

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 21, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Richardson, Chairperson; Dick Buckler, Peter Delman, Jenny Russell, Gerald Slagle.

ABSENT: Bob Collier and Tom Schumacher.

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. Citizen Tommy Dixon also attended.

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

Jerry Slagle moved, seconded by Pete Delman, to approve the minutes of July 1, 2015; motion carried with all in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Jim Farren provided a report on the five year plan for the Grounds and Greens Division.

Items proposed included:

- Equipment – a new tractor in 2017; a tee mower in 2018; a greens mower in 2019; a surrounds mower in 2020; and a fairway mower in 2021.
- Golf Carts – replacement fleet due in 2018 (consider lease or purchase)
- Golf Course (Operating) – loads of gravel in 2017 through 2020; rebuild trash cans, water coolers, and benches, and add new ball washers all in 2019; asphalt for cart paths in 2021; and build forward tees in 2021.

Recent projects completed included:

- Recent water damage repairs to tee box #15 cost approximately \$2,500.
- Cleaned out some silted areas; #2 and #8.
- Cut tree on entrance road; removed some stumps.

Pete Delman asked about hole #1 improvements; Mr. Farren stated that ten and eighteen are the priority at this time. Mr. Delman would like to move up, if possible, paving of the cart paths.

Peter Delman asked if certain items for the golf course could be funded from the General Fund instead of from the Golf Course Enterprise Fund; as a public facility (like the libraries, parks, etc.), the golf course could be treated as other public facilities. It was noted that White Plains golf course in Charles County is now run through that county's Parks Division. Mr. Loewe stated that would be up to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to decide.

Pete Delman moved, seconded by Jerry Slagle, to recommend that staff gather information on the possibility of certain operations and/or the mortgage payment being transferred to the General Fund. Staff should research what was done in Charles County for White Plains Golf Course (the reason behind the action).

Mr. Loewe said keep in mind that during the FY2016 budget process, the County decided to: 1) eliminate payment of insurances for the Golf Course; 2) eliminate cost for administrative support, accounting fees and additional forward funding of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB); and, 3) and have course pay principal only for debt service on Clubhouse.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Meyers referred to the handouts sent to Board members: 1) Projected Year-to-Date Rounds of Golf, Revenue and Expense Comparison FY2015 Compared to FY2015; and 2) Year-to-Date Rounds of Golf, Revenue and Expense Comparison FY2016 Compared to FY2015.

- Unofficial projections detail a negative \$(19,263) - full effect of expenses eliminated will be reflected in FY2016 budget.
- To date, FY2016 unofficial projections detail a positive \$126,468. Expenses are down over the same period last year.

Ms. Meyers sent a letter to Twin Shields pass holders (course closing) offering a discount for season passes; no responses to date.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report – The Board concurred that R&P staff should draft the Annual Report for the Board to edit/approve in December and then vote on in January 2016. The reports are due during the first quarter of the year.

Chairman Richardson expressed appreciation for Tom Schumacher's service on the Board.

REOI

Director Loewe reported that as part of the FY2016 budget process cost saving measures for the golf course, the County decided to issue a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for the future management of the golf and food and beverage operations. The REOI should go out by the end of the month.

Reciprocal Privileges

Staff was contacted by Breton Bay County Club about the concept of a reciprocal arrangement whereby if one of the courses is closed for a tournament or other event, then the patron could play at the other course for \$25. Staff feels there are benefits and some constraints with such an arrangement.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder (from tape recording)