

VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH

GOLF ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of March 15, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Mathison at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

A. Present:

Absent:

Stephen Mathison – Chairman

Rich Pizzolato – Vice Chairman

Curtis Witters – Secretary

David Talley – Member

Jeff Irish – Member

x

Jeff Egizio – Member

x

Landon Wells - Member

B. Staff Members Present:

Allan Bowman, Director of Golf

Beth Davis, General Manager

C. Council Members Present:

D. Public Present:

Eric Talbot

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes of the January 18, 2021 GAB Meeting were approved 5-0.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

The course conditions are good. The grass is growing well as the weather warms. The foliar nutrition program has been implemented.

New pumps for the pumphouse between holes 13 and 14 have been approved by the Village Council.

We will continue to clean up the vines invading the oak trees. Our palm trees will be trimmed up at the end of the summer. We will also place some new sod at the end of the summer.

We are requesting an increase of \$100,000 for the Brightview contract; \$50,000 of this increase will provide for another foliar application.

Historically, we fertilize the rough on course 2-3 times per year. We will consider foliar application for the rough as well to increase application to 9-10 times a year.

A question was posed from the Board: Some of our fairways, such as the 10th hole, have very thin grass covering; do we need a different approach on those holes?

Allan explained that our problem is that we have a very thin soil cover over the white sand which lies beneath the golf course, and some of our fairways have significant incline which promotes run off. We are considering aeration with larger cores to allow more organic material to be put into the sand layer. In addition, the high number of rounds we are enjoying stresses the grass, especially on the holes with incline to the fairway. We are 3,000 rounds ahead of the number played through February of last year.

Allan then asked for a Board discussion of our membership policies.

Initially, should residents of the Village have priority for membership in the club?

The allowed number of memberships in the club has been increased from 170 to 210 in recent years. We experience a few non-renewals or resignations per year, so there is some turnover in membership.

Allan suggested that the proper number of memberships for the club, in order to balance member and nonmember play, may be 190 (with a review at end of 2022).

It was suggested that the club should consider a 10% increase in the cost of memberships to keep pace with the increased costs of operations.

Other possible adjustments to our membership programs are:

Continued use of a resident card for Village residents (with higher discounts) who are not golf members; and

A frequent play card allowing for a package rate for 20 rounds of golf for residents.

The Board discussed whether we should consider a restructure of what a membership at the club entails. Each of our members pays the same cost for their membership, although some of our members play many more rounds of golf per year than others. Should there be a flat membership fee and then a charge for each round of golf played?

The Board then discussed whether future memberships in the club should be limited to Village residents.

These membership issues will be discussed in future meetings of the Board.

Allan then summarized upcoming tournaments for the club.

The Club Championship will be held in April.

The Nicklaus Cup, a husband-and-wife event is also scheduled for the spring.

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

The Board then discussed a complaint which had been made to the Village Council. The Council asked that the Golf Advisory Board consider the issue addressed in the complaint, group play at the club, and make recommendations to the Council. The central issue of the complaint made to the Council was that group play is being allowed to monopolize our prime tee times, between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

Eric Talbot, who had made the complaint to the Council attended the Board meeting. Mr. Talbot spoke to the Board and explained that he plays in a group of eight players and that they are unable to secure a tee time until after noon, because of other large groups, such as the Sharks and Harry's Hackers. Mr. Talbot suggested that groups should be allowed to play at the club, but that they should play in the afternoon hours.

The Board discussed the issue of group play, and the pros and cons of same. Allan pointed out that the existence of 210 members put a great deal of pressure on the tee sheet. That issue is part of the problem with group play at the club.

Allan requested that the Board consider a policy regarding group play at our club. We need to balance the equitable distribution of tee times to members and to the public, and the desire of golfers who wish to play in a group for social purposes.

Group play will be discussed at the April meeting of the Board.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 19, 2020.

Minutes by Curtis L. Witters, Secretary.