

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

**Golf Advisory Committee Meeting
December 6, 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 December 6, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bonnie Brook Clubhouse, 2800 North Lewis Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Commissioner 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 provided an update on golf, and spoke about the weather impact on rounds of golf. Due to the poor weather, numbers are down in just golf by nearly \$100,000. Also impacted are merchandise sales. He noted that they are hoping the weather impact does not get worse. He stated that the impact is on all golf courses, not just Bonnie Brook and Greenshire. He is hoping that the worst of it is over and said we will continue to do our best despite the weather.

Dirk also noted that GolfVisions takes over the Lake Bluff Golf Course on January 1, 2019.

He noted that Ralph continues to add value through events but even his area took a hit due to the weather. He hears from other courses and they too are having issues due to the weather conditions.

Mike Jesse

Mike talked about rainout dates, which totaled 39 for the season. He noted that the season ended later last year, on December 8th. This year, we ended on November 10th. One positive note is that we were able to finish and conduct all our outings, with 18 having 60 or more players, and 14 with 60 players or less.

Leagues took a hit, with more than 410 players and 14 leagues. We were unable to play about 40% of the leagues due to the weather. For 2019, we already have 11 outings signed up, with two of them being new outings.

Greenshire closed down on October 28. There were two events there, Waukegan versus Carmel Girls High School Golf and Glow Golf. Steven started these, and the first one sold out, second one sold about 75%. Hot dogs were served at the first, and pizza at the second and the event was a fun experience. Will be holding events in 2019 to generate interest in play. Will also be offering more family based deals.

Bill Sarocka asked about the number of days in the 39 that the paths were in use and discussion followed about flooding on the paths. Bill also asked about the amount of allocation in CIP for golf. Discussion is underway about having #10 and #12 paved, along with paving near the maintenance building if possible.

Bill said he would like to see what the costs are and also what revenue is generated in the leagues. It was noted that there is 70% cart use, so we can plan for that revenue and where it will be used. They will put information into the ten-year CIP plan, so we can better see what can be accomplished with available funds. Additional discussion about the paths, weather and funding took place.

Mike was asked and noted that there were two new outings this year. The other outings have been here around 10 years or so, we have not lost any. We have the two new outings, who we got when they were seeking a new location.

No complaints were noted as having been received regarding food and beverage.

Greg Benson

Greg noted that we had more rain last year than this past year, 42 versus 39 inches this year. He said they had a tough year, with a couple of fairways that went two weeks without mowing.

We replaced a 36-year-old fertilizer spreader and anti-slip material on bridges was replaced. Fixed a four-year-old roof leak, spent some money on the deep well following having had it inspected. It will now be inspected every two years. In response to a question, Greg gave an overview of how the deep well works.

Greg noted that the project at Greenshire is almost complete and that we are still working on trees.

Greg was complimented on the fine job he did this year.

Jon Beckmann

Jon began by noting that \$102,000 of the \$128,000 has been spent thus far from the capital fund.

He said that a new golf simulator program and computers have been purchased. Mike Jesse explained the simulator, and it was noted to be one of the best available programs. There will be specials on the simulator once it is in place.

Jon said that the overflow patio furniture would be used. He also said that there are discussions on expanding the patio and have a larger, more permanent food and beverage set up. This would allow for more events to be held outside.

A convection oven was replaced. There is a plan for keeping the carpet clean and the chairs have been cleaned as well. Jon stated that we plan to get a lot done next year and that he and Mike worked on the 2019-20 budget yesterday.

Jon indicated there are plans to work on the cart paths for #10 and #12, and they talked about gravel versus paved paths and what plans are being reviewed.

Jay Lerner

Working with GolfVisions on the budget, trying to work on a three-year plan, to see more of what is happening.

Jay also noted that there are talks to change the cart path and use more of the patio space.

He also stated that we are currently creating a 5-year strategic plan, as opposed to the three year that we used to do. He talked about the focus on infrastructure to bring the long neglected properties and facilities up to date. The plan should be approved in January or February.

Continuing, Jay noted that we moved into the new administration building in August 2018. He also let the members know that Belvidere Park has been renamed Rose Park, and he reviewed the plans to renovate Rose Park are underway. There will be splash pads at the new park, and it will be somewhat similar to Bowen as far as being a destination park. He noted that estimates are around \$6 million for the work.

Questions were presented and responded to including those about the SportsPark making money, youth soccer revenue, and adult Sunday leagues, and Jay replied to the questions. Another question was raised about what the plans are for the Yorkhouse Farm property and Jay discussed tentative ideas that have been discussed.

Jay noted that Clearview Park opened in September and is very nice. He also stated that we applied for an OSLAD grant for King Park on the south side. He noted we should hear in early spring. The plans are to upgrade King Park, and make use of the space created by the purchase and demolition of several homes surrounding the park.

III. Questions and/or Comments

In closing, Ms. Kilkelly asked if there were more questions.

There was a question raised about the 49 supervisory staff listed in the brochure and how many staff there were being supervised and how this is structured. Jon responded about the number of hours being worked and how the management staff are working well over the 2080 FT hours. Jay spoke about the need for more staff but the prohibitive cost, and how well the structure works when working with the part time staff and seasonal staff. The staff were complimented on how much is accomplished at the park district and how great a job is being done.

Jon then talked about a new program with a family focus and how we will be running it from 3-6 pm to see how it works. Rental clubs are available and we are encouraging more families to come to Greenshire. First Tee play was noted and they focus on getting youth interested in golf.

Ms. Kilkelly agreed that the future is the kids' interest in golf.

Another member noted that the last two months of the season, the greens were fantastic.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 6 pm.

V. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Beckmann
Acting Secretary

JB:ss