

Minutes

BOARD/COMMISSION: Recreation

DATE: June 16, 2010

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:32 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 10:03 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Girsch,
Commissioners
Cornwell, Schumann,
Gallagher, Rosley

ABSENT: Commissioners Cavanagh,
Dwyer,

ALSO PRESENT: Recreation Director
Pekarek, Trustee Cooper, Food
Service Manager Atkins

LOCATION: Glen Ellyn Civic Center

Call to Order

Chairman Girsch called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. on June 16th, 2010.

Public Comments

No public comments were given.

Introduction of New Commissioner Cornwell

Chairman Girsch introduced Commissioner Cornwell to the Recreation Commission.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 19th, 2010 Meeting of the Recreation Commission.

Chairman Girsch stated the minutes from May 19th, 2010 were presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Schumann motioned for the approval of the minutes from May 19th, 2010. Commissioner Gallagher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Reports

Manager – Matt Pekarek

Mr. Pekarek stated May was an odd month. The first half of the month was good, the second half was bad. Golf rounds played were down 14 % down on the 9 hole course and unchanged on the 18 hole course, primarily because of the spring special. He stated the calendar was much different from the previous year with the Memorial Day holiday falling at the end of the month compared to last year when it fell on May 25th. He stated many golfers do not start playing until Memorial Day and this could have had an effect on the play. He discussed the spring special, which generated \$16,000 in revenue. The Spring Special will be offered next year. He mentioned the idea of crediting the customer for any portion of the \$175 fee that is not redeemed in green fee discounts.

The first two weeks of June have been poor due to the weather, rain forecasts, the economy, and a decline in the popularity of golf. Golfers also might be taking advantage of discounts at other golf courses. It appears that all courses are seeing a decline in demand. Play at the Village Links has dropped in 6 of the last 7 weeks. The Village Links is doing well financially by reducing expenses.

Thunderstorms have increased operating costs. Each heavy rain requires an additional \$3,000 in wages to repair sand washed out in bunkers.

Chairman Girsch questioned if pro qualifiers will take place this season. Mr. Pekarek stated on August 30th a USGA Mid-Am Qualifying will be held. The Village Links intends to host at least one qualifier each year. Chairman Girsch also questioned the foam residue on the golf course grass in the morning. Mr. Pekarek stated that foam markers are sprayed to help the operator make sure chemicals are not overlapped or missed.

General discussion took place over the condition of the greens, the number of ball marks repaired, and the keep pace beverage program. Mr. Pekarek stated the Village Links has been experimenting with the keep pace beverage program and with ways to reduce personnel expense.

Commissioner Gallagher suggested that certain trees be marked with bands of white paint to help golfers find their balls. Some questioned if this would detract from the aesthetics of the golf course. Mr. Pekarek said that staff will try to find ways to accomplish this without detracting from the aesthetics. The Commissioners also brainstormed additional ideas to speed the pace of play up such as telling golfers up front the expectations of how long a round should take, suggesting certain tee markers to play depending on their skill level in a respectful way, and other ideas.

Mr. Pekarek stated the most important concept is for golfers to keep pace with the group in front of them and that he receives complaints from some customers that Keep Pace is conducted too aggressively by some while others feel not enough is done.

Financial – Commissioner Rosley

Commissioner Rosley stated the golf season has officially started and the next few months will determine what kind of season the Village Links could expect. Pro shop revenue was down \$5,000 from the previous year or 11%. Expenses are down about \$19,000 from last year. Food service is operating about the same compared to last year.

Trustee Liaison – Peter Cooper

Trustee Cooper discussed the Hill Avenue bridge that is in need of construction and may be shut down in the next few weeks. It is owned by the Village of Lombard and has recently been flagged with a new weight limit. 3.3 million dollars has been estimated to rebuild the bridge and currently a grant for 2.5 million could be applied to this project leaving a remainder cost of \$600,000. The Village of Lombard requested that Glen Ellyn pay for half of the remainder of the cost, he asked for Commissioners to take a survey regarding this situation and stated it can be found on the website for residents to fill out. He stated the Village does not have any funds set aside for this expense and the traffic count could increase in other areas of town if this bridge is closed and could break down roads faster due to the increased traffic. Trustee Cooper stated if Glen Ellyn does not pay for half, the bridge will be closed permanently and the 2.5 million in funds acquired in grant money will be lost. General discussion took place over the pros and cons of rebuilding the bridge and the different options the Village has on this agenda item.

Commissioner Schumann questioned what projects, if any, would be removed from the Village budget. Trustee Cooper stated this has not been determined yet by Village staff and Trustees. The Commissioners generally agreed that the bridge should stay open.

Trustee Cooper discussed the College of DuPage dispute with the Village. New signage is not code complaint and stop work orders have been issued. This may lead to a court battle. Signage, traffic, parking and storm water are the main concerns of the Village.

Commissioner Cornwell asked if the ban on liquor sales before noon on Sunday was a county or a local ordinance, as many golfers would like to buy beer on Sunday mornings. Mr. Pekarek stated this was a Village ordinance, but that the Village hesitated to make exceptions for themselves.

Old Business – Continued Discussion on Food Service Leasing

Chairman Girsch provided a summary of the discussion that took place at the last meeting. She discussed the needs of the golf course and some of the outdated features that are in need of reconstruction. She stated the forming of a Steering Committee could help guide the reconstruction efforts and make sure the funds available are allocated correctly. Commissioner Rosley questioned the timeframe of

how long this plan would take to form and that some type of action is needed sooner and that the Board was looking for a direction for short term goals. Chairman Girsch stated after reviewing materials that she was in favor of committing to a long term plan rather than both a short term and long term plan. The short term plan may not take into the account some of the ideas of the long term recommendations and funds could be wasted or not allocated in the most efficient way.

Chairman Rosley said that he had talked to assistant golf pros at several park district golf courses including Schaumburg, Palatine, Mt. Prospect and Winnetka, and was told that they all leased food service profitably with no problems. He said that the food company and golf course worked together to solve problems and provide hospitality and that this was much easier for the golf course. Open Kitchens Inc. leases food service at several courses and has done so for several years. He encouraged the rest of the Recreation Commission to reach out to these golf courses to follow up on any additional questions that arise.

Commissioner Cornwell questioned how much investment is provided by companies leasing food service. Mr. Pekarek stated that such leases do not generate enough revenue to cover building capital investment. He referred to Schaumburg G.C. that was redeveloped for about \$18-million in the 1980's, with funds provided by the Park District. He said that in most cases such leases are subsidized if all costs, including building space, are considered. He said that it is his experience that such leases are not significantly profitable if all costs are considered.

Commissioner Schumann discussed the idea of a Steering Committee and the timeframe associated with it and how the Village Board feels about this possible recommendation. Trustee Cooper stated the main concern of the Village Board is the continuing trend of less usage of the course and a decrease in revenue every year. He stated the Board was looking to capitalize on a new idea such as a restaurant or another idea to increase revenue while providing a low risk to the Village. He stated he wanted to look at the big picture of the golf course and the long term plan of maintaining the Village Links. Mr. Pekarek stated that an overall plan is needed that resolves conflicts, establishes priorities, and identifies solutions in such a way that work is accomplished in an efficient manner that neither precludes future projects nor wastes money.

Commissioner Cornwell was in favor of creating a Steering Committee but felt as the committee was working on the plan, reports could be submitted on short term goals that could be worked on as the longer term goals are researched and developed.

Chairman Girsch questioned if the Village president was comfortable with the outline of the Steering Committee's goals and agenda. Trustee Cooper stated the Village President was satisfied with that, but he would like to see the plan developed as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Rosley questioned if the Village Links staff was going to present alternatives to leasing the food service business. He discussed the option of creating a bar in the clubhouse that could produce additional revenue. Mr. Pekarek stated

that staff proposes making several improvements, including a bar, but that there are several issues to resolve.

Commissioner Cornwell stated the creation of a bar would be a minor investment of \$20,000 that could increase revenue and retain employees. He stated even if this bar is torn out for a different option down the road this investment could be a short term way to provide additional revenue and pave the way for the next step in the plan. General discussion took place over the reasoning and need for a bar compared to normal seating and the investment and type of bar that would be implemented.

Motion to Create a Steering Committee

Commissioner Cornwell moved for the creation of a Facility Master Plan Steering Committee. Commissioner Rosley seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Rosley suggested adding a start time and possible timeline. Mr. Pekarek stated the Steering Committee could proceed as quickly as they can accomplish work, but that the eventual timeline would depend on the projects under consideration.

Trustee Cooper questioned how the Committee will be formed. Chairman Girsch stated Mr. Pekarek would be in charge of creating this committee similarly from when the creation of the golf course reconstruction committee was created in 2000. General discussion took place over a time table and other details. Mr. Pekarek said that he thought the staff should not put the committee together. Commissioner Cornwell volunteered to recruit members of the Steering Committee. Commissioners Rosley and Schumann offered to help. They will begin recruiting immediately and report back at the July meeting of the Recreation Commission. Discussion took place over the number of members that should be included on this committee and from what type of backgrounds and disciplines that these members will be from.

Announcements and Other Business

No announcements were made.

Confirmation of Next Meeting

Chairman Girsch stated the next scheduled meeting will be held on July 21, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Girsch asked for a motion to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Gallagher motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Cornwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Submitted by: Chris Ragona

Reviewed and edited by Matt Pekarek, Recreation Director July 15, 2010.

Approved by the Recreation Commission, July 21, 2010.