

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

**Golf Advisory Committee Meeting
May 4, 2017**

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 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bonnie Brook Clubhouse, 2800 North Lewis Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Bill Sarocka, Marc Jones and Janet Kilkelly were present. GolfVisions staff present were Dirk Skelley, John LaFoone and Ralph Sabatini. The staff and members present introduced themselves. Waukegan Park District staff present were Greg Petry and Jim Glogovsky.

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

Mayor Sam Cunningham stopped in and greeted the members.

GolfVisions Update

Dirk Skelley

Quick overview of golf and what's happening at Bonnie Brook. Leases renewed in Batavia and at Heather Ridge. Also have taken over other clubs including Antioch Golf Club working through Wintrust. Northbrook private course Green Acres holding meetings to take over that course as well.

John LaFoone

John spoke about budget versus performance noting that they were 2% over and 1500 rounds short due to the poor weather. Passholders are up by 4 this year. Greenshire opened later due to the rain. First Tee program is strong with two spring classes. Higher participation in the evening classes.

Ralph was working the party and not present. Spring Fling with 66 people had rave reviews on the food and golf. John noted that food and beverage were up about 22% over budget, about \$115,000 over last fiscal year. Through the rest of this year, there are about \$130,000 in booked events. Adding a Wednesday burger bar, Gilling and

Chilling is very popular and will continued. There will be some beer tastings. St. Patrick's and Easter Brunch there were over 380 people for those events.

New tile was added to the hallway. Looking to repaint banquet room and possibly the building.

Closing with how wet it has been

Greg Benson

Obviously is has been pretty wet. Winter was mild so no dead grass. More than 10 inches of rain since March, with over 5 inches of rain at the end of March. Have kept up with mowing despite the rain. Tree removal progress has been hindered. Still have some ruts and damage and did not complete process. Hope to finish by July or August. Over 200 trees removed so far.

Pin placement sheets have been changed slightly. Should make it easier for staff to place pins.

Upcoming, replacing two mowers at Greenshire, one surround and one greens. Need to repair the well on #5. Replacing at trailer from 1985, and again, we have money budgeted for tee removal

As far as Greenshire, fence there was put in in the late 1980s and is being replaced. Clubhouse gate is also being replaced. Need to do bridge erosion control at Greenshire, need a permit from Beach Park to make the needed repairs.

Commissioner Sarocka asked about continuous cart paths. Discussion followed. John noted he would like to get this on the capital list for the future as it would result in possibly 7 or more days of playable course time. Extension discussion followed about the large expense that this would be, they are asking that the current paths be redone.

Jim Glogovsky

The board approved \$195,000 in capital projects for Bonnie Brook and Greenshire for this year. It is felt that the Greenshire irrigation system needs replacing and will cost about \$500,000. Capital money will need to be shifted from other projects.

Continued Jim noted that Lauterbach and Amen's golf analysis done in February 2017 on golf operations. The analysis indicates that the park district saved \$642,000 over the past three years. The spreadsheet was reviewed and discussed. Jim noted that in 2010, 2011 and 2012 the park district management the course. GolfVisions took over in 2013. He noted that the numbers were audited numbers. He discussed the influx of capital cash that has been given to GolfVisions. And compared the numbers with the park district versus GolfVisions management, noting that they have saved the District money.

Jim noted that there could be more savings by cutting back on the maintenance budget. There is a desire to keep the course in great shape to keep the customers happy. He noted that they believe they have accomplished what they set out to do by hiring GolfVisions. Discussion followed with the members noting they have done a terrific job. Jim noted that discussion will likely take place in the fall. Jim answered questions that were raised about the financials. Discussion took place about the different accounting methods used by the district versus private companies. Extensive discussion followed.

Discussion turned to the park district's loss at the golf course and how all park district programs and facilities are subsidized. However, Bonnie Brook will continue to be there for the enjoyment of the residents.

III. Questions and/or Comments

Asked how the course could lose less money or even break even, Dirk responded the it could, but there would need to be some changes to the maintenance schedule, etc. He noted that Bonnie Brook is, in his opinion, the best course GolfVisions has.

A question was then raised as to whether the commissioners planned to keep the GolfVisions management company and Commissioner Sarocka stated that they were happy with GolfVisions and no changes were planned. When the contract ends, it will be reviewed as all contracts are.

There were additional questions that were discussed and answered by Bonnie Brook and GolfVisions staff.

The early retirement incentive was discussed following a question on same. Jim discussed the savings by offering this incentive.

Following this, Jon Beckmann talked about the Partners in Park Golf Outing and asked the golfers consider playing in the event. He distributed information to those present while Jim discussed Jon has run the event and done a great job.

Greg was addressed by a member who said that he had spent the taxpayer money on three projects totaling about \$40 million.

Commissioner Jones responded to that with his opinion saying that Greg has helped build facilities that the community can use. He noted that Greg's vision and progressive movement for this community are what he sees as his legacy. Continuing, he noted that he makes decisions based on resident feedback and with all that use and enjoy the course, that would help make the his decision to keep the status quo.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting date is December 7, 2017.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Sarocka to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Glogovsky
Acting Secretary

JFG:ss