

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board MINUTES

April 16, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernie Kneeland, Chairperson; Tom Eicholtz, Terry Black, Jim Hodges, and Joe King. Sean Ritchie, New Parks and Recreation Member of Board

R&P STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Dugan, WSGC General Manager, Ray Bivins, Director Parks and Recreation.

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 15 January, 2025 meeting were approved by email prior to the April meeting.

GOLE 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 FY25 Compared to FY24
- Annual Comparison FY17-FY25 Financial Statement which included FY25 Approved Budget
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course Revenue Comparison FY2025 & FY2024
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course Expense Comparison FY2025 & FY2024
- Capital Improvement Projects, Project #: RP2503
- Capital Improvement Projects, Project #: RP 2403
- Summary sheet of Pieces of Equipment received for 2024 and 2025 and planned through 2034

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 FY25 did impact Golf Operations, however despite the cold weather, rounds of golf has increased over the same three quarters in FY24 (FY24 Rounds of Golf 19,062, FY25 Rounds of Golf 19,858). Operating Revenues and Expenditures are both increased in FY25 compared to FY24. Net operations are positive and slightly greater in FY25 than in the same three quarters in FY24 (\$142,509 in FY25 vs \$131,488 in FY24).

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. Restaurant revenues and expenditures are increased compared to FY24 but net operations are positive. (Net Operations in FY25 are \$39,569).

- Status of Capital Improvement/ Equipment Purchases in FY25
 - FY25 Plan include 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.

OLD BUSINESS

- Patrick discussed his priorities for the remaining CIP funds identified in FY25
 - Funding was spent on replacing the netting on the driving range
 - Funding has been spent on chemicals, Bentgrass, Topdressing, and some SOD for course maintenance.
 - Pat reported that based on the initial study by Dewberry Engineering, 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.
 - 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 had previously stated that the MSGA was planning to come to the course in calendar 2025 to re-rate the course. Due to weather concerns the MSGA is now planning on coming to rerate the course in May (May 12th timeframe). The course will be reevaluated with the new tee placements(Black, Blue, White, Gold, Red, Purple). The GHIN system course ratings and slope ratings for the tees have been updated via a DeskTOP evaluation process.

New Business

- Pat reported that the FY26 Budget submittal for the course is still on track
- FY26 Budget includes Capital Improvement Projects and equipment purchase (small purchases e.g. weed whackers, push mowers).

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 14 July 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse. (The meeting is scheduled on Monday to accommodate Board Members who play in the Men's League on Wednesdays)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bernie Kneeland

Minutes approved by the WSGC Advisory Board on