

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 11, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Hodges, Chairperson; Chico Rivers, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Richardson, Phil Cranford, Rick Smith and Gloria Tippet.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne Pettit.

RP&CS STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks and Community Services (RP&CS); Patty Meyers, Golf Course Manager; Jim Farren, Golf Course Superintendent; and Jay Morgan, Food, Beverage and Banquet Supervisor. Mr. Jerry Slagle also attended the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course (WSGC) Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the temporary golf operations trailer at the Golf Course.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil Cranford motioned, seconded by Gloria Tippet, to approve the minutes of April 9, 2008. Motion carried with all in favor.

CLUBHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Rollins stated the project is moving forward as scheduled and within budget. Bi-weekly progress meetings continue to be held with the contractor. Several inspections are scheduled for next week; the facility will be completely closed in after that. Once the drywall is up, spackling and painting will be done. The kitchen flooring will be installed shortly and the kitchen equipment has been received. Staff anticipates moving into the renovated facility in August.

Rick Smith inquired about the separation between the restaurant area and the bar area. He stated that he was recently at a hotel that had a similar set-up. This hotel had a fabric curtain they pulled back when the bar got busy. He asked management if this worked and was told it works fine, though it can be a little noisy at times.

FOOD AND BEVARAGE REPORT

Jay Morgan reported that he has worked diligently over the past two months to get the restaurant ready for operation. He developed a survey to assist with developing the new Riverview Restaurant's menu. He also provided a handout of the draft restaurant menu which included a variety of choices; a "to-go" menu was also provided. Tentative hours of operation will be 7:00 am – 8:00 p.m. Chairman Hodges asked if breakfast would be served; Mr. Morgan stated that at this time he isn't planning on serving breakfast. He is open to adding breakfast at a later date, if feasible. He discussed a few options for the bar; a few frozen drinks with golf-themed names and wine may be offered.

Mr. Morgan stated that an ad was placed in the bridal section for the Southern Maryland Newspapers and at least a dozen calls have been received to date inquiring about the banquet facility. Room rental information, catering menus and a contract for renting the facility are all being developed. All food will be handled by the Clubhouse for weddings and other banquets; no outside caterers will be providing food service. Staff is honoring contracts with caterers for golf outings at the facility this season; starting next season, all food must be provided by the Clubhouse. Chairman Hodges was concerned this policy would not maximize opportunities for facility rental. Mr. Rollins stated that in the beginning, staff was not sure they would be able to find a manager with the expertise to manage both the banquet room and the restaurant; now that a manager has been hired that can manage both from the start, staff feels both operations can be maximized by providing the food service for both. Most of the revenue will be made from providing the food service for banquets, not just providing the facility.

Mr. Morgan also reported that he attended a recent Tourism Conference at the JT Daughtery Conference Center and made contacts with the local Tourism Director and businesses. He met with the Museum staff for ideas and assistance with design and display information for the Riverview Restaurant.

SLOW PLAY ON HOLES FOUR AND TEN

Mr. Smith asked for discussion and review of the areas that were allowed to grow up in natural grasses. This was done as a measure to have players hit for accuracy instead of length. He's hearing that play has slowed since golfers are spending quite a bit of time retrieving balls in the high grass. He wondered if the desired outcome has been realized. Chairman Hodges and Vice-Chairperson Rivers indicated they both have heard those comments. Ms. Meyers stated that she doesn't feel this has added significantly to play time. Vice-Chairman Rivers suggested taking out the two bunkers down the middle and do things to encourage people to hit to the right on hole number ten. Chairman Hodges stated one of the original considerations was taking out one of the traps and moving the fairway to the right on hole number ten. Ms. Meyers stated that was considered; but that's a non reversible decision and the plan to let the areas grow in natural grasses was done as a trial to see if this would help decrease errant shots hitting homes on the Course. She has received fewer calls from homeowners complaining about golf balls hitting their homes and if it's helped the homeowners, than that's the desired outcome.

Mr. Smith also asked about the second shot on number two coming near the tee box on hole number three. Ms. Meyers stated that staff can look at that area for additional planting to help protect the number three tee box area.

COURSE CONDITIONS

Chairman Hodges referred to the unsigned letter Mr. Rivers read aloud at the last meeting. Concerns included:

- Greens and the "speed" of green surfaces – Mr. Farren stated the greens are cut from April 19th through October 19th, seven days a weeks, depending upon the weather.
- Traps and rocks present in bunkers – Mr. Farren did some research on bunker renovation. One estimate he received was for \$8,000 - \$12,000 per trap. That includes digging out the sand, placing a new liner in the bottom of the bunker, adding drain lines and sodding the side

banks before replacing with new sand. Bunker renovation is usually done at 25 to 30 years. Mr. Farren is working to develop a plan to overhaul the traps and a timeline of when to phase in the repairs.

- Natural grass areas - Mr. Rivers stated that the course has many areas of natural/environmental grasses and wondered if some could be cut more often. Mr. Farren stated they are all cut about three times per year. Manpower and the price of grass dictate the number of cuts.
- Lack of blue tee locations during winter play – Mr. Farren stated this was modified somewhat over the past winter.

Ms. Meyers introduced George Jakovics who will fill John McCloskey's position. He comes to WSGC with a long list of experience; he was Mid-Atlantic Pro of the Year, Director of Golf at Heritage Harbor in Annapolis and General Manager at Walden Golf Course in the Crofton area.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chairman Hodges asked if a financial report could be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Rollins stated that it would be provided to the Board during the next meeting.

GOLF CARTS

For the record, Chairman Hodges referred to the last meeting's discussion on converting to electric golf carts. He stated that "time is money," especially when you consider the \$100,000 it would take to convert now. He stated that prices are going up, the trade in on the old carts is going down and maintenance of equipment is going up.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

Chairman Hodges stated the Senior group has had to play at other golf courses recently because tournaments have been scheduled and the course has been closed. Ms. Meyers stated that tournaments are scheduled Monday through Friday and on some weekends. Some of the tournaments were rescheduled due to rainy weather. When tournaments are scheduled, groups can still play at the course, maybe just not at the time they want to play. She said it's really a juggling act to try and balance the needs of everyone and do the best thing for the business.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:15P.M.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

