

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board MINUTES

July 15, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernie Kneeland, Chairperson; Tom Eicholtz, Vice-Chairman, Jim Hodges, Terry Black, and Jerry Ostrowski

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 April 17, 2024 meeting were approved by email prior to the July meeting.

GOLF COURSE/RESTAURANT UPDATES

Patrick Dugan provided copies of the following documents/ information to the board

- Year to Date Rounds of Golf, Revenue and Expense Comparison FY21 to FY24
- WSGC Revenue Comparison FY24 and FY23
- WSGC Expense Comparison FY24 and FY23
- Annual Comparison FY17-FY24 Financial Statement which included FY25 Approved Budget
- Capital Improvement Projects for FY24
- Spreadsheet that identified Equipment purchase plan for 2024-2030

In summary of the above documents, Patrick reported that overall golf operations and restaurant were doing well. Rounds of golf were less in FY24 than in FY23. This was largely due to unusually cold and wet weather in the January-March 2024 timeframe that impacted the number of golf rounds played. Operating Revenues for FY24 were less than FY23 and expenditures in FY24 were higher than FY23. However, net operating expenses were still positive (\$101,624).

- Status of Capital Improvement/ Equipment Purchases in FY24
 - FY24 budget included funding via ECC for capital equipment (mowers, Gator, tractor)
 - FY24 included a plan to purchase 1 greens mower, 1 Gator vehicle, 2 Zero turn mowers, 1 tractor with bucket.
 - Per the spreadsheet provided at the meeting the Gator, both Zero Turn Mowers, and the tractor have been received. The Greens mower purchase order has been approved and the mower ordered but not yet received.
 - FY25 Plan includes purchases of a second greens mower, a sand rake machine, a small utility tractor, a green's sprayer, a Range Cart, and a Rough Bat Deck Wing Deck. The Greens mower, Sand Rake machine, small tractor, and Rough Bat Wings Deck have been ordered. The Green's Sprayer and Range cart have already been delivered.
 - Patrick reported that the equipment items in FY25 will be covered by the General Fund and not from Capital Improvement funding.
- Patrick and Jim are continuing to work the several of the areas addressed in the Agronomy Report to improve the condition of the golf course.
- The new equipment will help enable the grounds keepers to continue to work to improve the tee boxes on the course.

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on County efforts on "Green Initiatives"
 - No "Green Efforts have been identified yet.

New Business

- Patrick provided the following information on the FY25 Budget
 - FY25 Budget was approved
 - Funds for the acquisition of six (6) pieces of additional equipment
 - Funds for one full time employee to support grounds maintenance efforts. Patrick stated that they added two part time employees vice one full time employee.
- Patrick discussed his priorities for the 150K of CIP funds identified in FY25
 - \$150K for CIP efforts in FY25.
 - Look to enhance irrigation for the course. Patrick is getting a bid to replace the existing system but this will be a long-term expensive solution. Near term options include:
 - Option 1 add a well (this could be a near term less expensive solution).
 - Option 2 Attach to METCOM planned update in the community (the schedule for the METCOM upgrade in the community is not known).
 - Option 3 Expand the pond on #17
 - Fix netting and trim trees in Driving Range area
 - Add a 3rd area to hit from on the driving range
 - Possibly add a practice bunker on the range
 - Continue to work the fairways on #2, #7, and #13
 - Continue to work the fringe and collar areas around all of the greens.
- Patrick said that the MSGA will be re-rating the Course sometime in the 2025 calendar year
- Patrick was asked about the deposit / cancellation policy for tournaments. He stated that there is a \$300 deposit for a group to reserve the course for a tournament. He further stated that he requests a two-week cancellation notice. Waiting until one week prior is too late for him to make the tee slots available since tee times are scheduled up to a week in advance.
- Tom suggested that Pat/ Jim look at using a rope vice permanent stake like devices to limit cart use around the greens. This would make it easier for the grounds crew to just move the rope to facilitate mowing. Pat said he would discuss the option with Jim.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse.

ADJOURNMENT

- Jerry Ostrowski made a motion to adjourn and Terry Black 2nd the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 P.M.

Bernie Kneeland

Minutes approved by the WSGC Advisory Board on