

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board MINUTES

October 18, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernie Kneeland, Chairperson; Jim Hodges, Terry Black, Dave Phalen, Brian Hammett

R&P STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Dugan, WSGC General Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board (WSGCAB) was called to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course by the Board Chair, Bernie Kneeland

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting were approved by email prior to the October meeting.

GOLF COURSE/RESTAURANT UPDATES

Patrick Dugan presented the following documents/ information to the board

- Annual Comparison FY17-FY24
- Year to Date Rounds of Golf, Revenue and Expense Comparison FY21 to FY24
- WSGC Expense Comparison FY24 and FY23
- WSGC Revenue Comparison FY24 and FY23
- Capital Improvement Projects Budget

In summary of the above documents, Patrick reported that golf operations were doing well. Green and cart fees in first quarter of FY24 exceeded the green and cart fees in first quarter of FY23. Restaurant revenue also exceeded the first quarter FY23 revenue. Restaurant supply costs continues to be a challenge as costs are higher than anticipated. Overall total operating revenues for the first quarter of FY24 are exceeding the first quarter FY23 operating revenues. Operating expenses have also increased but net revenue is higher than net revenue for the same period in FY23.

- Status of Capital Improvement/ Equipment Purchases
 - FY24 budget includes additional funding via ECC for capital equipment (mowers, Gator, tractor)
 - FY24 includes plan to purchase 1 greens mower, 1 Gator vehicle, 2 Zero turn mowers, 1 tractor. The money was not released until early September so the purchase orders are being prepared/ approved and released later than originally anticipated.
 - Purchase orders for the two (2) zero turn mowers have been approved
 - Purchase order for the Gator is in work and hopefully will be released in the next week
 - Purchase order for the greens mower is in work and should be released in early December
 - Purchase order for the tractor is still not started, awaiting a quote to prepare the Purchase Order.
 - Pat reported that he was hoping the updated quote for the tractor would possibly save \$5K which would support the purchase of a ball picker for the driving range.
- Capital Improvement Project FY24
 - FY24 Budget includes \$50K for CIP projects.
 - Patrick's plan that he discussed at the last Board meeting allocated (\$20K to repair sliding divider in banquet area, \$30K to continue course maintenance upgrades (continue to work greens, tee boxes, other course areas (e.g., #13, #7)
 - Patrick reported that he may decide to use the entire \$50K for course improvements as he is having difficulty finding anyone to repair the sliding divider.
 - Patrick stated his current plan for Course improvements includes the following:
 - Continue to work greens
 - Install a Ladies Tee for Number #7
 - Work the grass area on the right side of #7
 - Improve the Tee area on #9
 - Work the area in front of the pond on #13

- Work to level the middle Tee Box on #8
- Work fairway on #15 to include moving the sediment from the left side and adding top soil and sod/ sprigs to the area on the right side of fairway
- Repair any damaged sprinkler heads on course
- Because the funding for capital equipment was late all of the work originally planned for this fall will now be scheduled for the spring after the arrival of the tractor which is required to move the dirt from #15 to facilitate many of the planned efforts.
- Pat reported that he is working to schedule an assessment of the greens and overall course conditions from a USGA agronomist. (Pat estimates this could cost between (\$3-5K)).
 - The results of this assessment may lead to some focused areas for possible future improvements to the course conditions.
- Patrick advised the Board that he had requested additional CIP funds (\$150K) in his initial FY25 Budget request
 - Patrick asked that the Board continue to provide recommendations for possible improvements in FY25

OLD BUSINESS

- Annual Pass Service Fee
 - Patrick reported that he expected to implement a pay by the month system as soon as possible. He has a meeting scheduled with the County this week to discuss and develop the plan ahead. He reaffirmed that the initial year would require at least a 12-month commitment. After the initial 12-month commitment, a month-to-month system would be permitted.
- Golf Cart Replacement Plan
 - Patrick reported that Club Car Carts was still planning on replacing the golf carts starting 31 March 2024.
 - The existing contract/lease for Yamaha Carts expires on 1 March 2024. Pat reported that Club Car will cover the gap.
 - Patrick did express a potential concern that since we were not renewing the lease with Yamaha that there may be some charges pending for Cart condition etc. He is trying to find the original lease agreement to determine any potential charges that may be imposed.
- Fishing on Golf Course
 - Signs have been posted on #11 and #17 Stating “No Fishing”. Pat is working additional signage to further emphasize the “new policy”. There are no plans to actively enforce or police the policy.
 - Brian suggested that Pat consider posting the new policy notice on the neighborhood website to at least inform residents in the local neighborhood of the updated No Fishing policy.
- Increased Golf Cart Fee for a single occupant if requested
 - Pat did not recall any significant occurrences of application of this policy.
- Update on County efforts on “Green Initiatives
 - No “Green Efforts have been identified yet.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse.

ADJOURNMENT

- Dave Phalen made a motion to adjourn and Terry Black 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Bernie Kneeland

Minutes approved by the WSGC Advisory Board on