

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Richardson, Chairperson; Dick Buckler, Bob Collier, Peter Delman, Tom Schumacher and Gerald Slagle.

ABSENT: Jenny Russell

R&P STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, Director; Patty Meyers, Golf Course Manager; and Jim Farren; Golf Course Superintendent, St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks. Citizen Mr. Charlie Smith also attended.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course (WSGC) Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Collier moved, seconded by Tom Schumacher, to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015; motion carried with all in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Meyers referred to the Year-to-Date comparison through May which was e-mailed to Board members a few weeks ago. June figures are not available at this time. Expenses have been coming down and staff continues to work to find cost savings were possible.

Mr. Buckler asked about the decrease in season pass holders. Ms. Meyers noted that season passes are down by an estimated 10% or less. Aging pass holders, economy, and timing of the report points to the current decrease.

FY2016 Budget Updates

The FY2016 budget was approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) on May 12, 2015.

The CSMC approved the following budgetary changes for FY2016: eliminate payment of insurances for the Golf Course – approximately \$11,630 (County to pay as it does for other County-owned facilities; general liability, building and personal, and equipment insurance); eliminate cost for administrative support, accounting fees and additional forward funding of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) at about \$80,180; and pay principal only for debt service on Clubhouse. These actions will result in an approximate reduction in the Courses' operating expenses by about \$120,000 for FY2016.

Additionally, two budget amendments were approved on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 reducing the Wicomico Golf Course Fund budget authority and increasing the General Fund based on

realignment of expenditures for FY2015 as discussed during the budget process.

Mr. Delman suggested a written plan for improvements for grounds maintenance in FY2016. Mr. Farren stated that was done in past years; however, the current fiscal situation has not allowed for development of such a plan. Mr. Schumacher stated that recent budgetary changes may allow the course to make some improvements. Mr. Farren will provide a draft improvements/needs plan for the next meeting. Ms. Meyers will provide the approved WSGC budget details to members. For the future, Mr. Schumacher suggested breaking out the mortgage payment on a separate line.

NEW BUSINESS

Twin Shields Golf Course Closing

Ms. Meyers reported that Twin Shields Golf Course in Calvert County will close this fall. She asked members about a pro-rated season pass starting November 1. Staff will pursue a special for Twin Shields pass holders if feasible.

Advertising

Ms. Meyers noted that the July is for Juniors ad has been placed in local papers.

Tournament Cost to Pass Holders

Mr. Richardson asked why anyone who is a member/season pass holder still has to pay the greens fees for tournaments. Mr. Farren said he's worked on seven courses and he's never seen the greens fees waived for members. While the charity tournaments are worthwhile; having them not pay the greens fees would be a significant revenue loss for the course.

Mr. Schumacher motioned, seconded by Pete Delman, to table the discussion until next year in order to review revenues. Motion carried 5-1.

Mr. Richardson asked if Mr. Farren could talk to the new mowing employees about timing of grassing cutting; Mr. Farren will do that.

Drinking Water on Course

Mr. Richardson stated that he has heard complaints on the temperature of the water on the course; Mr. Farren will provide more ice for the coolers.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder (from tape recording)