

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

**Golf Advisory Committee Meeting
December 2, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District and staff met for a virtual Special Meeting to hold a Golf Advisory Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jeremiah Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and directed the roll.

The Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners have made the determination that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The head of the public body has the authority to act on the board's direction based on the November 12, 2021, disaster declaration made by Governor Pritzker. The Board has based this determination on the current trend regarding increased positivity rate, regional vaccination, vaccination rates, increasing case counts, the impact of new variants, and the increased hospitalizations which all support the required determination. As such, we were not sure that all rules or procedures contained in the Section 70 Open Meetings Act (OMA) will be filed.

II. Roll Call

Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson was present and welcomed those in attendance: Joe Chess and Sandy Chess. Staff members are Mike Jesse, Greg Benson, and John Miles, Senior Vice President of GolfVisions. Waukegan Park District staff present were Jay Lerner and Jon Beckmann.

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

GolfVisions Update

Mike Jesse

Mike Jesse noted that 2021 was a tremendous year with many new players. There were 29,851 rounds at Bonnie Brook, 7,500 more than the prior year. This was due to great weather conditions. At Greenshire, there were 8,000 rounds versus 6,000 in 2019.

There were 42 banquets in 2021 and there are 23 already booked in 2022. Operations went smoothly for both courses. The courses are in good shape. Bathrooms were renovated at Greenshire, and the bar kitchen was updated with a new griddle.

For 2022, plans are to move the Grillin and Chillin events to Wednesday nights. All 21 leagues were here for 2021 and plan to return in 2022.

Greg Benson

Greg Benson then spoke, noting that Bonnie Brook and Greenshire both had good years maintenance wise. This was related to weather conditions. With it being dry, there was more time to accomplish work in the mornings. When it is wet out, it cuts into the time for work on the course.

Changes were made to create a more efficient staff, including not having flowers at the Bonnie Brook clubhouse, instead, grasses and daylilies were moved to create interest for very little maintenance time. Only one cup was placed at the practice green, also saving time. The mow schedule was also changed to help reduce efforts. Also, a calendar system was used to let maintenance staff know what was scheduled for the course each day.

There was 16 inches of rain in 2021 and the heaviest month was October at 7 inches. Therefore, more water than usual was used at 27 million gallons. Over the past 10 year, 11 million gallons less was used than in 2021. This resulted in more than usual sprinkler repairs.

Mechanics were able to stay in top of repairs, thanks in part to the leased golf carts. The new reel grinder also resulted in quicker and more accurate work.

There was a heavy grub infestation due to the increased irrigation use. Also, skunks and raccoons that caused damage were removed by a trapper.

Chairman Jeremiah Johnson

Chairman Johnson was asked for questions or input. He said that he too has received good feedback about the course this past season. He complimented Mike Jesse and his staff for their hard work.

He inquired about the Food and Beverage Manager position and if it would be filled this year. Currently, Mike, Armando and Marcelo are handling those duties and have great communication. There may be a bartender or server hired instead, while they work on coordination of the banquets.

Jon Beckmann

Jon Beckmann reviewed capital improvements at the courses. These included the banquet room floor at Bonnie Brook, two ADA ramps at Bonnie Brook, and sealcoating and striping of the parking lot at Bonnie Brook. Also, the new beverage cart worked out well.

John Miles and Mike Jesse were thanked for the golf cart lease idea, it has saved money and will result in new carts every eight years.

For next year, table and chair price quotes will be obtained, plans are to replace them. The bar tops are also to be refinished.

This year's budget was well maintained, thanks to Mike Jesse and his staff. Mike is currently working on items for the 2022-23 budget, which will be submitted in January and reviewed in February.

Jay Lerner, Executive Director

Jay stated that despite the pandemic, programs and events went very well throughout 2021. The Fitness Center membership is at the same level as it was pre-pandemic, which is great. Upcoming projects include the Carnegie, for which the design phase is almost complete. The project should go to bid in Spring 2022. The Victory Park renovations is in progress and plans to complete it in Spring or Summer 2022. Plans are to make improvements at Bevier Park next. In addition, multiple playground replacements, facility updates and changes to parks and vehicles are planned.

III. Questions and/or Comments

There were no questions or comments.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for May 4, 2022, at 6 pm. Hopefully, it can be an in person meeting at Bonnie Brook.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Beckmann
Acting Secretary

JB:ss

