs are sold out. They will keep adding programs as long as there is demand.
- There are 12-15 outings confirmed for 2023.
- There are 3 Wine, Dine & Nine events scheduled this year along with a movie night and other events not yet confirmed.

b. Administration Report

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese said January was a slow month, but they are in good shape because Summer and Fall were great. There is excess revenue for both HSR and Par 3. Seasonal employment salaries have been encumbered but haven't been spent yet. These are budgeted items only. This year's bond numbers will increase which will probably make the net profit break even. The driving range upgrade was approved by the BOS and BOF for phase 1. Tuesday, Mr.

Calabrese will present the plan to the RTM. He is exploring options with Boca regarding the cart barn and the golf simulators. They are speaking with Town Attorney James Baldwin regarding the lease and agreement.

c. Superintendent Report

Peter Grace said he is getting a lot of work done. They are trying to get cart paths done at the 16th hole by April 1st. There is a new forward tee on 7 and they are starting 14. The tree causing issues at 9 has been removed. Mr. Grace is hoping to open the course by St. Patrick's Day.

5. Greens Committee Report

Priscilla Schulz said the course looks great and the tee work is amazing. Ms. Schulz said the course becomes public open space in the off season, but it is not appropriate for public to be golfing. Peter Grace cannot monitor the course in the off season. The Commission agreed signs should be placed on the 1st and 10th tees to let people know they should not be golfing. Chair Keith Varian said new score cards are going to be ordered and will reflect the rating when the course gets rated again. Par 3 will hopefully be rated as well. Bob Bigonette will update the Commission at the March meeting.

6. Par 3 Committee Report

There was a tree that fell on the course and has since been removed.

7. To hear and or act upon old business:

a. Goals 2023

Goals were discussed earlier with the Pro Manager Report.

Boca Grille and Raw Bar owner Yanni Taxiltaridis was present at the meeting to give updates on his year and a look ahead. They had many banquets, reunions, and fundraisers and more are scheduled for 2023. His staff has been the same since opening so the diners always see familiar faces. Boca is looking into funding the Golf Simulators to bring in some additional winter revenue. The administration and staff at Boca like being at this location at HSR and have worked out the issues they had the first year. The snack bar has been kept open for breakfast from 6am-11am even though he lost \$75K after paying staff to be there. Mr. Taxiltaridis said there is a lot of drinking in the parking lot. The Commission will look into putting up signs about not drinking in the parking lot. Mr. Taxiltaridis also said Boca is hosting the visiting teams for the Sacred Heart University Hockey team.

8. To hear and or act upon new business

a. Budget FY24

Anthony Calabrese said he has presented his budget to First Selectwoman Kupchick who will then present it as part of her budget to the Board of Selectpersons. Her budget will be presented to the Board of Finance in March and then to the Representative Town Meeting in April. After all the amendments have been done and finalized, the whole budget will be voted on in May. The budget for Carl Dickman Par 3 decreased by 15%. H Smith Richardson increased in Seasonal Payroll and Clubhouse Maintenance. Minimum wage is increasing and there has been an increase in cleaning and maintenance. This is not a concern with the administration. Mr. Calabrese went over the line items of the budget including the locker rental revenue which could decrease if the Golf Simulators are installed and also the new golf carts will be delivered for the opening of the season.

9. Communications

a. Public Comment and emails

There were no emails to discuss.

10. Public Comment

Brian Daly, 195 Hurd Street- The Golf League had their annual meeting at Boca. The service and food were great but there is an issue with the sound system. The speakers don't work like they should and there was feedback on the microphone.

Don DiMartino- 84 Sunset Circle- The feedback was terrible, and you couldn't hear people speaking. Mr. DiMartino also asked if the Golf Commission would consider enlarging the putting green as it is too small and crowded, especially when there are tournaments.

11. Adjourn

Priscilla Schulz made a motion to adjourn. Mike Herrington seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary