

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Richardson, Chairperson; Jenny Russell, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Collier, Peter Delman, Tom Schumacher and Gerald Slagle.

ABSENT: Dick Buckler

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chairperson Richardson introduced new Board member Peter Delman to the Board.

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. A moment of silence was held in memory of Ms. Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer, St. Mary's County Government.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Schumacher moved, seconded by Jerry Slagle, to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015; motion carried with all in favor.

Annual Report for 2014

Mr. Richardson referred to the draft 2014 Annual Report. He clarified that the previous report which was submitted in October 2014 was actually for calendar year 2013. The Commissioners require a report updated for calendar year 2014. Reports are due in the first quarter of the year for the previous year ending on December 31st. Jerry Slagle questioned why all members were not involved in drafting the report. Staff and Mr. Richardson responded that the report was drafted and emailed in advance of tonight's meeting to save time; the report is open for review and change tonight as the Board desires.

Tom Schumacher moved, seconded by Bob Collier, to approve the 2014 draft Annual Report and to submit the report to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Meyers referenced the February reports titled Year-to-Date Rounds of Golf, Revenue and Expense Comparison (FY15 compared to FY14); Annual Comparison FY08-FY15, Financial Statement; and Financial Summary and Rounds of Golf FY00-FY15 that were recently emailed to Board members. In the future, reports will be sent to members every month. The winter weather has impacted the bottom line. Revenues in the kitchen have increased significantly; however, expenses have also increased. Jim Farren, Golf Course Superintendent, and staff have done a great job in trying to reduce expenses. An additional expense was incurred this year for

replacement of the Clubhouse front steps. Mr. Delman asked if there was any recourse; that was discussed with County staff and it was determined that the warranty on the 2008 steps had expired. Mr. Schumacher stated the increased number of events is positive for the restaurant/banquet room. OPEB costs have increased; the hope is the OPEB expense can be reduced in the future. Ms. Meyers stated that twelve new season pass holders have signed up; however, a few previous members have not renewed. To date, revenues are up \$25,000 over this time last year. The new rates are effective today, April 1.

Jim Farren noted that the cart refurbishing was recently completed. This included providing carts with new clutches, brushes, seat covers, wind shields, plugs, fuel filters and oils. These costs were incorporated into the new three year lease from Yamaha Golf Cart Company with a three year guarantee on all new parts.

FOREVER CARD/PUNCH CARD

The proposal is actually for a card that can be punched each time a patron comes in and plays; when you get to the seventh round you get a free round. This is planned to be implemented as soon as possible.

Mr. Slagle noted that the recent Friday night dinner was a huge success; however, he felt there wasn't enough staff on hand for the event. Ms. Meyers stated staff has planned for a bigger crowd for the upcoming Friday night.

Ms. Russell asked if the ladies tees can be adjusted for tournaments; Ms. Meyers stated that staff will look into that.

FY2016 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Delman referred to the recent Enterprise article in which it was noted the CSMC didn't support the requested subsidy for the golf course. He noted if there wasn't a mortgage payment, the course would be in the black. Mr. Loewe reported that staff has been directed to work with Finance and Human Resources on FY2016 recommendations to address the deficit. Mr. Delman stated the Board needs to communicate their position to the CSMC. Mr. Slagle recommended letting the golfing community know to come out to the April 14th budget public hearing at Great Mills High School.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Kathy Bailey, Recorder (from tape recording)