

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 9, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Hodges, Chairperson; Chico Rivers, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Richardson, Phil Cranford, Wayne Pettit and Gloria Tippet.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Smith.

RP&CS STAFF AND OTHERS ATTENDING: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks (R&P), and Patty Meyers, Golf Course Manager.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course (WSGC) Advisory Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the temporary golf operations trailer at the Golf Course; a tour of the expanded/renovated Clubhouse facility was held at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chico Rivers motioned, seconded by Phil Cranford, to approve the minutes of June 11, 2008. Motion carried with all in favor.

DISCUSSION FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Mr. Hodges referred to the discussion with Jim Farren last month on the condition of greens and bunkers. It was stated that Mr. Farren is working to develop a plan to overhaul the traps and a timeline of when to phase in the repairs. Ms. Meyers said that a timeline is being looked at, but depends upon available funding.

Mr. Hodges referred to the draft menu provided at the last meeting. He noted that a seafood entrée didn't appear to be included. Ms. Meyers stated that Mr. Morgan would like to provide fresh seafood; therefore, those entrees will be provided as specials as seafood is in season and as the menu is enhanced. Wayne Pettit stated that it was his understanding that breakfast would not be served. Ms. Meyers stated that breakfast is not on the regular menu, but the morning kitchen staff will be able to make breakfast sandwiches as they do now. Brunch also may be offered from time to time.

CLUBHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

The Board toured the expanded/renovated Clubhouse at 6:00 p.m. and viewed the facility's progress to date. Mr. Rollins stated that staff still expects the project will be completed in August and hopes the new facility will be opened in September. Progress meetings are being held every two weeks with the architect and contractor.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Rivers expressed concern with the height of the grass in the environmental areas on the fairways. He mentioned that some people have seen snakes in the grass and he recently encountered a snake on the fairway. He just wanted to bring this issue to staff's attention.

He also mentioned he recently observed a couple who had just finished playing the first hole and then it started raining. They asked staff about the rain check policy and were told if you hit the ball off the first tee, no rain check is available. He suggested posting the rain check policy for patrons. Bob Richardson suggested adding it to the existing rules/policies board as item number nine. Ms. Meyers stated that rain checks are issued if playing 18 holes and patrons have not played more than 9 holes. Some courses do not issue rain checks unless the course is closed.

Vice-Chairman Rivers noted an issue with charging patrons 25¢ for a cup of ice. His concern was that patrons should not have to pay for a cup of ice if they purchase a canned drink that's not cold. Ms. Meyers stated the cost of the cup, ice, lid and straw are taken into account; maybe the cost of the beverage could be adjusted to include a cup of ice. Vice-Chairman Rivers did not think it would be fair to adjust the cost of the beverage as this would charge everyone.

FINANICAL REPORT

Chairman Hodges referred to the financial report previously e-mailed to Board members. Mr. Rollins stated the report is an estimate for FY08; actuals will not be available until the audit is done. Mr. Pettit stated that he's happy the rounds of golf are holding their own in light of the economy. Chairman Hodges noted that the revenue numbers are down \$151,833 (as were operating expenses). Mr. Rollins asked the Board to keep in mind that last fall/winter when the budget was developed we anticipated being in the Clubhouse in the spring. The rounds of golf are actually up; some are waiting until twilight to play to receive the reduced rate. For example, the difference between 2,000 rounds at the regular rate and the same number of rounds at the twilight rate is \$20,000. Rates were increased for this fiscal year but didn't go into effect until April. While the construction on the Clubhouse didn't really affect the rounds of golf, the food and beverage operation revenue is down due to the renovation. Also, the weather was very wet this spring. Chairman Hodges asked about the \$20,000 banquet hall amount listed for FY09; Ms. Meyers stated that projects 10 banquet rentals at \$2,000 each.

Chairman Hodges asked if the administrative service amount of \$372,747 includes \$152,000 in debt service. Ms. Meyers reported that the actual payment for debt service for FY08 was \$126,000; future payments should be approximately \$113,000. He asked about the amount listed for retiree health benefits. Mr. Rollins reported this was an item that came up late in the budget process. This was due to the fact that the County must now forward fund retiree health benefits each year. Chairman Hodges expressed concern over the \$51,878 projected deficit. Mr. Rollins asked members to focus on the revenue, less expenses; that makes the bottom line deficit \$11,878. He stated that is close enough that the golf course operation could still break even.

Vice-Chairman Rivers asked about the \$488,737 approved for course maintenance; approximately \$428,000 was spent. He asked why the course spent less than what was budgeted. The FY09 approved amount is \$510,460; he expressed concern that staff might be cutting back on maintenance of the course. Mr. Rollins stated there could be various reasons why the budgeted amount for FY08 wasn't all spent; cost proposals could have been less than anticipated, savings on salaries and savings on water and irrigation could also be reasons. Vice-Chairman Rivers stated that this could be the reason some of the grass cutting wasn't done. The idea of using manpower

from the Detention Center was also discussed.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.; if a special meeting is needed, that will be scheduled later. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the renovated and expanded Clubhouse will be held in September or October.

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

Kathy Bailey, Recorder