

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

**March 9, 2005  
Meeting Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Merrill "Chico" Rivers, Chairperson, Jim Hodges, Vice-Chairperson, Wayne Pettit, Richard Smith, Robert Richardson and Gloria Tippet.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Phil Cranford.

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Phil Rollins, Director, St. Mary's County Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services (RP&CS), and Patty Meyers, Golf Course Manager, RP&CS. County Commissioners Thomas Mattingly and Daniel Raley also attended the meeting along with several citizens.

### **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**

The Board reviewed the minutes of January 5, 2005 and special meeting of January 31, 2005. With regard to the minutes of January 31<sup>st</sup> minutes, Wayne Pettit stated that he did not receive a copy of the draft letter sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the conversion of the Golf Course Manager's position from a contract to a merit employee. Chairman Rivers drafted the letter and Phil Rollins stated that he thought it had been e-mailed to members; the letter will be sent to Board members. Jim Hodges referred to page three, paragraph three, regarding provisions in the Personal Manual to address reductions in duties. He stated that a reduction in duties would also mean a reduction in pay. **Wayne Pettit motioned, seconded by Jim Hodges, to approve the minutes of January 5 and January 31, 2005 with the change made to the January 31, 2005 minutes; motion carried.**

### **CLUBHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE**

Over the past several months, RP&CS developed an RFP for the renovation/expansion of the Golf Course Clubhouse through a design/build process. Chairperson Rivers reported that a pre-proposal meeting was held on March 3<sup>d</sup> with representatives from three construction companies in attendance (a total of seven firms have picked up the solicitation package). The deadline for questions is March 11, 2005; proposals are due April 1, 2005.

Mr. Rollins outlined the project for guests in attendance. Contractors can submit proposals to renovate the existing space or renovate and expand the upstairs area on the existing terrace. The solicitation specifies that the renovation will not to exceed \$900,000 and the renovation/expansion option will not exceed \$1.2 million. Contractors have the flexibility to list additions that could make the proposal go over \$900,000 for renovation. In an effort to solicit creative proposals, contractors can provide alternatives for renovating the building not to exceed \$1.2 million. A Technical Evaluation Team will evaluate the proposals; the Team includes Mr. Rollins; a member of the WSGC Advisory Board (the Chairperson or another designee); Pat Meyers, Golf Course Manager; Chris Bologna, CSBI, Inc.; and George Erichsen, Director, and William (Stump) Russell, Manager, from the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation.

Staff thought the not-to-exceed amounts should be listed in the solicitation. Some WSGC Advisory Board members expressed concern about listing the limits. Mr. Rollins stated that this concern was addressed by allowing contractors the flexibility to provide costs for alternatives.

Mr. Hodges referred back to the January 5, 2005 minutes where he inquired about the Wicomico Shores Golf Course fund balance. Mr. Rollins stated that he thinks the fund balance is between

\$500,000 and \$600,000, but will follow up with the Finance Department on this. Mr. Hodges asked about how the repairs to the building's heating system were addressed. Ms. Meyers stated that a new heat pump was installed; it was included in the Clubhouse solicitation document to incorporate the new equipment within the renovation.

#### **HOUSING CONFLICTS ON THE GOLF COURSE**

Chairperson Rivers noted that he has received complaints from homeowners who say golfers are continuing to hit balls into their yards (and are hitting homes) and patrons are driving carts onto private property to retrieve golf balls. He recommended that signs be placed on the course asking patrons to respect private property. He asked Ms. Meyers to speak about measures that have been implemented to help alleviate the problem. She stated that staff works to establish communication between the homeowner and the golfer, since errant shots are the responsibility of the golfer. A fairway bunker was installed on hole number three to help with the problem. Chairperson Rivers stated that many calls are being received from homeowners living on number fifteen. Mr. Pettit stated that he feels many problems would be alleviated if the course had a full-time marshal; he thinks people won't read posted signs. Chairman Rivers indicated that he thought the golf course should take some additional steps to help with this problem. Mr. Rollins stated that the Department will look into the option of employing a full-time marshal. He reiterated that it is the person who hits the ball who is at fault.

#### **INTERCLUB COMPETITION**

Chairman Rivers has been asked about interclub competition from patrons. Ms. Meyers stated that she has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with representatives from seven other Southern Maryland golf courses and will inquire about this. They have had a senior interclub league for the past three years. She will see if there is enough interest between the other clubs and then check to see if there is enough local player interest.

#### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:00 P.M.

---

Kathy Bailey, Recorder