

**GOLF COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2012**

The Golf Commission held their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Orchards Golf Course, in the clubhouse. Vice Chairman Amato called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Commission Members Present

R. Austin (5:50 p.m.)
G. Amato, Jr.
M. Blake
R. Peruzzi
W. Healey
D. Worroll
R. Hardiman

Also Present

J. Smith, Tournament Turf Care
J. Fabrizio, Tournament Turf Care
V. Fabrizio
P. Smith, BOA Liaison
J. Golden, BOA Liaison
J. Newlan, Orchards Golf Course

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Consideration of Minutes

Commissioners' Hardiman and Blake made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 8, 2012 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Chairman's Report

Vice Chairman Amato reported that Chairman Austin was running late and would defer this portion of the agenda until his arrival.

V. Committee Reports

a) Planning Committee – Commissioner Healey reported the Committee has not met since last month. He stated he received some maps as to property lines, which he would be happy to share with the Committee. He also reported he contact the State regarding a possible grant from DEEP. He stated they would continue to pursue other avenues.

Vice Chairman Amato asked about the property across the street from the course.

Commissioner Healey stated the property appears to be mainly wetlands.

b) Financial Advisor – Commissioner Worroll reported there is \$5,561 in the regular account and approximately \$93,000 in the Fund 18 account.

VI. Unfinished Business

a) Update – Signage at the course. Commissioner Peruzzi reported the signs were all up. Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Fabrizio stated the signs came out great.

Commissioner Healey asked if there had been any more talk regarding the re-lining of the parking lot.

Commissioner Peruzzi stated he had a discussion with the Public Works director as well as Chairman Austin and they thought it would be best at this point to wait until the conclusion of the season.

b) Update – purchase of pull carts. Commissioner Worroll reported they came in and look good with a very classy look. He stated they are ready to be used.

Commissioner Blake agreed, stating they looked “very nice.”

Mr. Fabrizio noted one of the carts had a missing handle grip and spring.

Commissioner Worroll stated he would contact the company for those parts.

c) Update – Golf Course Rating. Mr. Fabrizio reported he spoke with someone at the Connecticut State Golf Association. He stated if the Commission wished to move forward with it, it could be done. He stated the only cost is to the individual golfer. Mr. Fabrizio also reported the State would come down and install a computer so people could have access to enter their score. He stated he would make arrangements to have them come to the Commission’s next meeting.

It was the consensus of the Commission to have someone from the Connecticut State Golf Association come to the Commission’s meeting next month and that Mr. Fabrizio would make those arrangements.

Mr. Fabrizio reiterated there was no cost for the computer and noted the State owns the computer and that they would provide training, etc.

d) Update – Camera project. Commissioner Worroll noted the proposal discussed at last month’s meeting was approximately \$4,685. He also reported regarding the signage issue, he stated the recommendation he received was that the Commission not up signage right now.

Chairman Austin reported the second bid proposa (Foley’s Key)l received was around \$4,100,but it included tax, which he stated municipalities do not pay so it needed to be removed.

Commissioner Worroll asked who would be purchasing the camera equipment, the City or the Commission. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioners’ Healey and Hardiman made and seconded a motion to approve the Golf Commission’s purchase of a camera system in an amount not to exceed \$4,100.

Commissioner Healey asked about maintenance of the system and also if it included a burglary system.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Fabrizio both responded there was no maintenance fee for the equipment. Mr. Fabrizio went on to explain the function of the device and its recording capabilities.

Commissioner Worroll asked if it is a standalone system.

Mr. Smith responded yes.

Commissioner Healey asked about nighttime lighting.

Mr. Fabrizio stated the system has the ability to look at partial darkness.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Austin apologized for being late. He reported he was submitting for payment a water bill in the amount of \$76.00. He also stated he was working on getting a 5-year usage report from the water company. Chairman Austin also reported he would be going for the Board of Aldermen for the Golf Commission's budget presentation on April 12, 2012.

VII. Management's Report (Tournament Turf Care)

Mr. Fabrizio reported the course opened on March 8, 2012 and reported the greens were cut, traps cleaned, etc. He also reported a problem with the furnace and explained the pressure release keeps going off.

Chairman Austin stated he has been made aware of the problem and that someone would be coming out, likely tomorrow.

Mr. Fabrizio spoke as to the irrigation system. He stated they have a list of items that need to be done. He explained he would like to recoup some of that labor work from the Commission. He also reported regarding sand on the greens, which he stated they would need to get soon. Mr. Fabrizio also spoke regarding the thatch amount in the greens and that they would need to be aggressive to that work. He stated they will price it out and report back to the Commission. Mr. Fabrizio stated they did not have a report on rounds this month, but that they would have a full report next month and will break it out into categories. Mr. Fabrizio stated they would like to pursue a "twilight rate" which would be for 6 holes and explained they would reduce the rate accordingly. He also noted the golfer would be allowed to use the electric cart, if they wished. He stated they were pursuing this as a way to bring in revenue and were looking to the Commission for their approval.

Chairman Austin commented he thought this would be up to management to pursue if they wish. He stated the Commission is always looking for incentives to increase play, but that the City would receive a cut.

Mr. Fabrizio stated it was his understanding the "twilight rate" would not be a part of the 42,000 rounds.

Commissioner Healey stated because this incentive is outside of the contract, the Commission should make a motion to instruct management to proceed with this incentive.

Commissioners' Healey and Amato made and seconded a motion to allow management to implement a "twilight rate" for a trial period to be reviewed by the Commission after two months. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fabrizio asked the Commission for input on a price if someone wished to use an electric cart for 18 holes.

Commissioner Healey asked the demand in general for the carts.

Mr. Fabrizio stated it is slow, but they wished to seek the Commission's input.

Commissioner Worroll suggested the rate of \$20.

Commissioner Healey commented there are only 4 carts and questioned if things would get jammed up.

Commissioner Worroll asked if they know ahead of time if someone is going to play 18 holes.

Mr. Newlan responded yes. He also noted the cart would have to be available.

Mr. Fabrizio continued with his report. He reported management had the carpets cleaned, the floors waxed, including both bathrooms. He asked if that responsibility falls on them or the Commission.

Chairman Austin stated as the lease, it would be on management. He stated if there circumstances, i.e. a flood that would be different. He also noted the rugs are going on just two years old. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioners' Amato and Blake made and seconded a motion to approve payment to Tournament Turf Care for the rug cleaning and waxing of the floors in the clubhouse. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith stated it was suggested that they have some picnic benches. He stated they would build them and put them on the side of the building. He also reported the ATM would be installed next week and that the cable company would be at the clubhouse tomorrow to put in a jack. Mr. Smith stated they thought it would be nice to have a pro on site at the Orchards, stating that person could help with the high school leagues.

Chairman Austin stated that would be fine.

Mr. Smith also stated he would like to put up some temporary nets for practice. He stated the question is where.

Commissioner Healey suggested the overflow parking area.

Mr. Fabrizio added this would benefit the young kids, who he commented are the growth of the industry.

Commissioner Healey asked if it would have an impact on the Fred Brinks Program.

Mr. Newlan replied no. He stated Mr. Brinks was at the clubhouse today and met with Mr. Smith.

Commissioner Healey spoke of the Special Olympics leagues that play at the course on Tuesdays.

Chairman Austin asked about “chipping” on the green beyond the apron. He stated in the past “no chipping” signs have been posted. He asked management their position.

Mr. Fabrizio stated they would look into this, but would certainly take the safety issue into account.

Commissioner Healey asked about the collar on hole #1,

Mr. Fabrizio replied there would be about 600 sq. ft of sod needed.

Commissioner Healey asked about the waste tank.

Mr. Fabrizio stated they had not done anything with that as yet.

Commissioner Worroll commented the Commission would need to do a transfer for the purchase of the camera approved earlier this evening.

Chairman Austin stated the monies should come out of the Fund 18.

Commissioner Worroll asked about a grand opening at the course, having new management present, as well as the Mayor, press, aldermen. He stated he would take care of this.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Adjournment

Being no further business, Commissioners’ Hardiman and Blake made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Golf Commission will be held April 11, 2012 at the **Orchards Golf Course** in the clubhouse, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber

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Recording Secretary