

GOLF COMMISSION
Monday, March 14, 2022
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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIGhLcyOi7w>

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Varian-Chair, Peter Secrist-Vice Chair, Michael Feinstein, Mike Herrington, Liam Herron, Christine Hogan, Priscilla Schulz.

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese(via conference line), Golf Pro Bob Bigonette, Golf Course Superintendent Peter Grace (via conference line) , members of the public

1. Call to order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Keith Varian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Act on Minutes: 2/7/22

Christine Hogan motioned to approve the minutes of 2/7/22 as written. Priscilla Schulz seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Staff Reports

a. Pro Manager Report

Bob Bigonette said the course is close to being open. ForeUp is going well. Six hundred residents have renewed their passes so far and about 65%-70% did so online. Keith Varian asked if each person needs an individual account. Mr. Bigonette said everyone needs their own account, even minors. Only one email per account is allowed.

Mr. Bigonette said the driving range still had snow, so they kept it closed. Everything seems to be moving along nicely though.

b. Administration Report

Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese said numbers for IDs are trailing last year, but the revenue is even for the calendar year. Fiscal Year numbers at HSR are down \$140,000 and over at Par3 by \$9,000-\$10,000. Once the courses open, those numbers should go up.

The Golf Cart RFP will go out later this week. It is almost a year from now that they are needed, but due to the supply chain issues, they need to be ordered now for January 2023 delivery.

c. Superintendent Report

Peter Grace said the course is set. It is being aerated and holes are being put in by the greens crew. They are hoping to open by St. Patrick's Day. Tree work has been done and the cart path is being worked on. If the cart path isn't finished, Mr. Grace is leery of opening at the end of the week.

Bob Bigonette said the crew was working on it today. Priscilla Schulz suggested possibly opening it up to walkers only but stating that it should also be passable.

5. Greens Committee Report

Priscilla Schulz walked the course the other day and it was soft but some parts that are in the shade are hard. They will have to walk it again to see if it can be open by the end of the week. Ms. Schulz is glad the greens crew is working on the cart path.

6. Par 3 Committee Report

Par 3 will open at the same time as HSR.

7. To hear and or act upon old business:

a. 50th Anniversary Celebration

Christine Hogan said they will not be doing the charity golf scramble but are hoping to do three other events. Anthony Calabrese said a decision should be made by the end of the week to get the announcement into the summer Parks & Rec brochure. Ms. Hogan will meet with Bob Bigonette and someone from Boca to finalize everything. Once everything has been finalized, they will start announcing the events.

Priscilla Schulz motioned to add the Master Plan to the agenda. Mike Herrington seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously

Mike Herrington said the priorities for the Golf Commission's Master Plan will be set by Bob Bigonette, Peter Grace and Mike. They will then meet with Keith Varian and Anthony Calabrese. The cost to fix the cart path for the whole course is \$160,000 based on the recommendations from the USGA report. Mr. Herrington will get the list together and put pricing next to each item. They will decide if it is a safety issue or a play issue and prioritize. The plan is to present the list to the Town Boards. The cart paths are a health and safety issue. They might have to be done first as a separate item because they already have the quote. Drainage work will need to be done and the estimated cost for that could be \$75,000-\$100,000. Per the USGA report, more tree work will need to be done. Mr. Herrington will send the plan with maps to the commission.

8. To hear and or act upon new business:

There was no new business

9. Communications

a. Public Comment and emails

- Kevin Kuczo memorial bench- Jim Kuczo is requesting to put a sign similar to the sign by the Butterfly Garden:

“This area maintained by Kevin’s Afterglow”, which is their charity founded in Kevin’s memory.

Peter Grace said the bench is ready to be installed. Mr. Kuczo’s brothers have a landscaping business and want to maintain the area around the bench. Mr. Grace is fine with that and having the sign there.

Priscilla Schulz motioned to approve the area on the 7th tee for the bench and the sign. Liam Herron seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjourn

Mike Herrington motioned to adjourn. Liam Herron seconded the motion.
The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O’Brien
Recording Secretary