

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 21, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gerald Slagle, Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Bob Collier, Robert Richardson and Jennifer Russell.

**ABSENT:** Everett Cooper and Thomas Schumacher, Vice-Chairperson. Staff received a resignation letter from Mr. Cooper on January 20, 2015.

**R&P STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Loewe, Director, and Patty Meyers, Golf Course Manager, 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**

**Bob Richardson moved, seconded by Jenny Russell to approve the minutes of October 15, 2014; motion carried with all in favor.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Rate Increases**

Mr. Slagle referred to several fee increases that will go into effect April 1, 2015. The cart fees will increase by \$1; greens fees by \$1; and the individual season pass rate will increase by \$25. Staff recommended the fee increases based on the current financial situation and after comparing fees at other courses. The course needs to generate additional revenue and rates have not increased since April 2012. Concerns were expressed over fixed expenses: mortgage, salaries, OPEB (other postemployment benefits), utilities and other expenses. Staff is working on recommendations for cost saving measures to include a request for a reduction in the OPEB assessment and accounting fees for the golf course.

**Financial Report**

Ms. Meyers provided a Recreation and Parks financial report for FY14 and selected pages from the County's audit report. The winter months can be tough for the course, depending upon the weather.

Unanticipated expenses for FY15 included: OPEB increases and need to replace the front steps. Banquets have picked up and this equates to more exposure for the golf course. Revenues for banquets are up, but expenses are also. Recent events are showing positive results (New Year's Dance, Chili Cook-off, and Super Bowl Party).

She also noted that minimum wage went up to \$8 on January 1, 2015. It will increase to \$8.25

in July 1, 2015; to \$8.75 on July 1, 2016; to \$9.25 on July 1, 2017; and to \$10.10 on July 1, 2018. A new hourly salary scale is currently being developed to incorporate these changes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Incentives and Fundraising**

**Forever Card and Other Specials** – Bob Richardson suggested an idea of a “forever card” (example: forever stamp) where you buy a pass that’s good indefinitely. Another option is pay for ten rounds and get twelve rounds. Ms. Meyers mentioned the option of a card for \$199 and each time you play you get the twilight rate. The golf course does offer gift certificates. Ms. Meyers stated that staff will do some research on these options. Some courses now consider Friday a weekend day and the offerings for Saturday and Sunday pertain to Friday.

**Recognition of Volunteer Members of Boards and Commissions** - Board and Committee members have been invited to a Recognition of Volunteer Members Ceremony and Reception with the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County on Tuesday, January 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

**Club Events** - On July 3<sup>rd</sup> staff will try a one day member/guest event. This is a 27-hole event and includes greens fees and cart fees. This will serve as an incentive to get folks from other courses to come out and play.

**Customer Satisfaction Cards** – will be placed out again in the near future.

### **Election of Officers**

The Board was advised that it was up to their discretion to decide to hold election of officers at this meeting, at a special meeting, or at the April meeting. By show of hands, Board members decided to move forward with the scheduled election of officers. Board members must be present to vote.

**Bob Collier moved to nominate Bob Richardson for Chairperson, seconded by Jenny Russell; the motion carried 5-0. Bob Collier moved to nominate Jenny Russell for Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Bob Richardson; motion carried 5-0.**

### **SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder (from tape recording)