Wilmington Municipal Golf Course

Advisory Board

March 11, 2024 Meeting

**Attendance:**

Jeff Darby, Joseph Anthony, Richard King, Feddy Dunn, Steve Bridges, Charles Woodell, Tony Upchurch, Louise McColl, Craig Davis, David Donovan

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Darby at 5:00 pm

January meeting minute: A motion was made by Freddy Dunn to approve the January minutes. A Second was made by Tony Upchurch with all members voting in favor of the motion.

February meeting minute with attachments: A motion was made by Tony Upchurch to approve the February minutes. A Second was made by Joseph Anthony with all members voting in favor of the motion.

**Clubhouse Renovation Committee**

1. Louise McColl stated that Pepsi will donate a large cooler to be used by tournament organizers to store products.
2. Discussion about the possibility of repaving the parking lot and gravel the dirt area on left of driveway coming into the course. Discussion to continue.
3. Plans to continue to install sound tiles in the large room.
4. Charles Woodell brought up the concerns of no speed humps in the parking lot to slow traffic. Other parking lots use speed humps, and they slow down traffic. Concerns were brought up that there is no funding for the new parking lot redesign and speed humps could be installed in the interim to slow traffic.

**Budget Committee**

No changes as the budget is working through the City approval process.

**Greens/Grounds Committee**

No Report

**Marketing Committee**

No Report

Tony Upchurch brought up the possibility of using railroad ties where there is a lot of cart traffic. This could cut back some of the erosion on the course. Further discussion with Matt Smith.

Concerns were brought up about the number of rounds having a negative impact on the course. Slow play is another issue. Concerns that the rangers are not watching gaps between groups and others not following the rules. David Donovan will have a meeting with all the rangers to go over policies and procedures.

Tony brought up the possibility of using GPS in the carts to help speed up play and to eliminate carts driving in restricted areas. David Donovan will get a cost from all the cart companies to add GPS to the upcoming bids for new carts.

**Friends of Muni (FOM)**

No Report

**City of Wilmington**

Amy Beatty was not in attendance at the meeting. Jeff brought up the information that is to be provided at the next meeting.

1- Provide the cost back to the general fund for the City loan of approximately $400,000.

2- Provide a drawing from the City Traffic Engineer for the parking lot redesign

**Pro’s Report**

A details Pro’s Report was handed out and reviewed by David Donovan (See Attachment)

Highlights:

1. The golf course looks good despite the number of rounds (42,500 so far for FY24). It does show some wear due to the dormant conditions on some fairways and tee boxes.
2. Pro shop, F&B, and alcohol sales have increased to $209,439 year-to-date. $21,000 more than FY23.
3. David Donovan stated that he has not been able to secure a distributor of can alcohol drinks.
4. David Donovan stated that with good weather the course could see 65,000 rounds of golf this year.

**Golf Course Update**

A details Maintenance Report was handed out and reviewed by David Donovan (See Attachment)

Highlights:

1. The irrigation renovation project pre-qualification process has been approved and should be sent out for contractors soon.
2. Late April when temps are more conducive for turf growth, staff will begin pushing stressed/high traffic turf areas such as tees, collars, and high foot/cart traffic areas with extra fertilizer to enhance recovery.
3. The mats that were installed on the par 3 tee boxes has helped reduce the damage during the winter months.
4. Organic fertilizer is scheduled to be spread on the entire course on March 18th.
5. Next year’s budget recommendation will have approximately $20,000 for additional improvements to the course.
6. David Donovan expressed concerns of homeless living in the woods next to the course.

**Unfinished Business**

Joseph Anthony reiterated that rules need to be posted (pace of play, what to do / what not to do, etc) need to hold people accountable for their actions on the course. Put rules on a loop in the club house TV’s. David Donovan recommended putting rules of the website.

Tony Upchurch asked the status of the new Point of Sale (POS) system. David Donovan stated that it would probably be after the new budget year.

Tony Upchurch asked about the status of mold on the side of the building. David Donovan said he would bring it up to Matt again.

**New Business**

Charles Woodell stated that he will miss the meetings for the next 2 to 3 months.

**Municipal Golf Association (MGA)**

No Report

**Adjournment**

Feddy Dunn moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Joseph Anthony, and was approved by all members at 5:42 pm.