

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**

**Golf Advisory Committee Meeting
May 1, 2014**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District and staff met for a Special Meeting to hold a Golf Advisory Committee Meeting on May 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bonnie Brook Clubhouse, 2800 North Lewis Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Duffy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and directed the roll.

II. Roll Call

Chairman Duffy and Commissioner Sarocka were present. Absent were Commissioners Foley, Kilkelly and Bridges. Also present was Executive Director Greg Petry and Superintendent of Finance and Administration Jim Glogovsky. GolfVisions staff included Dirk Skelley, Tony Tinetti, Greg Benson and. Committee members and others present were. Troy Cooper, Dan Dieck, Ellen Keirnan, Sandy Chess, Jack Bradbury and Sandy Bradbury. Also present were Sally Coffelt and Rich Seremak.

Due to lack of a quorum, no official business was conducted.

The meeting opened with an introduction of Dirk Skelley of GolfVisions. Discussion followed about the poor weather and its impact on revenue.

Tony Tinetti

Tony noted that the poor weather has made for fewer rounds, as would be expected. Doing a little better than last year. Season pass sales are up. Permanent times are down a little, which is something that he and Dirk have discussed and may change for the upcoming year. Greenshire will open tomorrow. He noted that the culture at Bonnie Brook has changed with the change in management in food and beverage. For April, there is a 50% increase in revenue on the food and beverage side from April of 2013. If we get some good weather, this year will be fantastic. Staff is coming up with all kinds of good food and beverage ideas. Tony responded to a question about passes and noted that 20-30 former passholders did not buy one this year. He explained the logic that he has heard from those who did not purchase a pass and discussed rate changes. He also indicated that the competition had lowered rates dramatically. In addition, he said that some golfers and passholders are not back from Florida yet, so he expects more sales. Tribune advertising for pass sales was discussed.

Dirk Skelley

Dirk noted that the turf loss is selective and that the weather this year is similar to last year. We did not have as much turf loss on the greens as some courses did. He noted that if the snow cover had been on another 5-7 days or so, there would have been worse issues.

Continuing, he noted that the food and beverage area is turned around and going well. He believes we are well positioned for a good year if the weather improves.

Discussion followed about Ralph's ability to handle many tasks at one time and how well things are going in the food and beverage area. Further discussion took place about how the food service is filling a need as so many restaurants in Waukegan are no longer open. Tony indicated that there was \$2,000 more business this Easter than last. He also said that there are special dinners planned for the leagues. He feels that more revenue would be realized if league golfers stayed for dinner following their leagues.

Greg Benson

Greg noted that overall the greens came out of winter alright. He thought that we had a good 2013 season, turf was good. The cold weather froze and caused some damage under the snow, but that all the overseeding and work prevented more damage. He discussed the original assessment for the course. He said that they aerated and overseeded last week. He said that the green with the most damage is #10, and that #15 has recovered nicely. Step by step they will work to recover the greens and fairways.

Greg was asked about tree issues, and informed the group about the park district's tree inventory program. He noted that there are 300 ash trees on the course and noted that it was recommended to remove many of them. Replacement trees would likely be native oak. Commissioner Duffy asked that Greg Petry explain the park district's tree inventory and classification system. He noted that trees will be removed, but more will be planted. Greg noted that the wood is available to residents by filing out a waiver and then hauling the wood away. He did note that it cannot be removed from Lake County. The members continued asking Greg Benson about his course maintenance routine.

Discussion turned to the condition of all area courses. Also discussed was the possible closure of Highland Park Country Club course. Speculation is that it may be turned into a public park.

Tony again complimented Ralph and his staff on their hard work and noted what a great job they are doing. Sandy noted that how much faster food is received, and how well Ralph responds to requests.

Improvements to the bathrooms will be done this year and were discussed. Extensive discussion followed.

Jim Glogovsky

Jim noted that there is approximately \$225,000 in capital spending for this year at Bonnie Brook. He noted the cost of mowers, restroom remodel, etc. and responded to a question about course/hole improvements. He said that at this time, there are no plans to improve additional individual holes.

Jim responded to a question about who maintains/repairs the golf course and clubhouse, the park district or GolfVisions. The District approves and budgets for capital.

Additional equipment discussions took place.

III. Questions and/or Comments

There were comments and questions presented throughout the meeting.

Commissioner Sarocka asked about the new golf carts and how they are working out. Staff replied that they are working well.

Another question was about returning part time staff. Tony replied that other than those who completed college and got full time jobs, there will be many returning seasonal staff.

Tony also indicated that there is a new program, First Tee, which is in place to help inspire young new golfers. He is looking for volunteers for the program that John LaFoone will lead.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 4th, 7 pm at Bonnie Brook.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Duffy, seconded by Commissioner Sarocka, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Glogovsky
Acting Secretary

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