

GOLF COMMISSION
Monday, May 13, 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 5/13/2024](#)

DRAFT MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Feinstein

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Golf Pro Bob Bigonette, Golf Course Superintendent Peter Grace

- Call to order

Chair Peter Secrist called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the roll was called.

- Act on minutes of 4/8/2024

Mike Herrington made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/8/24 as written. Bob Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- Staff Reports

- Pro Manager Report

Bob Bigonette – March numbers were very good. There were 6 days of less than 15 players, but 6 out of 30 is good. Peter Grace and his staff are great and players always complement the course. Mr. Bigonette invited representatives from Calloway, Titleist and TaylorMade to the course. Each event sold out in under a minute, and they will be back next month.

Driving Range numbers look great. Outside events doing well. Hosted the Fairfield Fire Department and the event was successful. Total of 13 events booked including CSGA (CT State Golf Association) Connecticut Qualifier. The exposure will be great.

- Administration Report

Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese - Overall numbers up as April was strong. Proceeding with Cover the Tees for the upgrade to the driving range. Targeting completion in early July. The range will stay open, and people will be able to set up in front of the construction. They are anticipating an increase in usage when kids are out of school. Par 3 is doing well too.

- Superintendent Report

Golf Superintendent Peter Grace- There is a video review of the Par 3 and the gentleman in the video loved the course and gave it a great review. The gentleman suggested adding a portable toilet to the course. Mr. Grace and his staff are very busy fixing things, planting, fertilizing and working very hard. Many requests for benches and there are still some that need to be put out. Main entrance to the course needs some landscaping done. Irrigation has been turned on. Still working on drainage. There was a discussion on drainage on certain tees.

There was also a discussion on the schedule pin replacement and green cutting. Bob Gorman talked about the Men's and Women's clubs "adopting" a Hole or Fairway for some extra maintenance. Mr. Gorman does not know if it will be successful but would like to try. The discussion continued. Mr. Gorman suggested coming back next month with a report from the Seniors, Men's, and Women's clubs regarding the Adopt-a-Hole program. Anthony Calabrese will check to be sure it is legal from a union perspective.

See below for Public Comment on this Item.

- Greens Committee Report
Golf Course is playing nicely. Greens have a green and brown tone which is unusual. Peter Grace will look into it. It could be the fertilizer or who put the fertilizer down. Sara LaTerza agreed the course looks great, but the forward tees are still hard.
- Par 3 Committee Report
Liam Herron said he couldn't get a tee time at the Par 3 but will report next month.
- To hear and or act upon old business
Peter Secrist thought it would be a good idea to have a hitting net at the cart barn. Bob Bigonette said he priced it out but feels that removing half the lockers in the cart barn and replacing them with a non-Trackman hitting bay inside would be better. The lockers that were decreased in price still have not been rented. If this was to go through, the commission agreed to have the bay be a permanent install. A hitting net costs approximately \$2,500. Mr. Calabrese will look into this.
- To hear and or act upon new business
 - Create Long-Term Strategic Planning Sub-Committee
Chair Peter Secrist appointed the Subcommittee. The subcommittee members will need to schedule meetings. The purpose would be to discuss the long term planning of projects. Once members are appointed, the committee will call for a special meeting and appoint a chair. The subcommittee does not vote but can make recommendations to the Golf Commission. Anthony Calabrese will attend when available. The subcommittee will need to send information to the Golf Commission recording secretary who will send agendas and minutes to the Town Clerk.
 - Appoint Sub-Committee Members
Peter Secrist appointed Mike Herrington, Lori Mongelluzzo and Bob Gorman as members of the subcommittee. Mike Herrington will put out an email and schedule the first meeting.
- Communications
 - Emails – none
 - Bob Gorman mentioned a political candidate who had made ball markers and was asked not to distribute the ball markers as a result of the upcoming election. He has violated that policy and has continuously been asked to stop. Anthony Calabrese and Peter Secrist will reach out to the politician and again ask him to stop.

- Public Comment:
Brian Daly – 195 Hurd Street – (this public comment was done during discussions of the Superintendent’s Report)
There was a program started by the Men’s Club called Care of Course Program which was based on last names and you were assigned a hole while you were playing to fill divets and be conscious of the traps by raking out footprints etc. Thought it would set a good example for the general public by creating awareness.
- Adjourn
Mike Herrington made a motion to adjourn. Bob Gorman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O’Brien
Recording Secretary