

GUILFORD LAKES GOLF COURSE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, June 16, 2020 6:00 PM

Via Teleconference

Present: GLGC Commission: Steve Berry; Robert Cuzzo; Laura Hartmann; Philip Maltese; Britt Mirles, Chairman; Patrick Pascale
Town Personnel: Brian McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator; Ted Tighe, Golf Course Superintendent; Karen Quercia, Acting Clerk

Chairman Mirles called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Public Forum

None

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

2.a. May 16, 2020

Mr. McGlone noted that under Item 3b, the word "placed" should be corrected to "played".

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Pascale, and seconded by Commissioner Cuzzo, the Guilford Lakes Golf Course Commission voted to approve the minutes as amended.

In Favor: Berry, Cuzzo, Hartmann, Maltese, Mirles, Pascale
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

3. Superintendent Report

3.a. Course Report

Superintendent Tighe reported that revenue for May was \$69,091. May was one of the highest months of revenue the golf course has ever had. Revenue to date for June is \$22,860, we are on track for another banner month.

The new hire in the pro shop has been training and is about ready to start working on his own.

42 season passes have been sold to date, including one that was sold today. This compares to 67 that were sold last year. The late start (due to COVID-19) may be a contributing factor. There may be 3 or 4 more season passes sold in June, but based on past years, none will be purchased in July.

Twelve bundled packages have been sold to both residents and non-residents.

Only two tee sponsorships have been sold so far, seven or eight are still available. Letters were sent to previous years sponsors, but none have responded. Some commission members stated that they did not receive their letters. It was noted that Page Hardware would be a sponsor, but someone should contact them in person. The increase in the sponsorship fee to \$500 may be to blame for the lack of response. It was suggested that a sponsorship for the clubhouse or parking lot be offered for a lower cost of \$200, as this would be a shared advertising space.

Commissioner Berry stated that in appreciation for his contributions to the parking lot, Mr. Pascale's business should have a sponsorship sign placed at a tee for no fee. Sup't. Tighe state he would place the sign at the third or fourth hole.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Mirles, and seconded by Commissioner Cuzzo, the Guilford Lakes Golf Course Commission voted to waive the sponsorship fee for Mr. Pascale in appreciation for his contributions to the GLGC parking lot.

In Favor: Berry, Cuzzo, Hartmann, Maltese, Mirles, Pascale

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Commissioner Hartmann requested that Sup't. Tighe send her the sponsorship letter and application and she will include it in the next Constant Contact e-mail.

The course has been very busy. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays you need to reserve a start time. Tee times are booked in 10-minute intervals, the slowest period is lunch time; between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Mirles noted that the online reservations are in real time. The clubhouse staff should not be using the book to make reservations because they will risk double booking. She requested that the staff enter all the reservations in the book into the online system.

There have been three hole-in-one's this year, including one last night in the men's league at the third hole. Commissioner Hartmann will include this in the Constant Contact e-mail.

A few parents have requested golf lessons for their children, who are between the ages of approximately 10 and 12. The Commission discussed whether Superintendent Tighe would be willing and able to teach them for one hour a week for several weeks. Superintendent Tighe is willing to teach them.

A question was raised as to whether the revenue from the lessons would go to the Superintendent or the GLGC. Commissioner Pascale noted that since teaching lessons would be an additional duty, Sup't. Tighe should be compensated appropriately.

After reviewing lesson fees at other area courses, it was agreed that a reasonable fee would be \$30.00 per hour, per child.

Chairman Mirles asked Sup't. Tighe if he would be comfortable giving lessons to up to 8 children between the ages of 9 and 11, and if they could safely social distance. Sup't. Tighe stated that he would be able to safely give lessons to up to 8 children.

Chairman Mirles will check with Human Resources Director Mitch Goldblatt to see if this can be arranged, and will also liaison with town staff regarding any potential insurance liabilities. Any vote on this matter will be tabled until more information can be gathered.

The beds have all been mulched.

The irrigation problems have been resolved.

Crab grass preventive has been applied.

The bunkers have been edged.

Superintendent Tighe met with the Public Works Director regarding drainage from the pond on 7. The drain takes excess water off the course to a catch basin and then to the road. The pipe that is there is an 8" pipe. It cannot get rid of the excess water fast enough causing water to sometimes back up to hole 5. A 20" pipe is required to provide proper drainage. The Public Works Department has added this project to their schedule. It is not an urgent need, but does need to be addressed. The cost is approximated to be \$700. Chairman Mirles suggested the Commission do a site walk when it is safe to hold in person meetings again.

4. Finances

4.a. Approval of Warrants

Mr. McGlone reviewed the revenues, which have been strong. Y-T-D revenue is \$129,000. He and Commissioner Berry estimated the revenue shortfall for the year to be between \$100,000 and \$120,000. Expenses were also reviewed.

Superintendent Tighe reported that the town is looking into acquiring new credit card machines for the departments that utilize them. They will also try to negotiate better rates.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Berry, and seconded by Commissioner Cuzzo, the Guilford Lakes Golf Course Commission voted to approve the warrant as presented.

In Favor: Berry, Cuzzo, Hartmann, Maltese, Mirles, Pascale

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

4.b. Approval of Invoices

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Berry, and seconded by Commissioner Cuzzo, the Guilford Lakes Golf Course Commission voted to approve the invoices as presented.

In Favor: Berry, Cuozzo, Hartmann, Maltese, Mirles, Pascale
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

5. New Business

5.a. Caddies

Two Guilford High School students are interested in offering caddying services to players that may be interested in hiring a caddy. They would not be town employees, they would be paid directly by the players for their services. This may be a way to bring young people to the course. Chairman Mirles contacted Human Resources Director Mitch Goldblatt and he advised that this would be okay if they sat under the clubhouse porch. Chairman Mirles will work with town hall staff regarding any liability and training issues that may need to be addressed before implementing this service. The Commissioners all agreed that this would be a good service to offer.

5.b. Chamber of Commerce Meetings

Superintendent Tighe was unable to attend the last Chamber meeting. Commissioner Hartmann attended, but also encouraged Sup't. Tighe to attend. The meetings are currently held virtually via ZOOM.

Commissioner Cuozzo stated that Dunkin' Donuts inquired about a fall tournament this year. The Commission agreed that Mr. Cuozzo should inform the business owner that they intend to hold a fall tournament, but a date has not yet been set.

A suggestion to allow food trucks to park at the GLGC was supported by the Commission. Chairman Mirles and Commissioner Hartmann will follow up with town officials regarding any rules and regulations.

Advertising a Groomsmen Golf Day for wedding parties was suggested by Chairman Mirles.

6. Old Business

6.a. COVID-19 Processes Update

The Clubhouse and restrooms remain closed. Most people are coming to the window to pay by credit card. Some area courses provide score cards and pencils, some utilize an app.

6.b. Paving of Parking lot Update – Pascale

The parking lot is status quo. A presentation will be made to Rotary at their July meeting.

6.c. Purchase of Used Pull Carts

The new pullcarts ordered by the Clinton golf course are on backorder, so Clinton does not have any to sell at this time. Mr. McGlone will follow up to see if they will be willing to sell any when they receive the order of new carts.

6.d. Advertising

Mr. McGlone asked if any progress had been made regarding the banners that were to be hung at Fairways Driving range. A GLGC banner was to be placed at each of the two driving ranges in exchange for one banner at GLGC advertising the Fairways driving range.

Commissioner Hartmann asked for ideas for the Constant Contact newsletter. Suggestions included: on-line tee times, available sponsorships, COVID-19 updates, bundled packages, the Hole in Ones including pictures if available.

Chairman Mirles has been trying to contact the administrator of the old GLGC Facebook page to take down the old page.

7. Adjourn

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Pascale, and seconded by Commissioner Cuozzo, the Guilford Lakes Golf Course Commission voted to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

In Favor: Berry, Cuozzo, Hartmann, Maltese, Mirles, Pascale

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Quercia
Acting Clerk