

GOLF COMMISSION
Monday, March 11, 2024, 7:00 pm
H. Smith Richardson Clubhouse Conference Room
2425 Morehouse Highway, Fairfield, CT
In person & Via Conference Call Bridge

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [Golf Commission Meeting 3/11/24](#)

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Mike Herrington, Mike Feinstein Liam Herron, Priscilla Schulz, Keith Varian

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Peter Secrist,

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Golf Professional Bob Bigonette, Golf Course Superintendent Peter Grace, members of the public

1. Call to order

Vice Chair Mike Herrington called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was waived due to there not being a flag in the room.

3. Act on minutes of 2/12/2024

Priscilla Schulz made a motion to approve the 2/12/24 minutes as written. Keith Varian seconded the motion which carried 5-0-1 (M. Feinstein abstained)

4. Staff Reports

a. Pro Manager Report-Golf Pro Bob Bigonette

Golf courses opening Friday. It is wet and the driving range is not ready but hoping the wind will help dry it up. Outside staff had a meeting and everyone is ready to start. Programming for spring has sold out. There are 15 confirmed outings. Lockers haven't sold well. Currently renting for \$125/season. Bob Bigonette would like to drop the rental fee to see if any sell. There was a discussion about repurposing the space. Wanted to put golf simulators in there but BOF rejected the request.

Mike Feinstein made a motion to drop the locker rental price to \$75.00/season. Priscilla Schulz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Driving Range renovation money passed BOS and BOF. It now sits with the RTM. The meeting is at the end of this month for \$550,000. This will cover both projects at the HSR driving game. Top Tracer has been notified and is ready to start once the RTM approves the project. The short game will be done after the bays are done and will go in between the fields and the driving range per Conservation. The next step for the short game will be to hire an architect. Mr. Bigonette knows what he wants and will speak with the architects. The Superintendent of Parks will be the Project Manager.

b. Administration Report- Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese

Numbers for February are on track as compared to last year. Rounds are catching up but the weather has not been good.

c. Superintendent Report- Superintendent Peter Grace

Opening Friday and the crew is hard at work. Side projects are fences and patio. Had people come to look at expanding the practice green and working on estimate. A tulip tree will need to be taken out. Peter Grace will update the list of work on improvement goals. Top Tracer contract will be signed once funding is approved. Mr. Grace has money in Special Dept Supplies and Maintenance Grounds and Repairs to cover drainage. Cart path money is still there. Cart path work is in operations but drainage is in non-recurring capital.

5. Greens Committee Report

No report

6. Par 3 Committee Report

No report

7. To hear and or act upon old business

a. Boca update – Yanni Taxiltaridis

Boca has been very successful. Year 1 - \$1.3 million, Year 2 - \$1.6 million, Year 3 - \$1.92 million. Even though it rained every summer weekend and they couldn't utilize the patio, they still had an increase. The goal for this year is over \$2 million. Great relationship with school sports – tournaments and events have helped. He has had the same staff since opening which says great things about working there, but there is always room for improvement. He has lost money being open for breakfast because the sales don't support the cost of the staff. Mr. Taxiltaridis would like to put a kiosk at the renovated driving range so people can order food from the driving range and have it delivered by someone in the kitchen who can take a golf cart up. Mr. Taxiltaridis has had to turn down events do to a start that would conflict with golfers. It has been a learning experience that has turned into friendships and bonds.

8. To hear and or act upon new business

No new business.

9. Communications

a. Public Comment and emails

- Don DiMartino – 84 Sunset Circle – glitch in ForeUp . Bob Bigonette knew about it and it has been fixed. It should only allow a person to book one event a day. Mr. DiMartino is also glad to hear about the putting green expansion.
- Jim Kuczo – there is a bench at 18 and he would like to improve the area. Mr. Kuczo would like to put the bench on pavers and donate landscaping. Mr. Kuczo would like to put more benches around Town and make Fairfield a community of kindness. Mr. Kuczo will present a plan as his brother is a landscaper and owns the landscape company who will maintain the garden. The area will be deer proof and nice. Anthony Calabrese will work with Mr. Kuczo on placement of benches. He would like to install a sign for Kevin's Afterglow on 7.

Priscilla Schulz made a motion to approve installing the sign at 7 and building the garden at 18. Mike Feinstein seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Both Keith Varian and Priscilla Schulz spoke about this being their last meeting. They both expressed the joy they had while being on the Golf Commission.

10. Adjourn

Keith Varian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Priscilla Schulz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary