

VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH

GOLF ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of August 17, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The Zoom meeting of the Board was called to order by Chairman Steve Mathison at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

A. Present:

Stephen Mathison – Chairman

Rich Pizzolato – Vice Chairman

Curtis Witters – Secretary

David Talley – Member

Jeff Irish – Member

Jeff Egizio – Member

Landon Wells - Member

B. Staff Members Present:

Allan Bowman, Director of Golf

Beth Davis, General Manager

C. Council Members Present:

D. Public Present:

Absent:

x

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes of the July 20, 2020 GAB Meeting were approved 6-0.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Golf Report. Allan Bowman, Director of Golf, delivered his report.

Several projects are underway. New curbing is being installed in front of the black tee box on Hole No. 1.

Sod is being installed in several areas on the course, and more will be installed in September. 30,000 square feet of sod was delivered and installed, and another 9,000 square feet will be placed in September.

The driving range is being sprigged with Celebration grass in the landing areas. New soil is being added as well. Because of the sandy soil, we have experienced as many as 3,000 balls being plugged and recovered when the range is carefully cleaned.

Allan has negotiated with Brightview that the company will install the new sod and sprigs without charge because of its agreement to complete the grow-in of the golf course. The expense to the club is limited to the cost of the sod and sprigs.

The golf course is very busy, and we are having even more play than in 2019. Allan is concerned about the volume of play and its impact on the course.

The refacing of the bunkers and lake fronts has been delayed but will begin shortly after Labor Day. The grass being used is 419; we are told that there will be adequate time left in the growing season for the new grass to take hold.

The budget for 2020-2021 has been submitted to the Village Council. Among the projects which are included in the proposed budget are:

a. Replacement of the range mats with a brand that can be rotating to extend the life of the mats.

- b. A hut for the starter at the first tee.
- c. A tiki hut in the staging area.
- d. A welcoming clock.
- e. Updating of the restrooms.
- f. Additional irrigation of the course.

Rounds report:

We have had 39,723 rounds through July. 42,000 rounds were projected and budgeted for the fiscal year. We expect 4,000 rounds in August, so we will be at 43,000 rounds for the year before September, even with the course having been closed for five weeks due to COVID.

Staff changes:

We have made some new hires and have two openings that will be filled. Allan is attempting to elevate the level of our staff at the club. We lost long time employee Mark Gonzalez who had to resign for family reasons.

Membership:

Lenore Dingle is sending our notices regarding renewals of memberships beginning today.

Long-term Plan:

Allan also spoke about the long-term plan and goals for NPBCC; where will we be in five years?

We are asking the Village Attorney to tell us if we can assign any priority to Village residents who are on our waiting list.

Are existing members of the club who are not residents of the Village grandfathered in as members?

The club is in trial with a new software product to assist in operations.

We are looking to add a new pump in the pumphouse on Hole No. 14. A request for proposals will be released for this project. We hope to install the additional pump in October. This will increase our ability to water the golf course.

Our golf carts have had much greater use due to COVID and use by a single rider. We are concerned that the battery life of the carts has been reduced by this increased use. Allan discussed our revenue projections and his concern that too much play results in damage to the course.

Allan is looking at options to give the course a rest. It will be closed for up to seven days in September. Another possible option is to have days of play limited to members only.

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

Would it be possible to get a shade cover for the public end of the driving range?

The potential cost was raised as a concern.

Another issue raised was the possibility of serving food and beverage at the driving range.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 21, 2020.

Minutes by Curtis L. Witters, Secretary.