

**Minutes of the Waukegan Park District
Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Golf Advisory Meeting
May 3, 2012**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District met in a special meeting on May 3, 2012 at 7 pm in the Bonnie Brook Clubhouse, 2800 North Lewis Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Duffy at 7:00 pm who directed a call of the roll.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Duffy, Motley, Kilkelly and Sarocka. Absent: Commissioner Foley. Also present were Greg Petry, Executive director and Superintendent of Finance and Administration Jim Glogovsky.

III. Topics

A. Staff Updates

▪Evaluation of Golf Operations Management.

Mr. Glogovsky noted that Tim Govern left the district to take a similar position with the Arlington Heights Park District. Similar to what has been done in the past when a senior manager leaves a position, the job responsibilities and structure are reviewed. Currently three options are being reviewed. First is to hire another golf pro, for which the position has been posted and 25-30 applicants have applied. Another option is to reorganize how the position is setup. The third option is to consider using an outside management company. At this point, it is a process we are going through to look at the options. We sent out an RFP and will receive proposals from 3-4 companies. The proposals are due tomorrow at 5 pm. Not much we can say at this point, it is an analysis of the options available. We don't know more until we review the proposals. Extensive discussion followed. Mr. Petry discussed the various ways that management companies work and what options are available. It was asked what is being sought and the discussion turned to finances for the golf course including topics from as far back as Orchard Hills. Conversation continued and included discussion of the responsibilities for previous golf professionals along with many different questions about the management proposals. Mr. Petry reiterated that any decision will be made in the best interest of the park district. The discussion continued for a lengthy period of time, with multiple attendees asking questions and expressing their opinions and concerns about the golf course and food and beverage operations. Assurances were made that the high quality

of the course at Bonnie Brook would be the continued goal no matter which option is chosen and good decisions will continue to be made. The attendees reminded the commissioners that they were elected by and work for them, and requested that they be heard as the decision is considered.

▪Golf Financial Update

January through April calendar year financials for the past two years were reviewed and discussed by Mr. Glogovsky. The good weather in March and April of this year resulted in revenue being up by approximately \$78,000 this year compared to the previous year. Expenses are also up about \$20,000, resulting in a net increase for 2012 of about \$58,000 compared to 2011.

For the first four months of 2012, Food and Beverage had an increase in revenue and expenses for a resulting net increase of about \$23,700. Jim discussed comparisons to the prior year with the storm closure and damage cleanup. Pass purchases are also up.

A breakdown of rounds was also presented with about 2500 more rounds so far in 2012 as compared to 2011, with about half of those being pass holder play.

These figures show a promising start for the 2012 season. Questions were taken about the figures and discussion ensued. It was noted that the official audited figures are on a fiscal year basis versus the calendar year basis used for these reports as preferred by the committee. May 1 through April 30 fiscal year numbers are consistent with the budget and audit, though there are some variances when comparing the two.

▪Tony Tinetti

Tony began by noting that great weather leads to great numbers, which we have this year. Also have received compliments about how great the golf course is. Kudos to Greg Benson and his crew. New golf carts are here, be careful since when you hit the gas pedal, it goes! Seats are a bit firm yet, they will soften up.

Went over some of the numbers, April rounds including passholders are up 60%. Season rounds for March and April are up 40% over the best total from the past three years. Have sold 195 passes this year, 17 more than last year for the entire year. Golf is doing well since we have had so much sunshine and good weather.

Greenshire opened this week and will be open all week depending on weather. Tentative schedule for summer events has been put together and is posted in the men's' washroom right before the meeting. Will be on the website tomorrow morning.

Leagues are all back except for a couple that start next week. Off to an incredible start this year. Hoping that this will be the best year in the past 5-6 years if weather cooperates! Discussion about the e-mail newsletter and Facebook page postings.

▪Mike Steele

▶ Food and Beverage

Mike noted that food and beverage revenues are up. Last year, had a pretty good year in the bar and grill, many programs added thanks to Tim, he gave out coupons and had appetizers for get togethers. Also had a holiday event to keep golfers interest which included appetizers, a contest and pro shop sales.

Fish basket sales are very positive. Tony has a lot of the golf outings rebooked, must be doing something right we keep getting the companies back.

Wednesday night dinners continue to be a challenge, but trying new things and marketing on WXLC with coupons and seeing some new faces. Special events such as Easter, Mother's Day and St. Patrick's Day have had much better turnouts than prior years.

Banquets are up, with weddings and quinceaneras up over prior years. For the coming year, there are already 15 quinceaneras booked. Have hired Kristina Escobedo who is doing a great job working with the Hispanic community to book events.

Mike's focus will be cost control, he has been focused on building revenue will now work on expenses.

▪Greg Benson

Difficult season last year with 52 trees lost as of July 11th. Many cubic yards of brush cleaned up. This spring, all damaged trees were pruned and regular tree pruning now being conducted.

Tees that were built last year (4 and 15) should be ready for play in June. Just received permit to work on #18 and will work on it when weather permits.

Bonnie Brook has been a member of the Audubon Society and will work toward becoming certified in the next few years.

Possible project with the Army Corps of Engineers. We were approached in 2011 and asked if interested in doing the Riverine and Riparian Restoration Project. Means that it is an ecological restoration of the river. Will not disturb golf play, is a restoration of a

part of the Waukegan River. Will help attenuate some of the course flooding, sloughing banks, address drainage on the south end of the course and incorporate master plan improvements. Will contain urban runoff and remove invasive plant species. Will remove dams on the course and replace with steps and riffles. Very preliminary project at this time. Discussion followed about how the project would be paid for and questions about the potential project were answered.

IV. Questions and Comments

- A. Discussion about investigation of employees. Mr. Petry and Mr. Glogovsky responded to the employee background checks performed on seasonal rehired employees.

V. Next Meeting

- A. Next meeting date will be in the fall, specific date to be determined.

VI. Adjournment

**Motion by Commissioner Duffy, seconded by Commissioner Sarocka, to adjourn.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Petry
Deputy Secretary