

WICOMICO SHORES GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of April 18, 2007

Minutes

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Hodges, Chairperson, Chico Rivers, Vice-Chairperson, Phil Cranford, Wayne Pettit, Bob Richardson and Rick Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gloria Tippett.

STAFF/OTHERS ATTENDING: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks and Community Services (RP&CS), and Pat Meyers, Golf Course Manager, RP&CS.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course (WSGC) Advisory Board was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse.

AGENDA

Mr. Hodges informed the Board of several changes to the agenda previously e-mailed to Board members. They included: Item A - deletion of reference to minutes of January 14, 2005 and change the reference to the August 13, 2005 minutes to August 3, 2005.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil Cranford motioned, seconded by Chico Rivers, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2007. Motion carried.

Wayne Pettit motioned, seconded by Chico Rivers, to approve the minutes of January 25, 2007. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

WINTER SPECIALS

Chairman Hodges asked members to refer to the minutes of January 10, 2007. The consensus from Board members present on January 10th was to accept staff's recommendations on the Winter Specials. Chico Rivers asked if a motion is needed to endorse the recommendations; Mr. Rollins stated that would be up to the Board to formally endorse the administrative proposal for the Winter Specials. The Board agreed to go with the consensus expressed on January 10th.

DIALOGUE WITH POWSA, SENIOR BLITZ, LEAGUES, ETC.

Mr. Rivers reported that the Property Owners of Wicomico Shores Association (POWSA) recently held Elections of Officers. He stated the new Chairperson has not been active in POWSA duties to date, so he suggested postponing the invitation to POWSA to meet with the WSGC Advisory Board. The Board meetings are advertised and open to the public; POWSA members and Senior Blitz, Leagues and the general public are welcome to attend if they wish. Citizens with comments and concerns may also discuss those with Board members.

MARKETING CONTEST

Ms. Meyers reported that plans for the contest have not moved forward to date; it is anticipated the program will begin when operations move into the temporary trailer. The details are the same as discussed on January 25th.

RATE INCREASES

Chairman Hodges asked members to refer to the minutes of January 25th. Rick Smith noted a concern with the family pass rate. He had assumed a family pass was for the entire family, not just two people (actually a couples pass; example: husband and wife or father and son); he felt that a family pass should be for the entire family. Currently, it's an extra \$50 per person, per year for additional family members. Ms. Meyers stated that there are currently 44 family passes; about 4 or 5 have more than 2 players in the family. Mr. Smith suggested the structure for passes be examined after the move to the new Clubhouse.

SCORECARDS

Mr. Hodges also asked Board members to refer to the scorecard discussion held during the January 25th meeting. Mr. Hodges stated that the contracts for scorecards and tee signs need to be evaluated. Ms. Meyers stated the contract for scorecards should run until December 30, 2008. The contract for tee markers should run out in 2011.

The Board discussed having a billboard as an opportunity to sell ads and generate revenue. Mr. Rivers felt that would be a way to generate revenue. Ms. Meyers stated that modern advertising opportunities will be available in the new Clubhouse. Bob Richardson and Mr. Rollins expressed concern about the aesthetics of a billboard.

Chairman Hodges suggested the appointment of a three member committee to examine marketing options for the Golf Course. Chico Rivers, Bob Richardson and Wayne Pettit agreed to serve on the Committee. They will study the current contracts for scorecards and markers and research other ways of generating advertising revenue. The Committee will provide a report to the Board at the next meeting.

REVIEW OF BYLAWS

Chairman Hodges asked Board members to refer to the minutes of January 25th with regard to Vice-Chairman River's request to have the bylaws reviewed and possibly amended to clarify the role of the Board (page five, paragraph 1). Mr. River's thought, especially with the new Clubhouse, that everything of significance should be brought before the Advisory Board for discussion. Bob Richardson asked if an example would be the switching of the nines. Mr. Rivers replied, yes, "that upset a lot of people."

Chairman Hodges read the purpose of the WSGC Advisory Board from the bylaws: the WSGC Advisory Board shall provide general oversight of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course and to advise the County Commissioners on issues, fees and policies relating to the Golf Course. Under powers and duties the bylaws read: to assist in the determination of issues, fees and general policies relating to the Wicomico Shores Golf Course. Mr. Hodges felt these descriptions cover just about everything that goes on at the Golf Course and if the Board wants to send a recommendation to the BOCC, they can do so. Mr. Rollins stated that staff agrees with that. Major issues should be brought before the Board and, in looking back, maybe staff should have brought the issue of switching the nines to the Board. Chairman Hodges stated that another issue was that the BOCC was approached before the Board was consulted on changing the Manager of the Golf Course from a contract employee to a merit employee. If the Board disagrees with a policy decision made by staff, and staff moves forward with the change, the Board can send recommendations to the BOCC. Mr. Rollins stated that staff needs to make day-to-day and operational decisions. The Board only meets every three months and would need to meet every month in order to be more involved in operational decisions. Mr. Rivers stated that he would be ok with asking the BOCC to be more specific in defining the purpose and duties of the Board. The consensus was that day-to-day operational issues would be handled by staff and other matters relating to policy, fees, and major changes should be brought before the Board.

Chairman Hodges referred to Article V, section 5 of the bylaws with regard to voting. The bylaws state that each member shall have one vote. Members shall vote in person. The Chairperson is considered a voting member in the event of a tie. He feels the Chairperson should have a right to vote and the public should have a right to know the position of the Chairperson. Rick Smith agreed with the way the bylaws are written; the Chairperson should only vote to break a tie. The quorum is the presence in person of a majority of the current members of the WSGC Advisory Board. Mr. Pettit stated he felt the Chairman should have the same voting rights as all the other members.

Wayne Pettit motioned to recommend the bylaws be changed to make the Chairperson a voting member of the Board. The motion failed since there was no second.

CLUBHOUSE PROJECT

Ms. Meyers updated the Board on the status of the temporary trailer. Ms. Meyers stated that the trailer was delivered on January 17th; the subcontractor didn't properly install the tie down and that issue took about three weeks to resolve. There have been other issues between Denis Anderson and SMECO and the electrical and plumbing contractors and inspectors. Preliminary agency inspections are expected to be done within the next week or so. Due to these issues, the move to the trailer has been delayed about one month; staff anticipates the operation will be moved to the trailer by the end of April.

Select interior demolition of the Clubhouse has begun. Staff worked with Denis Anderson on value engineering and determined that some things could be done to reduce project costs. About \$50,000 should be saved with the value engineering process.

Director Rollins provided an update on the presentation made to the BOCC on April 17, 2007. The BOCC approved the budget amendment to increase the appropriation for the Clubhouse project by \$650,000 to provide sufficient funding to complete the project. Mr. Rollins stated that Denis Anderson's cost proposal was \$1,922.03 (including the savings from value engineering). The total project cost of \$2,650,000 (includes costs of \$126,345 for the previous new Clubhouse project) includes A&E, construction, contingency, temporary trailer rental and project management. Funding for the project consists of \$500,000 in State Program Open Space funds, \$800,000 from the Golf Course fund balance, and borrowing \$1,350 through exempt financing. The original appropriation for this project was \$2,000,000 and the current balance is approximately \$1,600,000; an additional \$650,000 is needed in the budget to complete the project. The BOCC will consider the exempt financing contract award within the next few weeks. After the exempt financing is approved the final construction contract will be awarded to Denis Anderson.

Ms. Meyers reported that the recent auction of equipment earned \$1,200 for the Golf Course fund.

NEW BUSINESS

Parking – Mr. Hodges was told that years ago some blue stone was put down for parking and that base should still be there to accommodate overflow parking. Ms. Meyers stated that the area has been designated with signage for overflow parking.

Letter to Advisory Board - Chairman Hodges referred to Gloria Tippet's letter previously sent to the Board. A patron of the Golf Course called her about concerns with residents' unauthorized use of the Golf Course. Residents have been seen strolling babies near the tees, walking dogs,

riding horses and allowing children to play in the sand traps. Ms. Meyers stated that when staff witnesses this they inform citizens that the activity is not allowed; sometimes it helps, but sometimes it does not since people assume it's public property and they can do what they wish. She felt that adequate no trespassing signs are posted.

Ms. Tippett also sent a letter of appreciation to Ms. Meyers thanking staff for the bunker sand and rakes, scorecards and mailbox. Ms. Meyers sent her a note back thanking her for her letter and promised to let staff know of her comments.

Vandalism – Ms. Meyers reported that four teens were apprehended for vandalism at the Golf Course.

Season Passes Holders – Ms. Meyers reported that the total number of season passes for 2006 was 229 with approx 270 total users. As of April 16th she has 188 for 2007; 192 and 232 to date. Staff anticipates picking up another six to ten or so. Overall, Ms. Meyers doesn't think the numbers are down significantly for this time of year.

Mr. Rivers stated that some previous pass holders have joined Breton Bay; he read a letter from one of the previous pass holders. Reasons for the switch included:

- ❖ Facilities and quality of the course; quality better at Breton Bay because it's private
- ❖ Hackers discouraged from tearing up the course at Breton Bay; members take better care of their course
- ❖ Not unusual to see players at Wicomico wearing "wife beater" t-shirts
- ❖ Attitude of food service staff
- ❖ Must have carts in before dark so kitchen staff can go home early
- ❖ No "breaks" for members; members and non-members treated the same

Mr. Rivers stated he found it inconvenient on the first night of the Friday Night League that the bar and grill was closed when they finished playing golf. He found it aggravating when staff flickered the lights and "ran people out." He stated that Friday Night League participants should have enough time to come in after playing to have a drink and socialize. He feels this may make people go to another course. Mr. Smith stated that customer service is "paramount"; he has never had a problem in the Pro-shop, but has had problems in the restaurant.

Mr. Rivers and Mr. Smith agreed that the condition of the course is great; they don't agree with the previous patron's letter on that point. Ms. Meyers stated that the restaurant closes at 7:30 and last call at the bar is 7:15 p.m. She suggested canceling the Friday night league until May if needed. Mr. Rivers indicated that if patrons are allowed to play golf, they have the right to come in and have a drink. Mr. Rollins stated that this will have to be looked at to balance the needs of the golf course, staff and patrons in mind.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board is scheduled for July 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting place will need to be changed to the Golf Course Maintenance Facility due to the Clubhouse construction.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:00 P.M.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder