

**Wilmington Municipal Golf Course Advisory Committee**

**Meeting September 12, 2022**

**Attendance:** Louise McColl, Matt Smith, Charles Woodall, Tony Upchurch, David Donovan, Amy Beatty, Joe Anthony, Steve Bridges, Gina Diccico, Mike Emma, Tammy Skinner, Craig Davis

Call the meeting to order at 5:00pm

1<sup>st</sup> order of business is the secretary's report. Freddy and Joe voted to approve the minutes

**Renovations Committee** – furniture has been ordered. Should be here in 3-4 months. Louise did mention the ongoing issues with the computers running Rep Track.

**Maintenance** – 9ft umbrellas would not fit the table without some modification. According to Charles, prices are between \$28 - \$200. With September and October coming, we need to put some mulch out on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee around the melee grass and in the parking lot to replace the faded pine mulch. Mulch in the parking lot is faded and needs replaced. Charles was playing with an older club pro at the course and he said the Muni was in the best shape since playing the course. Charles asked him what it would take for the course to get to the next level. He recommended hiring 2 additional staff members and have them go from holes 1-18 and troubleshoot. Fill divots with sand, weed eat, rake traps and blow. David agreed it would look better however it would cost the course an additional \$80,000 a year. Matt said he would work on the punch list.

**Marketing Committee** – Amy will wait to publish the survey after we get furniture in the main clubhouse area.

**Friends of Muni** –They have 3 more holes to sell signs. Glow golf is November 11<sup>th</sup>. FOM is going to purchase approximately 3,000 -5,000 wire grass, 2 TVs, Sound system, sofa, and chair to go in the women’s bathroom.

**City of Wilmington** – Richard had requested an unassigned fund balance. Per Amy, the unassigned balance is \$1.2 million dollars. Louise asked if David’s PCARD spending could be increased. A few weeks ago, one of the deputy city managers, a City Auditor, head of IT and the head of the Finance dept. came onsite to witness customer transactions. Phones weren’t bad however the PC transactions were very slow including David logging into the computer. Some applications need to come off to free up memory. The city is on a 5 -7-year refresh cycle for computers and unfortunately the golf course is not up for a refresh. Tony assessed both computers and one of the problems noted was memory. Both computers have 4Gb of RAM and both computers are using up 97% of that memory with no running transactions. The CPU on the computers and networking appear to be sufficient. Anthony and Tony volunteered to help research a new POS system that was tailored for golf courses. David will need to define the requirements for this POS system before we can begin the search. In terms of next capital projects, the drainage project would be next. Need to plan for some type of combo 50/50 split from unassigned fund balance and from the general fund. Looking at what we could afford with the money that was set aside from the indirect general fund in addition to the project. Matt has been given approval for the drainage project. David will get with Matt to develop a scope and prepare for purchasing to send out bids. Drainage will be put in place except for holes 3, 4 and 5.

**Pro’s Report** – weather was typical for August. Retail revenue was an all-time high. Trying to keep golf merchandise in stock with an expanded inventory. David does not keep track of net profits. Steve asked Amy to provide that information to be shared with the board. Total revenue for August was \$220,427 compared to

170k in August in 2021. We are \$63,000 ahead of last year's total revenue. Per David, the golf course is in great shape.

**Superintendents Report** – Matt got a lot of positive feedback from the City Am players on the overall course. As for the mutation frustration, Matt feels he has a better handle on this. Goose grass has been an issue which Matt is addressing. An NC State PHD in turf grass has been onsite testing soil. The course has built up a tolerance for the past herbicide that has been used to treat Goose grass. Matt has purchased covers for the greens to help protect them for future Winter freezing. Matt has a plan for rolling out the covers i.e. temperatures deploying covers, storage etc. Matt is currently treating for POA and spot treating for nematodes.

**Unfinished Business** – none

**New Business** – is it possible for First Tee to apply as a non-profit with the City and get funding. This takes the golf course out of collecting. Per Amy, in terms of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee's non-profit, they get some funding from the city community development program. Per Amy, we don't have trouble collecting dues from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee.

**Clock Recommendation** – it was voted not to pursue an outdoor clock.

Irrigation System – Steve wanted to know if we could ask City Counsel for a loan to move forward with the irrigation project. Per Amy, they've have been no preliminary discussions with the Deputy City Manager. Steve asked if this could be

considered soon. Amy said we could consider this in the upcoming budget submittal. This would be proposed for next year.

**Motion to adjourn** – Charles and Tony