

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Richardson, Chairperson; Bob Collier, Peter Delman, David Phalen and Jerry Slagle.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jenny Russell and Dick Buckler.

R&P STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Arthur Shepherd, Interim Director, Nick Isom, Golf Course Manager, and Jim Farren, Golf Course Superintendent, from St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks. Jim Hodges, citizen, also attended.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course (WSGC) Advisory Board was called to order at 4:30 p.m. at the WSGC Clubhouse.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jerry Slagle moved, seconded by Peter Delman, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2017; motion carried with all in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Farren, Golf Course Superintendent, provided a report that covered the following items.

- Greens have been aerified for the summer.
- Sprigs were donated and will be planted next week.
- Tree/limb cleanup is ongoing since this week's storm.
- Sand traps/bunker improvement - There is an attachment that can be used with the sand machine, but does not fit the course's machine. Mr. Farren is exploring options for sand trap improvements.
- New flags and new bunker rakes have been purchased.
- The course is in good shape; lots of compliments have been received.

Mr. Delman recommended staff utilize the Detention Center work force to assist with removing stones from the bunkers. Mr. Farren will check into DCWF availability. Jerry Slagle suggested advertising a Friday night cook out and asking people to pick the stones out of the bunkers. Mr. Richardson recommended an "adopt a bunker" type program. Nick Isom recommended filling in some bunkers utilizing dirt, sod, etc.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Nick Isom provided a year-to-date FY2017 compared to FY2016 financial report. Rounds of golf are down about 13%. The first quarter (July, August, and September of last year) was challenging with heat and the rains in September. However, since that first quarter of this fiscal year, the course has picked up 600 rounds. Two tournaments are planned for next week. Revenue is down about \$23,000 compared to the same period last year; so far, the course is in the red about \$48,000 for the fiscal year.

Mr. Delman suggested moving tournaments from Tuesdays and Thursdays (Senior Blitz days) to Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mr. Isom does that when he can; some tournaments can only do a Tuesday or Thursday. Mr. Isom suggested moving the Senior Blitz to Monday or Wednesday if needed; the group was open to that as needed.

CLUBHOUSE EVENTS

Mr. Isom reported the following:

- Trivia Night was held on June 9 with over 40 players.
- The July 4th Tournament is coming up.
- The Member Guest Tournament is July 15 and July 16.
- The course has hosted 780 players so far this year for outside tournaments. There are four more events scheduled this year over last.
- The Junior Camp started today with twelve children.
- An individual is hosting a WSGC Junior Golf tournament on July 30.
- The Valpak coupons have been well received.

CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Arthur Shepherd, Interim Director, provided an outline of a staff plan in response to the Board's April 2017 letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. The proposal suggests that operational and maintenance expenses and debt service continue to be funded through the WSGC Enterprise Fund. However, any major facility and golf course improvements be considered for future funding through a new Golf Course Capital Improvement Project (similar to the Recreation Facilities and Parks Improvements Project that covers renovations and repairs at various parks and facilities). The new project would cover items such as paving cart paths, renovating bunkers and expanding tee boxes.

Mr. Hodges provided a history of the clubhouse project. He felt relief of debt service and building maintenance would allow for opportunity for the operation to "get back into the black."

Mr. Delman moved to propose to the CSMC: 1) relief from the debt service and building maintenance cost; if that is not approved, he would propose 2) to request a Golf Course CIP project to cover major improvements. Although the motion was not voted on, the Board expressed concurrence for this action.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET TIMELINE

Mr. Shepherd provided the Board with a general overview of the County budget timeline. July 1, 2017 begins Fiscal Year 2018. In September, planning will begin for FY2019 with setting of the budget calendar. In November, discussion will begin on the CIP and in January CIP proposals are submitted to Finance. In February, the CSMC begin working on the budget; the public hearing document is normally approved for public hearing in March and the public hearing is held in April. In May, the budget is finalized, tax rates are set and the budget is adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pete Delman moved, seconded by Jerry Shlagle, to change the regular Board meeting time from 6:00 pm to 4:30 p.m. Motion failed 3-2. Discussion on meeting times will continue in the future.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 P.M.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder (from tape recording)

Minutes approved by the WSGC Advisory Board on September 13, 2017.