

Wilmington Municipal Golf Course
Advisory Board
November 18, 2024 Meeting

Attendance:

Chairman Jeff Darby, Vice Chairman Joseph Anthony, Richard King, Steve Bridges, Freddy Dunn, Louise McColl, Craig Davis, David Donovan, Chris Dedrick

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

September meeting minute with attachments: A motion was made by Freddy Dunn to approve the March minutes. A Second was made by Joseph Anthony with all members voting in favor of the motion.

There were no October minutes taken due to a lack of a quorum for an official meeting.

Budget Committee

Richard King went over the handouts on the budget recommendation. (see attachments)

Budget Recommendation

The golf course is in the process of bidding out for a new golf cart lease starting early in 2025. The Golf Course Advisory Committee has expressed interest in enhancing the golf patron experience by adding GPS tracking and upgraded seating to the carts. The GPS tracking will also control where the carts can go thus reducing damage to the carts. The increase to the new proposed golf cart contract estimated is approximately \$60,000.

To offset the cost of the carts the fee increase recommendation is:

A \$2 increase in the 18-hole cart fee =	\$48,222
A \$1 increase in the 9-hole cart fee =	\$13,978
A \$2 increase in the riding punch card =	\$14,734
A \$1 increase in the walking punch card =	\$ 8,360
Total	\$85,294

There will also be an increase in the maintenance equipment lease (\$11,163) starting next budget year. The delta of the increase fees will help to offset the increased cost of the lease.

David Donovan stated cart fees have not increased in at least 17 years. The advisory committee discussed the pros and cons of the increases.

A motion was made by Richard King to increase the 18-hole cart fee by \$2, to increase the 9-hole cart fee by \$1, to increase the riding punch card by \$2 and increase the walking punch card by \$1. This motion was seconded by Jeff Darby. The motion passed 6-1 with Steve Bridges with no vote.

Greens/Grounds Committee

Richard King handed out a list of Greens / Grounds Projects for the committee to discuss. A recommendation was made to increase the in-house Operating Capital from \$30,000 to \$40,000 to continue to complete Greens/Grounds Projects (see list). Over the last 2 years Muni has realized over \$600,000 in annual revenue over expenditures. The budget increase could be offset by these estimated annual revenues. The golf course budget is currently paying back the general fund irrigation system loan at \$100,000 per year for 4 years. The current fund balance is \$1,326,873.

A motion was made by Joseph Anthony to increase the operating capital by \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2026. The motion was seconded by Craig Davis with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Marketing Committee

No Report

Friends of Muni (FOM)

1. Sound boards have been installed with an estimated cost of \$10,000
2. Investigating purchasing 20 trash cans to be installed on the golf course
3. Installing 3 benches on the Par 3's will be approximately \$6,000

City of Wilmington

Amy Beatty reported:

Pro's Report

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

Highlights:

1. October 2024 total revenue was \$237,268 and outperformed last October's record revenue of \$218,240 by \$19,028.
2. Pro shop sales were outstanding with a total of \$19,541!
3. Adding the equipment lease and the cart lease for FY26, the total cost will increase the budget by \$117,538.66.

Golf Course Update

A detailed Maintenance Report was handed out and reviewed by Matt Smith (See Attachment)

Highlights:

1. The irrigation project is going well as the contractor will finish the last few greens today and have started on 9 fairway today. The contractor got a few days behind the first week of November due to some equipment issues but are right back on track expecting to wrap up entirely no later than the first week of January.
2. Fall/Winter weed control is currently looking great with nice clean conditions.
3. We are continuing with very small aeration tines on the greens monthly through this fall and winter as temps allow. This will help keep oxygen in the upper soil profile for healthier greens into and out of dormancy.

Unfinished Business

There was a discussion concerning the 100-year anniversary of the golf course. The Municipal Golf Course will be 100 years old in 2026. Louise McColl said she would meet with David Donovan to determine a budget for the festivities.

New Business

Representative from a group of approximately 30 golfers that plays on Tuesday's were present to discuss tee time availability. This "Cape League" moved from the Cape Golf Course 6 years ago when it closed. Prior to the new tee time policy that was implemented January 1, 2024, David Donavon was blocking out tee time for the League. The League is asking that David be allowed to again block out approximately 8 tee times on Tuesday's. The committee agreed that this issue needed more discussion, so the item was tabled until the next meeting.

Louise McColl mentioned that there was going to be a new golf course built in Castle Hayne.

Jeff Darby stated that officers for 2025 will be elected at the December 9, 2024, meeting.

Municipal Golf Association (MGA)

No Report

Adjournment

Louise McColl moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Joseph Anthony and was approved by all members at 6:00pm.