

Commissioners discussed which local groups to reach out to for the foot golf, and also ways to ensure players stay off the greens. Commissioners also discussed large-hole play. It was tried in September last year to mixed reviews. As the high school teams did not like it, if it is offered this fall, it will not be during high school team play. A 9-hole tournament with large holes was offered last year, but despite posters and emails, no players signed up for it. Chairman Browder asked staff to identify 2 Sunday or Saturday afternoons in the fall for large hole play to encourage families with children to come out and play, offering perhaps a two-hour family scramble.

GROUNDS

The golf course was in good condition despite the rainfall. The 9-hole practice green continues its health decline due to heavy use. Restricted hours of use are being considered. The grounds crew put in 620 person-hours to restore the bunkers from 2 days of drenching rain.

RESERVE 22

The rain did not seem to adversely affect restaurant sales. Reserve 22 enjoyed its best revenue month in June with the help of the Monday golf outings.

Recruiting outdoor entertainment with acoustic instruments only has proved challenging. Staff is continuing to seek musicians to provide background music on Thursday nights.

Financial Report

Manager Vesevick reviewed the financial statements, noting that the profit/loss worksheet provides the information on where funds are being expended. The green sheets show debt or interest payments when made, but not capital improvement expenditures. All figures are shown on a cash basis. Commissioners discussed showing accrued debt service each month to be able to determine whether or not all expenses are being covered, even though these payments are made only twice a year. The question is whether the Links is doing well enough during summer months to meet those December payments. However, the Village Finance Department does not accrue it, and the consensus was that the Links needs to show its figures in the same manner as the Finance Department. Manager Vesevick will talk to Finance Director Coyle to see if the debt service can be shown in some way each month.

Trustee Liaison Report

There was no Trustee report.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Restaurant / Facility Policy Regarding Pets on Property

The staff has discussed this matter and determined it is not to the restaurant's advantage to have pets in the restaurant or the patio, other than service dogs. It can be difficult to determine if an animal is actually a service dog. Manager Vesevick will consult with the Village Attorney on applicable laws and regulations.

Commissioners discussed the policy for cigars on the patio. Smoke stays under the canopy and prevailing winds blow it toward patrons eating. "No Smoking" signs are on the tables on the patio. Smoking is currently allowed on the west patio outside the Blue Heron room, which keeps it away from food. It was suggested that staff consult with the Village Attorney to confirm the current laws concerning distance from doors for smoking. When the time comes for the west patio to be used for food service, smoking there will need to be revisited.

2016 Rates and Tee Time Intervals

Chairman Browder would like the research done now on how the Links' rates compare with other local courses. He is concerned that rates are low compared to other facilities. Would it be possible to raise revenues by increasing rates and perhaps losing a few players? The most recent in-depth study was done in 2013. The staff recommendation for 2016 rates will be presented to the Commission for discussion in October as the recommended 2016 rates should be presented to the Board of Trustees in November for approval.

Commissioner Graham noted that one of the goals of the Links is to provide a golf experience at low cost or reasonable rates. The Board of Trustees may not approve raising rates. Commissioners discussed the impact of raising rates by one or two dollars for each of the average of 70,000 rounds played in a year. Manager Vesevick noted that non-resident play has decreased over the past few years, and that courses such as Arrowhead and Cantigny have different financial structures from the Links. Commissioners also urged review of current special rates, such as after certain hours, senior rates, etc. and to compare them to other area courses.

Chairman Browder would like Commissioners to have the opportunity to review the research prior to, and discuss the matter further at September as well as at October Commission meetings.

Caddy Program

Commissioners noted that some staff are asking about a caddy when reservations are made. Mr. Campbell said that staff is just starting to roll out the program and is learning what works and what does not work. Confirmation emails contain a reminder about the program. He said that most times every teen that is on the property gets a round. The possibility of increasing the pull cart rate to \$6.00 to offset any lost revenue will be discussed in October along with other budget items. Manager Vesevick said that although the program takes a lot of staff time and does not generate revenue, the benefit is in public relations and attracting young people to the sport.

Chairman Browder suggested having an outing to benefit the caddy program. Others suggested parents subsidize their own kids so that a caddy's cost would be as low as \$20 or \$30. Commissioner Graham suggested creating a caddy scholarship linked to the Posh program, and others expressed support for the idea. Commissioners discussed golfers having a permanent caddy. All those involved have learned much in the first year of the program, and it has been a success.

Restaurant Breakfast Strategies

Manager Vesevick said that the Sunday breakfast is not doing well. A buffet that is offered every week seems to lose its charm. Offering a la cart saves labor and allows for flexibility of menu and more specials. The cooks arrive at 8:00 AM, but golfers are on the facility at 5:00 AM. Breakfast for early golfers will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission meeting will be August 19

Commissioner Carroll moved, and Commissioner Jourdan seconded adjourning the meeting. Without objection, the meeting ended at 8:50 PM.

Submitted by Karen Blake, Recording Secretary
Reviewed by General Manager Jeff Vesevick