

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Richardson, Chairperson; Tom Schumacher, Vice-Chairperson; Robert Collier, Ebie Cooper, David Phalen and Gerald Slagle.

R&P STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, R&P Director; Pat Meyers, Golf Course Manager; and James Farran, Golf Course Superintendent.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course (WSGC) Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Schumacher motioned, seconded by Bob Collier, to approve the minutes of October 16, 2013; the motion carried with all in favor.

Tom Schumacher asked if the minutes could be provided earlier; R&P Director Brian Loewe stated that could be done.

NEW BUSINESS

Golf Course Website

Pat Meyers, Golf Course Manager, showed the new WSGC website to the Board. The new website includes two videos; contact us and additional information box features; photo gallery; and course news. The new site was developed to better coordinate with the County and Recreation and Parks sites, to be more "user friendly," and enhance marketing efforts.

Superintendent's Report

Bob Richardson asked about the current cost to restore bunkers. Jim Farren stated that an average size trap would cost about \$8,000 for a contractor to handle (dig out sand, new drainage, parts, sand and sod). Staff could look into doing that in-house in the future. One truckload of sand (23 tons) is about \$800. In fall 2013, twelve bunkers were refurbished. The course has 52 traps.

Financial Report

Ms. Meyers referred to several financial handouts that were provided to members: 1) Annual Comparison FY07 – FY14 Financial Statement; 2) July – December Year-to-Date Rounds of Golf and Revenue and Expense Comparison; 3) Wicomico Shores Golf Course Fee Schedule with proposed fees for 2014/2015; and 4) draft WSGC FY15 Requested Budget. She noted that:

- Rounds of golf are down about 1%; outing rounds are also down. Approximately same number of tournaments; each tournament lost a number of people.
- Mr. Schumacher asked Ms. Meyers to look into the increase in Golf Shop expenses. He also asked about the Clubhouse expenses; electric, janitorial and water / sewer fees have gone up. She will follow up on these two items for the Board.
- The operation is generally in the red at this time of the year; the spring season will make up a

- large part of the deficit.
- Ms. Meyers referred to the draft FY15 Requested Budget sheet. Staff has tried to trim expenses where possible. Overall, the budget reflects a reduction in anticipated revenue of \$30,000 and expenses by \$46,000. The proposed budget is conservative with the hope rounds will increase in the near future.
- Some unknowns for the upcoming budget include costs associated with possible merit or COLA increases and increases in health insurance. A member asked if when someone retires, could the position be filled with an hourly employee; Ms. Meyers stated that would require eliminating the position and filling with an hourly worker. That is a possibility that can be looked at in the future.
- The OPEB contribution has increased over the years; also, health insurance will likely go up for the coming year.
- The Golf cart lease payment budget is increased by \$4,000 to cover anticipated increases.
- Funding in the amount of \$37,000 was budgeted in FY14 for equipment; \$30,000 is proposed for FY15.
- Mr. Schumacher stated that revenues look like they have been overly optimistic in the past; Ms. Meyers stated that has been adjusted for FY14 and will be taken into account for FY15.

Staff is proposing an increase for golf fees for FY15; the last increase was in spring 2011. The proposal is a \$25 increase in season passes and \$1 in greens fees. This would take effect in April 2015. Ms. Meyers contacted other area courses; they all have some type of recent increases. White Plains is \$27 during the week; WSGC is \$26; Breton Bay may be slightly higher.

Bob Collier motioned, seconded Tom Schumacher, to endorse the FY15 golf rate increase as outlined in the Recreation and Parks draft FY15 budget request. Motion carried with all in favor.

The average season pass holder plays 50 rounds per year. Ms. Meyers noted that there have been 12 new season passes sold to date this season.

A member expressed concern about raising the rates when the Federal government has not granted a cost of living for several years.

A member asked about the senior twilight rates; the twilight rates are the greens fee nine hole rate. The time varies with the season.

The golf cart lease ends March 2015. Staff will look at the possibility of extending the lease as well as other options. Members requested a copy of the lease agreement; Ms. Meyers will obtain a copy of the current lease from the main office. Staff will start the Procurement process in September.

A member inquired about the fuel budget for the carts; Ms. Meyers stated the budget is \$11,000; the Maintenance budget includes \$13,000 in fuel and oil for equipment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tom Schumacher nominated Jerry Slagle for Chairperson; David Phalen nominated Tom Schumacher for Vice-Chairperson. Bob Richardson motioned, seconded by Tom Collier, to accept the slate of officers as presented; the motion carried with all in favor.

Meetings were set for the third Wednesday of the month for each quarter; they are: April 16, July 16, October 15 and January 15, 2015. The bylaws can be found on the County's website at <http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/voluntr/golf.asp>.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. *Meeting was rescheduled to April 17, 2014.*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder (from tape recording)