

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Richardson, Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Bob Collier, Jenny Russell, Peter Delman and Jerry Slagle.

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Phalen.

R&P STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, Director; Nick Isom, Golf Course Manager; and Jim Farren; Golf Course Superintendent, from St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks.

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 Clubhouse.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peter Delman moved, seconded by Bob Collier, to approve the minutes of October 19, 2016 with changes to the paragraph titled Priority System for Future Expenditures on page 2; motion carried with all in favor.

REVIEW OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Jenny Russell asked for clarification on the red tees being rated for men as described on page 4. Nick Isom, Golf Course Manager, stated that was done so men playing from the red tees will now have a valid score for handicap purposes. She also asked about the point of sale system mentioned on page 7. Mr. Isom stated that a new and modern point of sale system is needed to get all golf course and restaurant operations in the same system. Peter Delman asked about the ride along data mentioned on page 4; Mr. Isom stated there were no requests for ride alongs during the review period. Mr. Delman asked about the costs for the carpet and the counter top replacements noted on page 7; Mr. Isom will send that information to the Board.

Bob Collier moved, seconded by Jenny Russell to approve the draft annual report as written; motion carried with all in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Nick Isom provided a financial report of FY2016 compared to FY2015. Rounds of golf were down by 1,063 rounds; revenue was down by about 2%; expenses were down also. Overall, the year was in the black by about \$8,000.

He also provided a report on the first six months of FY2017 compared to same period in FY2016 (through December 20, 2016). Rounds are down by about 4,000. However, January 2017 rounds to date look promising.

The Restaurant will have some specials in the near future (examples: Trivia Night; Valentine's Dinner). A newsletter will come out shortly and Facebook postings will continue. Those events will be posted on the advertising sign and Facebook page (both course and community pages).

Scheduling tee times in advance was discussed; the issue is trying to make sure the system is fair to all pass holders and the public.

PRO SHOP REPORT

Mr. Isom reported that new golf merchandise is coming in and is being well received by patrons.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Farren and Mr. Isom developed a list of priorities for improvements for the future; the list included :

- Bunkers (rebuild)
- Cart paths (Black top throughout, estimated at \$300,000)
- Carpet (Riverview side only)
- Point-of-sale system (both golf and restaurant)
- Fairway mower

Mr. Delman stated that improved cart paths will improve course playability. Mr. Farren stated many golfers don't stay on cart paths; he felt many would also like to see bunker improvements. However, fiscal constraints are an issue. Mr. Delman mentioned using the Detention Center workforce, using surplus materials from other projects, and perhaps asking the County to fund some improvements. Mr. Isom and Mr. Farren will obtain cost proposals and options for refurbishing bunkers by the next Board meeting.

ASSIGNING SINGLE GOLFERS

This will continue to be monitored; currently there is no specific policy forcing single golfers to be paired up, however single golfers are matched up on a need basis.

SAND TRAP RAKES

Mr. Isom stated that new rakes will be ordered, along with cup liners and flags. Ms. Russell asked if a hazard flag could be placed near the pond by the 16th; Mr. Isom said that can be done.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jenny Russell moved, seconded by Jerry Slagle, to nominate Bob Richardson as Chairperson for 2017; motion carried with all in favor.

Bob Collier moved, seconded by Jerry Slagle to nominate Jenny Russell as Vice-Chairperson for 2017; motion carried with all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Russell if staff could look into the feasibility of a punch card to receive a round free after a number of paid rounds.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Kathy Bailey, Recorder (from tape recording)

Minutes approved by the WSGC Advisory Board on April 19, 2017.