

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

**Golf Advisory Committee Meeting
May 3, 2018**

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 3, 2018, 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 and Janet Kilkelly were present. GolfVisions staff present were Dirk Skelley, Greg Benson, and Mike Jesse. The staff and members present introduced themselves. Waukegan Park District staff present were Jay Lerner and Jon Beckmann.

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

GolfVisions Update

Dirk Skelley

Dirk noted quick overview on the status of golf. He noted the impact of weather, including the rain, has on the budget. He spoke about a good uptick in junior golf, so he believes we will have good numbers for spring. He talked about the baby boomers fading away and not golfing as much. He is hoping they can get enough golfers in this season.

He talked about Anvil Country Club they recently took over and another club that is bank owned, and they will manage. He noted what takes place when clubs go public. They also have taken over Midlane Country Club.

He noted that numbers are okay across the board and that most clubs are raising their rates, so the discounting is coming to an end. There is a shift to try and make themselves whole by pricing better.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sarocka, Dirk said that Midlane has just opened and he did not have any information as of now. He did note that he is communicating with Golf Now and they may be discounting at around 25%.

He closed by saying he is hoping for a good year.

Mike Jesse

Mike talked about golf operations. He said they are taking in outings and will be busy this summer. They are being scheduled for Saturdays, Sundays, and even Wednesdays, too. He said the course had no damage over the winter and they will open Greenshire on May 5th. The phones and computers are being updated and checked. He noted that on May 5th, it will switch from Taco Tuesdays to Taco Thursdays. He also said that without any advertising, the Mother's Day brunch is full. Grilling and chilling will begin outside on May 15th. He said that all golf leagues have returned. Only the Friday league lost some players, from 24 to 16.

A question was raised about the website not working for pass holders. He noted that they are working on it.

Discussion followed about the flooring, and there were some comments about noise. It was suggested to hang some tapestries and such to absorb the noise. More pictures will be added soon. It was noted that it looks bigger and cleaner, and comments about the additional televisions were also positive.

Bill talked about the leagues not having enough space to sit in the bar area after playing. There will be seating outside once it is nice, and with Taco Tuesday moving to Thursday, it should help with seating as well. Commissioner Sarocka noted that Ralph has done a great job with marketing the different events.

Don was present from the golf leagues, and Judy was present from the Abbott league. They were asked if they wanted to provide any input. Neither of them noted any issues that need to be addressed nor did they have any comments.

Greg Benson

Greg spoke about the grass greening up with the addition of nitrogen. In addition, the recent storms helped along with good soil temperatures.

Greg had little to report, but highlighted that turf conditions are pretty good considering. Another 88 stumps were removed as part of the ongoing tree removal program. Staff also removed another 10 trees that came down, both at Bonnie Brook and Greenshire. A little more cleanup at Greenshire is needed, but it is ready to go.

Tradesman from the Parks department came and helped provide storage for tools and materials. A fertilizer sprayer that is 36 years old will be replaced soon. The deep well will be inspected soon. Discussion followed, and it was noted that no city water is used unless the well fails. Greg was thanked for his hard work on the course.

Jon Beckmann

Jon noted that 2017-18 Capital Improvement was just wrapped up, with over \$240,000 spent on golf. Lots was accomplished, and we are looking forward to 2018-19 CIP. A receptacle will be run outside to eliminate running cords on the patio. Jon noted that umbrellas will be a consistent color of green, a menu sign was added which will include specials. In addition, upgrades to the bar décor will be done, and the bridal suite will be redone to help with weddings.

Talked to Mike and noted that the \$75 room setup fee will not be charged if the leagues are meeting here or for end of season events. The buffet was used by one league and it was great, but they may go back to a private meeting or events as it is less noisy.

Jon thanked Bill for his recommending the leagues to come here and Mike for making phone calls, and stated he would like to see even more so that we could accommodate them at Bonnie Brook and keep the business there. All were thanked for their hard work.

Commissioner Sarocka noted that there were 290 trees to be removed total. Greg Benson discussed how they determine removing the dead and dangerous trees. The smaller are done in house, with an outside contractor taking care of the larger ones.

An attendee noted that Lake Bluff golf course may close and she was encouraging the golfers to come to Bonnie Brook if that happens.

A question was raised about the Saturday and Sunday cookouts and they were told they will continue once the weather warms.

Additional discussion was help about adding a flag with a large pole and in concrete for support. It was noted that the flag was replaced recently.

Future CIP projects were discussed and are depend upon continued use and attendance.

III. Questions and/or Comments

In closing, Chairman Sarocka offered to anyone to ask any question and get any information.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 7 pm.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Sarocka to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Beckmann
Acting Secretary

JB:ss