

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
GOLF COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
Via Teleconference
Fairfield, CT 06824

✓ Agenda/minutes can be found here: <https://fairfieldct.org/content/10736/12226/default.aspx>

DATE: Monday, April 19, 2021
TIME: 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: K. Varian-Chair, M. Feinstein, M. Herrington, L. Herron, P. Secrist, P. Schulz

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Calabrese, P. Grace, B. Bigonette and members of the public.

MEMBERS ABSENT: C. Hogan

Call Meeting to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

K. Varian waived the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Act on Minutes: 3/8/21

MOTION: P. Schulz made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/8/21 as written. Michael Feinstein seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

II. Staff Reports 1. Pro Manager Report

B. Bigonette said the golf season is off to a very fast and robust start. ForeUP is going well so far. It will roll out in early May. They want to make sure it's right. He went to Tashua and spent the day in the shop to get used to it. The Trumbull residents are loving it and the website is user friendly. It shows all the tee times at the same time and will not allow more than one person to pick the same times. There are nine outings on the books and more that have not been confirmed. Pay for Play has started, and everyone is very comfortable with the system. The main goal is to keep carts moving. P. Schulz said they have done a great job. K. Varian asked if B. Bigonette was having any issues, which he is not. M. Herrington said the employees in the Pro Shop are very friendly and polite.

2. Administration Report

A. Calabrese said rounds are up. In two weeks in March, HSR made almost \$200K. Right now they are pacing at \$2.1M at HSR alone. Locker rentals have sold out. An additional 24 are being installed in the next couple of months. The parking lot was paved and so was the driving range parking lot. There are 158 lined parking

spaces and 40 overflow in the gravel making the total spots 198. He is working with Purchasing on leasing an additional 20 carts. E-Z-Go has the current contract and they are trying to get them on the same renewal. They are doing training for ForeUP and hoping to seamlessly transition into it. The Starter Shack will arrive at HSR the first week of May. All final CO's have been issued. There are only a few things that still need to be completed. P. Schulz asked about shrubs or something else to separate the patio from the grass area near 18. A. Calabrese said they are thinking about extending the retaining wall along the patio. He will also look into upgrading the bathrooms at 10. Feedback regarding Boca has been positive. Weekends have been crowded there.

3. Superintendent Report

P. Grace said everything is good and everyone loves the course at HSR. They are working on the 10th tee area sod and putting green. He said it has been tough to hire people because other courses are paying more, so he is shorthanded. He will need to install benches and needs the weather to improve so the grass will grow.

III. Greens Committee Report

K. Varian told the commission that Mike Herrington has volunteered to take Paul Gleason's place on the Green's Committee. M. Herrington said the greens look better than they have ever looked. P. Schulz also said she agrees that everything looks great and 6 is good, 9 is coming along. The fairways look fantastic and she was grateful for the ball washers on the forward tees.

IV. Par 3 Committee Report

M. Feinstein played the Par 3 Saturday with his kids. It was in as good as shape for mid-April. Everything looked great, including the traps. Kudos to Peter and John as they are doing a great job. L. Herron agreed. K. Varian said the driving range and the practice area are up and running.

V. Old Business To hear and or act upon:

1. Clubhouse Building Update

B. Bigonette said he is having trouble receiving golf equipment. Should be in by May 1.

VI. New Business: To hear and act upon:

1. Cart rental fees and single ridership

The BOF asked A. Calabrese to go over fees with the commission. B. Bigonette said other courses have increased prices.

Motion: M. Herrington made a motion to adjust cart fees for an individual requesting to ride alone to \$25/18 holes, \$20/9 holes. P. Schulz seconded the motion.

Vote: the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Communications/Public Input - Emails pertaining to issues not already discussed will be addressed.

Andy Paules sent an email regarding the handicapped parking spot and how it is tight and might cause issues with the golf carts. It was suggested to encourage carts to use

other curb cuts and entry points. M. Herrington said the only reason why carts are allowed in the parking lot is for handicapped users. This is a new parking lot so they will see what happens going forward and put it on the agenda for discussion at the May meeting and the public can email suggestions. K. Varian asked what school teams were using the courses. B. Bigonette said FWHS and FLHS Varsity girls and boys are using HSR. Junior Varsity is using Par 3. He has had requests from Greens Farms Academy and St. Thomas to use Par 3.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion: M. Herrington made a motion to adjourn. M. Feinstein seconded the motion.

Vote: The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary