

GOLF COMMISSION
Monday, July 11, 2022
7:00pm
Fairfield Parks & Recreation Conference Room
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT
& Via Conference Call Bridge

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Keith Varian, Mike Herrington, Christine Hogan, Priscilla Schulz

Members Absent: Vice Chair Peter Secrist, Michael Feinstein, Liam Herron

Others Present: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Superintendent Peter Grace, Golf Pro Bob Bigonette

1. Call to order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Varian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Act on minutes of 6/13/22

Priscilla Schulz made a motion to approve the minutes from 6/13/22 as written. Mike Herrington seconded the motion which carried 3-0-1 (C. Hogan abstained)

4. Staff Reports

a. Pro Manager Report

Golf Pro Bob Bigonette said everything has been busy. The Proclamation with Senator Hwang went well. The ladies league had a 50th anniversary invitational. Most clubs are saying business is dropping, but the courses here are doing well.

b. Administration Report

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese said the Golf report for June reflects the end of the fiscal year. The revenue is up and the rounds are less than last year but the numbers are great for a typical year. The numbers for the calendar year are down compared to covid year but up from a normal year.

c. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Peter Grace said he is fixing irrigation problems and has new crew training. They are keeping the course in good shape. He received many compliments at a recent member event. His crew is cleaning out between the 6th & 7th tees and the grass is dying due to the faulty irrigation, but they are doing the best they can. They will work on forward tees when things settle down. Swing speeds should determine where the forward tees should be. Mike Herrington will resend the Google Earth images to the Commission.

5. Greens Committee Report

Priscilla Schulz agreed with Peter's report and said the greens look like they are coming back.

6. Par 3 Committee Report

Chair Keith Varian said he played the Par 3 and it was in good shape and it was crowded. Mr. Varian said it looked great for the amount of play there.

7. To hear and or act upon old business:

a. 50th Anniversary Celebration

They have 40 reservations for the Golf +8 dinner. Bob Bigonette will update the numbers at the next meeting.

b. HSR-Long Term Capital Improvement Plan

The forward tees were covered earlier and there is nothing else to update at this time

8. To hear and or act upon new business

a. Trackman Simulators

Anthony Calabrese is working with Purchasing to put together an RFP for the Simulators. They will put it out for proposal for a price point. The original estimate came in at \$100,000.00. This will be a revenue generator. Whitney Farms has two simulators and charge \$50/hour to rent them.

Mr. Calabrese will also work with Purchasing to get money approved for the design to renovate the driving range. He will have to have Conservation agree to the plan. This will include upgrading the parking there as well.

9. Communications

a. Public Comment and emails

There was an email from Mr. Greg Bambach regarding blind spots on holes 6 & 11. Mr. Bambach suggested a manual bell system that he experienced while playing on a course in North Carolina and this alerted golfers to the blind spots.

There has also been complaints at HSR recently regarding loud music being played from the carts. Bob Bigonette did research on this and called many local clubs, but none of the courses had issues with golfers playing music. Mr. Bigonette reminded everyone to be respectful.

The email above and Bob Bigonette's report regarding the music are included in full in the backup documents online.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjourn

Priscilla Schulz made a motion to adjourn. Mike Herrington seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien

Recording Secretary