

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board MINUTES

January 15, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernie Kneeland, Chairperson; Terry Black, Jim Hodges, Jerry Ostrowski, and new member, Joe King.

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 6:00 p.m. at the Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course by the Board Chair, Bernie Kneeland

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 16 October, 2024 meeting were approved by email prior to the October meeting.

GOLF COURSE/RESTAURANT UPDATES

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

- Annual Comparison FY17-FY25 Financial Statement which included FY25 Approved Budget
- Year to Date Rounds of Golf, Revenue and Expense Comparison FY25 Compared to FY24
- Capital Improvement Projects, Project # RP2503
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course Requested FY 2026 Budget

In summary of the above documents, Patrick reported that overall golf operations and restaurant were doing well. Rounds of golf in the first quarter of FY25 are slightly greater than the same period in FY24 (16,157 vs 15,836). Operating Revenues/ expenditures for the first half of FY25 are slightly higher than the same period in FY24. Net operating expenses are still positive (\$119,756). Patrick stated that the reported FY24 numbers are the final approved numbers.

Pat reported that cold weather thus far in January has significantly impacted Golf Operations. He is hoping that the course may be opened for play before the end of the month (weather permitting).

Pat reported that Golf shop revenues have been impacted by a loss in revenue from golf lesson in FY25. In previous years the former Golf Pro/ Club Manager had conducted golf lessons at the course under a separate contract arrangement. This effort has fallen off in FY25. Pat is exploring options to possibly restore some level of golf lessons at the course.

Pat reported that Restaurant operations are doing ok. He reported that he has scheduled weekly Trivia on Thursday evenings.

Patrick reported that he is exploring additional ideas to improve the current point of sales system to include both the golf operations and the restaurant. The current point of sales system only includes Restaurant operations.

- Status of Capital Improvement/ Equipment Purchases in FY25
 - 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. Pat reported that all equipment for FY25 has been received.
- At the last meeting, Patrick reported that the equipment items in FY25 would be covered by the General Fund and not from Capital Improvement funding. Pat confirmed that the capital equipment received in FY25 was covered by the general fund.

OLD BUSINESS

- Patrick discussed his priorities for the 150K of CIP funds identified in FY25
 - Funding has been provided for the following:
 - Funds to Dewberry Engineering to support an Irrigation feasibility study to support the potential path ahead to address irrigation issues at the course.
 - Pat reported that based on the initial study they are pursuing the possibility of installing a well on the course to support irrigation improvements. The approval process with the State has started. There is still a requirement for approval from the County Health Department required.
 - Funding to fix the netting and trim trees in Driving Range area. Pat reported that the new netting had been installed in the Driving Range. He reported that the tree trimming still needed to be competed.
 - Funding for topdressing, chemicals, SOD for course maintenance effort.
 - Pat reported that he is holding back the balance of his FY25 CIP funding until a resolution to the irrigation path ahead is determined.
 - Pat reported that new tees have been built on Number #1 and Number #8. He also reported that he still plans to work to level the existing tee box on Number #8.
- Pat had previously stated that the MSGA was planning to come to the course in calendar 2025 to re-rate the course. Pat stated that he believes USGA representatives will be coming in the February/ March 2025 timeframe. The course will be reevaluated with the new tee placements.

New Business

- Tee Markers
 - Pat reported that he plans to add an additional Tee marker on the course (Black Tees). He and Jim have already identified areas on the Tee Boxes the Black Tees. The course will now include Black Tees, Blue Tees, White Tees, Gold Tees, Red Tees, and Purple Tees. The Black Tees will be the longest set of tees. The current Blue tees, White tees, Red tees and Purple tees will be adjusted. The biggest change will be to the White Tees which will shorten the total yardage for the White tees by 200 plus yards. Total course yardage for the other tees will also be decreased but not as much as the new White Tees. The intent of adjusting the tees is to provide more opportunity for players to be able to play from a set of tees that better matches their individual ability. Hopefully this will improve play for all.
- Pat reported that a new Parks and Rec Director, Ray Binsen has been hired. He is expecting to start in February 2025.
- New Officers were elected for Calendar 2025. Bernie Kneeland will remain Chairman and Tom Eicholtz will remain Vice Chairman.
- The draft Annual Report for 2024 was approved at the meeting.
- Pat reported that he was exploring the possibility of getting a robotic mower to help with the grass cutting on the hill on #18 and the side of #10.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 14 April 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bernie Kneeland

Minutes approved by the WSGC Advisory Board on