

WICOMICO SHORES GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD

September 13, 2006
Meeting Minutes
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Merrill "Chico" Rivers, Chairperson, Jim Hodges, Vice-Chairperson, Rick Smith and Gloria Tippet.

OTHERS ATTENDING: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks and Community Services (RP&CS), and Pat Meyers, Golf Course Manager, RP&CS. Commissioner President Thomas F. McKay joined the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

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

- Jim Hodges motioned, seconded by Gloria Tippet, to approve the May 25, 2006 special meeting minutes. Motioned carried.
- Gloria Tippet motioned, seconded by Jim Hodges, to approve the Executive Session minutes of May 25, 2006. Motion carried.
- Rich Smith motioned, seconded by Jim Hodges, to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2006.

ERRANT GOLF SHOTS HITTING PRIVATE PROPERTY

Chairman Rivers referred to a letter sent by Mr. Jeremy Bowling regarding errant golf shots hitting his property. A copy of Director Phil Rollins' response to Mr. Bowling was provided to the Board. Chairman Rivers stated that the Golf Course has done everything that can be reasonably expected to help alleviate these situations; the County Attorney has stated that the responsibility of errant shots lies with the golfer. Patty Myers stated that staff has examined the area and the concerns of Mr. Bowling. One of the obstacles of trying to redirect the hole is that the golf course does not own the property adjacent to the right of the thirteenth hole. Several projects are planned this fall to try and help with the situation and additional trees will be planted. Chairman Rivers asked it would be feasible to purchase the lot adjacent to Mr. Bowling's property to serve as a buffer; Mr. Rollins stated that is a possibility and he will check with the property owner regarding that. The Board discussed the possibility of installing a pond, bunker or letting it grow up in natural grasses on hole number 13. Mr. Hodges' suggestion for planting the natural grasses seems to be the best solution at this time.

DISCUSSION WITH COMMISSIONER MCKAY

Commissioner McKay commended staff and the Board on the great condition of the golf course. He stated that he is a true supporter of what staff and the Board are trying to do to improve the course. He strongly supported the re-establishment of the Golf Course Advisory Board. He supports the Board's recommendations for the Clubhouse and regrets any misconceptions that may have been conveyed. The Advisory Board informed the BOCC during the FY07 budget process that there would be a shortfall in funding needed to renovate the Clubhouse. The Advisory Board supported using \$500,000 in available Program Open Space funds to move the project forward. The only question for Commissioner McKay was the source of funding; he thought it might be better to use another source of County funds instead of using Program Open Space funds that could have been used for another park project.

As far as the issue of reversing the nines to their original routing, Commissioner McKay felt this was a management decision and the BOCC wouldn't take this matter under consideration. Mr. Rollins stated that staff is open to reconsidering the switch and this would be reevaluated after the Clubhouse is renovated and reopened. Ms. Meyers feels the change has helped the overall condition of the course.

UPDATE ON THE GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE PROJECT

Mr. Rollins stated that staff received the 50% construction drawings for the Clubhouse project; the 95% drawings are

due by early October, along with a cost proposal for the project. Land Use and Growth Management and other agencies will review the plans and provide comments. The contract doesn't anticipate having to address stormwater management requirements since the project is being constructed in the current building footprint. Mr. Rollins is confident that the Board of Public Works will approve the Program Open Space funding application. A special meeting may be needed if the cost estimate is higher than anticipated. The temporary trailer for the golf operation during Clubhouse construction has been ordered and should be received by mid-October or early November. Mr. Rollins feels that the project will be under construction this winter.

Mr. Hodges asked if the project was moving forward per the original project timeline. Mr. Rollins stated yes, the project timeline stated the 95% drawings are due on October 1st. Mr. Hodges pointed out that it also states that the building shell permit would be issued and shell demolition would begin by October 1. Mr. Rollins stated that might be pushed back somewhat; he will know more on that next week after the meeting with Dennis Anderson Construction.

Ms. Meyers stated that she and Lucy Erskine, Food and Beverage Manager, met with Eddie Bailey of Bailey's Catering, to get some input on the kitchen layout. The kitchen will be designed and infrastructure installed so that the food and beverage operation can be expanded to a full service facility in the future, if needed. The restrooms were also expanded since the first concept and the entry vestibule was redesigned to allow space for other functions. The downstairs restroom is no longer shown as unisex, but is now shown as two separate facilities.

Ms. Meyers stated that the Alcohol Beverage Board approved the temporary trailer operation and outside seating arrangement. Preliminary approval has been received from the Health Department; they will inspect the trailer when set and provide final approval.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Unaudited, end of year financial reports were e-mailed to Board members; attachments included the Revenue and Expense Comparison and the FY97 – FY06 Financial Statement Comparison. Mr. Hodges asked if the Annual Report was available; Ms. Meyers stated that report is prepared as part of the budget preparation; the 2005 calendar year report from the FY07 budget will be provided to members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Meyers stated that the Senior Blitz sent a thank you card to the Maintenance Staff for a job well done; the card was greatly appreciated by Ms. Meyers and the Maintenance Staff. Chairman Rivers also thanked the staff and Wicomico Shores community for the help and condolences received after his mother-in-law's passing.

Chairman Rivers asked if the suggestion box is being used. Ms. Meyers stated that less than 25 comments/suggestions have been received since June. Several of the suggestions have been implemented.

Mr. Hodges asked about the advertising on the holes. Ms. Meyers stated that a company from North Carolina sells the advertising and provides the markers and scorecards for the course. Mr. Hodges thought the Golf Course could make more revenue if the course did the solicitation for advertising themselves or by using a local firm for this service.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Phil Cranford and Wayne Pettit will serve as the nominating committee for the January 2007 election of officers. Any member whose term expires in December should let Mr. Rollins know if they would like to be considered for reappointment.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WSGC Advisory Board will be held on January 10, 2007 (a regular meeting will not be held in December 2006) at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course. A special meeting to discuss the Clubhouse project may be scheduled in November if needed.

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

Kathy Bailey, Recorder