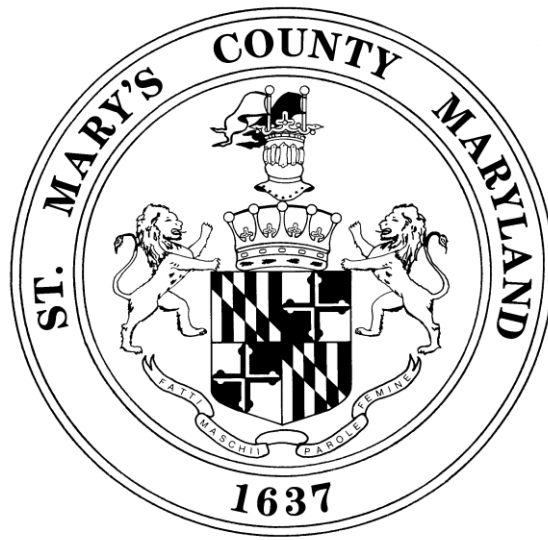


Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board



2023 Annual Report

Bernard Kneeland, Chair
Thomas Eicholtz, Vice-Chair
Jim Hodges
Brian Hammett
Dave Phalen
Terry Black
Greg Weaver

Arthur Shepherd, Director, Department of Recreation

January 31, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Board

The Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board (WSGCAB) is comprised of seven (7) community members (one of whom is a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board) appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to provide "advice and assistance concerning the Wicomico Shores Golf Course and on issues, fees and policies relating to the Golf Course."

Calendar year 2023 Board members: Bernie Kneeland, Chair; David Phalen; Jim Hodges; Terry Black; Brian Hammett; Thomas Eicholtz; and Greg Weaver (Recreation and Parks Board member).

Meeting Attendance in 2023

Members	Jan 18	April 26	Jul 19	Oct 18	Total
B. Kneeland	present	present	present	present	4
J. Hodges	present	present	present	present	4
T. Black	present	present	present	present	4
Brian Hammett	present	absent	present	present	3
T. Eicholtz	present	present	present	absent	3
D. Phalen	present	absent	present	present	3
G. Weaver	present	present	present	absent	3

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2022

- The Board elected the following officers for 2023: Bernie Kneeland, Chairman, Tom Eicholtz, Vice Chairman.
- Annual Report for Calendar 2022 was prepared and submitted.
- The Board had a quorum for all four meetings held in calendar year 2023
- The Board would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Director of Parks and Recreation and the County Commissioners for their continued support particularly with respect to the level of CIP funding provided to the course. These funds have supported the completion of several projects that have improved and enhanced the condition of the golf course.
- Based on review of budget performance exhibits (revenue and expense summary reports) during our quarterly meetings the financial performance of the golf course was positive. Green and cart fee revenue in the first quarter of FY24 have exceeded the first quarter of FY23 revenue. Financial performance of the restaurant continues to be challenged by supply chain issues and supply cost increases. Overall total

operating revenues for the first quarter of CFY24 are exceeding the first quarter FY23 operating revenue.

- Restaurant hours were expanded to include breakfast on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Restaurant has also increased operations to support the return of Trivia Night (once a month) and increased rentals for weddings, showers, etc.
- FY24 rates for 7-day unlimited season passes will remain unchanged. Cart fees will remain the same. There will be a small change in fees for non-season pass holders.
- FY23 CIP efforts have focused on green repair/ maintenance
- FY24 CIP funding was approved as requested. FY24 efforts will focus on Tee Box improvement, green maintenance and other course areas (e.g. #7, #13, #15).
- The Club Manager and Greens Keeper have developed a 10-year plan for future capital equipment purchases to support course maintenance activity.
- Scheduled equipment purchases/ leases planned in Calendar 23 (FY24) include:
 - (1) Greens mower
 - (2) Zero turn mower
 - Gator vehicle
 - Tractor with backhoe
- Additional Calendar 23 Maintenance and facility improvements included:
 - New flooring installed in restaurant entrance and lobby outside the Proshop
- Letters of appointment for Bernie Kneeland and Jim Hodges were received. Both members of the Board were reappointed for an additional three-year term.
- Golf Course's policy on restricting golf cart usage in the parking lot.
- "No Fishing" signs were added in front of the pond on #11. This was done to address potential injury to fisherman while players were on golf course.
- A new lease for golf carts (switching from Yamaha to Club Car Carts) will become effective in March of 2024.

PROBLEMS, CONCERNS & CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED

- The Course Manager has continued to do an admirable job managing course and restaurant operations while assuring the facilities continue to provide high-level services and enjoyable recreational activities despite some supply chain and supply cost issues.
- Maintaining the course in optimal condition to allow for a positive experience for golfers (particularly during peak seasons of play) remains a continuing challenge. Green maintenance concerns will require course management to remain as proactive as possible and continue to pursue required funding to facilitate and support green maintenance efforts (E.g., special green mowers).
- Providing staff for both the course and the restaurant with the tools needed for successful operations and upkeep remains an ongoing challenge. The Course General Manager is working the issue and is challenged with staffing issues.
- As county businesses and recreational facilities expand offerings in the expected wind-down of the pandemic, maintaining fees and prices for the course and restaurant at levels that meet current and anticipated future budgetary needs without discouraging community use of the available facilities will require ongoing oversight and discussion.
- Both the course and the restaurant will need to continue exploring new options for making the facility a more inviting destination for families and other groups seeking a wide variety of recreational and entertainment opportunities in St. Mary's County

PLANS FOR THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR (2024)

- A priority for current FY24 CIP funding includes repairs and updates to maintenance facilities and equipment (to ensure the condition of the course remains a top option for recreational activities for citizens of the county). Obtaining adequate funding to continue to maintain and improve green conditions is critical. The Board understands that FY25 CIP funds have been included in the FY25 budget request.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- The Board will continue to discuss and make recommendations for the future regarding the CIP plan of action for the golf course and restaurant. FY25 recommendations include:

- Installation of permanent tee markers
 - Incorporation of a practice area (practice bunker, chipping green)
- The Board will work with the Course Manager and Staff as needed to promote community interest and usage of the facility and its programs.
- The Board will continue to work with the Course General Manager and grounds crew staffing to provide advice and input to help maintain and continually work to improve the physical environment of the course.
- The Board will continue to provide advice and input to the Course Manager on restaurant operations.
- The Board will continue to provide advice and recommendations to the Recreation and Parks division to seek out appropriate opportunities for Wicomico Shores to help serve the public need for diverse healthy and sustainable recreational activities in St. Mary's County to enhance the health and economic well-being of the community.
- The Board encourages the Club Manager to work with the Parks and Recreation Director and Parks and Recreation Department to stay abreast of County Green Initiatives to ensure the Golf course is included in any potential Green Initiative funding for improvements to the Golf Club infrastructure.