

GOLF COMMISSION
Monday, April 8, 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 4.8.24](#)

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Peter Secrist, Vice Chair Mike Herrington, Michael Feinstein, Bob Gorman, Liam Herron, Sara LaTerza, Lori Mongelluzzo

OTHERS PRESENT: Golf Professional Bob Bigonette, Golf Course Superintendent Peter Grace

- Call to order and Roll Call
Chairman Peter Secrist called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the roll was called.
- Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was waived as there was no flag in the conference room.
- Welcome new Golf Commissioners:
Peter Secrist welcomed the new Golf Commissioners and thanked them for volunteering to serve on this commission.
 - Sara LaTerza
 - Lori Mongelluzzo
 - Bob Gorman
- Act on minutes of 3/11/2024
Mike Herrington wanted to note in the minutes that the garden that was approved for Kevin's Afterglow and Jim Kuczo will also be maintained by the Kuczo family.

Mike Feinstein made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Liam Herron seconded the motion which carried unanimously 3-0-0 (only Herrington, Feinstein and Herron could vote as they were in attendance at the last meeting.)

- Staff Reports
 - Pro Manager Report
Bob Bigonette welcomed the new Commissioners. Mr. Bigonette said March was unbelievable at the course. March had rainy weekends. If the weekends are good, April should be ok. People are raving about the course. Men's and Women's clubs started. The HSR driving range funds were approved and waiting for updated pricing. There was a discussion about the driving range renovations.
 - Administration Report
Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese was not in attendance, but the reports were discussed. There has been a good start with IDs and rounds. This could all be weather dependent to continue the good numbers. Locker rentals were reduced to \$75 for the season and there hasn't been any inquiries. There were comments at the BOF meeting about rates which started a discussion about the Senior and Nonresident rates. There was also a discussion about Strategic and Capital planning.

- Superintendent Report

Superintendent Peter Grace said his crew is working hard. There has been a lot of water but the greens are looking great. Trees have been cut down. The second tee needs work. There was a discussion about how to fix it without closing it. There was a question about the forward tee on 8. Peter Grace said the smaller tees will be aerified. Bob Gorman asked about taking trees down and if they need to be approved. Mr. Grace explained that the USGA report suggested removing the trees and Peter Grace has the authority to remove them. The bridge on 13 needs work. There was a question about whether the Men's Club could pay to fix it or who would be responsible for fixing it. Mr. Gorman also asked about the water drainage issue. Zach went through the course and gave an estimate of what it would take to fix the drainage. It was a long time ago and prices have most likely increased. They will need to find a way to fix it. It will need to be addressed in Strategic Planning.

- Greens Committee Report

Priscilla Schulz's term expired and Mike Herrington will be missing some meetings going forward. A new Green's Committee will need to be formed.

Mike Herrington nominated Sara LaTerza and Bob Gorman to form the new Green's Committee. Mike Feinstein seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

They will report on the Green's next month.

- Par 3 Committee Report

The course looks good. John aerified the greens today and will finish tomorrow. It is ready for the season.

- To hear and or act upon old business

- Expansion of Putting Greens – Peter Grace would like an architect to design a new putting green. The tulip tree will need to come down. The original rough estimate was \$25,000 - \$30,000. This would be a Fall project.

- To hear and or act upon new business

- Define Commission Goals

The Commission goals are to formalize long-term goals and needs.

- 2024

Mike Herrington urged the commissioners to go onto the website and review the old plan. Peter Grace will look into the last time the bunkers were done. The cart path has been repaired in patches. The path at 16, 17 and 10 needs to be repaired. There was a discussion about doing the whole cart path. Drainage and the cart path go hand in hand.

- Long term strategic plan

Mike Herrington suggested presenting the plan to the BOF without asking for funding, but to let them know what needs to be done so when the request for funding goes before them, the BOF will not be surprised. The needs of the course were discussed and a Strategic Planning Subcommittee was formed. Mike Herrington, Lori Mongelluzzo and Peter Secrist will be the Golf Commission Strategic Planning Subcommittee.

- Communications
 - Emails – Senator Tony Hwang – Martindale Lane
 - Senator Hwang presented 3 suggestions to the Golf Commission:
 - Hitting net off 1st tee behind the cart barn and set 2-3 hitting bays. It will help early morning players. His cost estimate is approximately \$2,500.
 - Consider fee schedules as an annual membership instead. It would introduce the game to a group of people who could learn the game and enjoy the course. Senator Hwang thinks the proceeds would be better for the Town as people would pre-pay.
 - Consideration to put surveillance cameras in the parking lot. Sen. Hwang had played golf after being on a business trip and luggage was stolen from his car. The lack of surveillance is frustrating and will be would be a deterrent from those who would want to break into a car.

Bob Bigonette said this has already been discussed with IT and the Town. They will put cameras at the driving range and around the clubhouse. Sen. Hwang would help by being the CSGA liaison and would help navigate this in anyway he can. There was a discussion about the suggestions Mr. Hwang proposed.

The full discussion can be heard by accessing the recording link at the top of this document.

- Public Comment
 - No public comment.
- Adjourn
 - Mike Herrington made a motion to adjourn. Michael Feinstein seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary