

VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH
GOLF ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES of April 20, 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. Board Members	Present	Absent
Stephen Mathison – Chairman	x	
Rich Pizzolato – Vice Chairman	x	
Curtis Witters – Secretary	x	
David Talley – Member	x	
Jeff Irish – Member		x
Jeff Egizio – Member	x	
Landon Wells – Member	x	
B. Staff Members		
Allan Bowman, Director of Golf	x	
Beth Davis, General Manager	x	
Lenore Dingle, Membership Coordinator		x
C. Council Members in Attendance		
Darryl Aubrey		
Susan Bickel		
Mark Mullinix		
David Norris	x	
Deborah Searcy		

D. Public Present:

Many members of the public attended to address the subject of group play at North Palm Beach Country Club.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the March 15, 2021 GAB Meeting were approved 6-0.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Golf Report.

Allan Bowman, Director of Golf, delivered his report.

We are working on a new pipeline from the pump house but the project has been delayed by unavailability of materials, due to COVID.

We will fertilize the entire course this week, fairways, greens and rough.

The course will be closed June 7-10 for aerification. The range will remain open those days. We will seek reciprocal courses for members while our course is closed.

The course had 6,167 rounds of golf in March, an all-time record for one month.

Golf finances look great but the demand for play puts pressure on the staff and the tee sheet. The heightened demand for tee times creates a conflict with members seeking play. Our members are playing more rounds of golf than in 2020.

Notwithstanding the large number of rounds and the absence of rainfall, the course remains in good condition.

Membership

We will have a workshop with the Village Council on May 13th, concerning membership policy.

Allan suggested that our target number for memberships at the club should be 190. If

the Council approves this number, we will reach this goal through nonrenewal or other attrition. If this membership level is achieved, we will monitor our finances and revenue to see if 190 is the right number.

Allan believes that our goal should be for 75% of our members to be residents of North Palm Beach. If this goal is adopted, all existing nonresident members will be allowed to retain their status. As part of this suggested policy, we may delete some nonresidents from our waiting list.

Tee Times

Since our March meeting Allan observed an instance of one of our members booking nine (9) separate tee times. Allan then conducted a staff meeting to address this problem. The rules and regulations of the club should govern this issue.

Allan suggested that the goal regarding tee times is a solution that is equitable for all members. He presented several potential ideas:

A single member can book one tee time.

A married couple who are both members can book two tee times.

What about a group that wishes to play together?

The pressure on the tee sheet is increased by our policy that two tee times per hour are to be held for nonmember play.

Our club has many groups requesting that they be allowed to reserve several consecutive tee times for play.

One possible solution regarding group play would be to allow two Wednesdays per month for the MGA and two Wednesdays per month for the WGA.

Our club needs new tee time software so that members can sign in and see the tee sheet when they are booking times. This request will be discussed at the Council workshop.

Allan asked whether members should be allowed to book fourteen days in advance.

The Board discussed the tee time issue.

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

Public comments.

A number of the public in attendance at the meeting shared their points of view.

Gail Levy of the Par Tee Girls said they book four tee times each Tuesday to play as a group. Many of the players in her group are not members of the club; the group has a social function and promotes NPBCC.

Harry Krivit of Harry's Happy Hackers spoke. His group includes members ranging from 70 to 90 years of age. Some of the group are seasonal residents or nonmembers of the club and pay full price for play. Mr. Krivit said his group is always open to newcomers and serves an important social function.

Rich Pizzolato spoke and pointed out that the club does not oppose or prohibit people booking consecutive tee times; the issue is booking a block of times for a group of people.

Ed Preti then spoke; he has been a member since 1999 and he feels that group play is a problem for club members seeking tee times.

Allan told those in attendance that if all competing groups are allowed tee times on Tuesday and Allan reserves the allocated public tee times, there will remain only 2-3 tee times for members before noon.

Billie Harrell then spoke to the Board. She is a member of the club and has found all tee times taken when she attempts to book a time at 6:30 a.m. She suggested that we conduct a survey of members regarding the tee time issues.

Maureen Black told the Board that her group books three tee times on Fridays for her group of twelve people.

Eric Talbot addressed the Board and told us that he supports group play and that we should “do the right thing” on this issue.

Ann Talley addressed the Board.

Jim Hays spoke; he is a part time resident of North Palm Beach.

Jim Carmichael addressed the Board and asked if group play presented a financial problem for the Club. Allan said the is not the issue; rather it is a matter of finding an equitable policy for our members.

The Board then discussed the issue of group play with the commitment to consider the proper policy at future meetings.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 17, 2021.

Minutes by Curtis L. Witters, Secretary.