

## **WICOMICO SHORES GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD**

**March 8, 2006  
Meeting Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Merrill "Chico" Rivers, Chairperson, Jim Hodges, Vice-Chairperson, Phil Cranford, Robert Richardson, Wayne Pettit, Rick Smith and Gloria Tippett.

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks and Community Services (RP&CS), and Pat Meyers, Golf Course Manager, RP&CS.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With regard to the December 14, 2005 minutes, Chairman Rivers stated that he wanted to "clear up" the matter of the mandatory walk through. Carol Gallagher, Procurement Manager, previously stated that the requirement for a mandatory walk through was against procurement regulations/against the law. Chairman Rivers' concern was that this was not an actual bid but a request for expression of interest and he didn't think the rules for the bid would apply to this case. Director Phil Rollins stated that he thinks it's a matter of interpretation and could have been a mistake, but this is the standard the Procurement Office has been using for some time. He stated that unless the County Attorney does research on this, it would be hard to determine for sure. He said that if this were to come up again, staff will have the County Attorney research the matter to obtain a definitive answer.

Jim Hodges asked if the press release on the project was done; Mr. Rollins stated that it was done and was released on December 20, 2005. Mr. Hodges also requested that the minutes be sent out sooner since the Board only meets quarterly.

**Wayne Pettit motioned, seconded by Jim Hodges, to approve the December 14, 2006 minutes as written. The motion carried with all in favor.**

### **HOUSING CONFLICTS**

Chairman Rivers introduced Don and Margie Thompson. Mr. Thompson thanked Board members for their efforts to help with housing conflicts on the golf course. He stated that Patty Meyers, Golf Course Manager, provided him with a copy of the golf course architect's report on existing and potential conflicts. He thanked Jim Farren, Golf Course Superintendent, for taking him around the course to show him measures that have been taken to help alleviate conflicts on the course. He asked about the new trees and the new tee that will be installed; Mr. Farren stated that some of the trees have been planted and the new tee should be ready for spring use. He stated that they are very happy with the measures that have been undertaken. He mentioned that two other homeowners that have come to Board meetings to express concerns have moved; another now has his house on the market. Mr. Rollins thanked them for coming and suggested they put their comments in writing to the Department and to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Rivers noted that the bylaws say that the election of officers shall take place at an annual meeting to be held in the month of January and that terms shall be for a period of one year.

**Rick Smith motioned, seconded by Phil Cranford, to keep the current slate of officers until the election of officers in January 2007.**

Chairman Rivers also noted that he has not been notified about when the annual report for the Board is due to be submitted to the BOCC. He also asked if all members had sent in their Financial Disclosure Statements.

**WICOMICO SHORES GOLF CLUB**

Rick Smith stated that someone asked him about the procedure to be eligible to play in the Club Championship. He informed the patron that you need to be a member of the golf club. If you buy a season pass, then that gets you into the Championship. He asked about patrons that play frequently, but aren't season pass holders. He thinks this should be available to everyone, not just those who purchase a season pass. He suggested that the Championship be open to season pass holders and those who purchase a club membership.

Ms. Meyers stated that the USGA is the handicap authority; it has to be administered by a golf association; the golf association is Maryland State Golf Association (the course pays \$300 per year to be a member). First you establish a handicap then season pass holders and non season pass holders can join. The computer program acts as the club. The golf club has a handicap committee, tournament chairman and a handicap chairman who monitor the scores in the computer. Ms. Meyers suggested changing the name to pass holders championship.

Mr. Smith stated that if more people enter tournaments then more revenue can be made; Ms. Meyers stated the Championship Tournament doesn't have an entry fee. Mr. Rollins suggested a pass holder's and a club championship. Mr. Smith said that if there is a club you should know who is running it and who can participate. Mr. Smith stated he wants to see a Wicomico Shores Golf Course Association started the way it used to be with senior, men's and ladies leagues with a minimum number of rounds per year to join. Mr. Rollins suggested that a subcommittee might work with Ms. Meyers to study this; the subcommittee could include season pass holders and non-pass holders. Mr. Smith indicated that he would like to see an interest survey done or an informational meeting to see how many people are interested in starting a golf club.

**FRIDAY NIGHT LEAGUE**

Gloria Tippet stated the Friday night league usually starts in April and ends in September. She and her husband have been playing in the league for about five years and has noticed that attendance is down. In the past, you could call in by 3:00 p.m. and request to be assigned to play with another couple. There have been more men playing than women, so it's not really a couple's league anymore. Now players are assigned by staff. She stated that it would be nice if you could have dinner at the Clubhouse after playing; other courses have a Nine and Dine program.

Ms. Meyers that the course can go back to a couple's only league and rotate players around; some singles may have an issue with this. Ms. Meyers stated they have made food available in the past, but then after a period of time it was not economically feasible. She agreed to try having the food available again to determine the interest. Chairman Rivers suggested having a sign up sheet and having people pay in advance. Ms. Meyers will report back to the Board on this during the next meeting.

**CLUBHOUSE HOURS**

Ms. Tippet stated that a number of people have complained about the Clubhouse closing earlier than advertised; Ms. Meyers stated that she was not aware of that happening and will check that out. Ms. Meyers stated that currently the Clubhouse closes at 6:00 p.m. and after daylight savings it's 8:30 p.m. The hours then change each month as the days get longer. Chairman Rivers

stated that some have mentioned to him that the Clubhouse has closed ½ hour early. Ms. Meyers said the only time this might happen is in the winter when there are no patrons on the course.

### **CLUBHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT**

Chairman Rivers thanked Ms. Tippet and Mr. Cranford for volunteering to serve on the selection committee. Information was provided to the WSGC Advisory Board members and no comments were received from the Board on the contractor pre-selected for the project. The County's design team is working with Dennis Anderson Construction on the preliminary design and cost estimate phase of the project. A building concept plan and a cost estimate for construction will be developed based on the County's scope of work. The contractor will be bringing forward the architects rendering to include the floor plan and elevation for the project by the June meeting (hopefully this will be received in May; if so a special meeting may need to be scheduled). After approval of the concept plan, a second contract will be negotiated with the contractor for design and engineering of the facility. After approval of the final design and revised cost estimate by the County, a third contract will be negotiated with the contractor for construction of the facility. The County Commissioners will have approval authority of the project through the budget and contracting process. Mr. Hodges expressed concern that the process was taking too long. Mr. Rollins expects the project will be under construction in late fall or early winter.

Mr. Rollins updated the Advisory Board on his request to the BOCC that the County use \$500,000 in State Program Open Space development funding toward for the Clubhouse project. The County was informed that it would receive a greater than anticipated POS allocation in FY07. Mr. Rollins thought that the additional funding might be necessary since building costs and interest rates have increased of the past few years. Staff is still hopeful to have the project come in between \$1 – \$1.5 million. The BOCC supported using the POS funds in FY07 for the project with the caveat that the County is paid back from golf revenues in the future to use for other recreation and parks capital projects. Chairman Rivers will draft a letter from the Advisory Board to the BOCC supporting using \$500,000 in POS funds for the project.

There is \$1,500,000 (\$150,000 has been used for structural evaluations and architect and engineering fees) appropriated for the project. The hope is that with using \$500,000 in POS funds and some of the golf course savings, that less than \$1 million will need to be borrowed.

### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on June 14, 2006. A special meeting may be needed before June.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:45 P.M.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder