

VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH  
GOLF ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes of May 8, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

A. <u>Board:</u>	Present	Absent
Stephen Mathison – Chairman		X
Rich Pizzolato – Vice Chairman	X	
Curtis Witters – Secretary	X	
Landon Wells – Member	X	
Orlando Puyol – Member	X	
Sandra Felis – Member	X	
Karen O’Connell – Member	X	
B. <u>Staff Members:</u>		
Allan Bowman, Director of Golf	X	
Beth Davis, General Manager	X	
Lenore Dingle, Membership Coordinator		
C. <u>Council Members:</u>		
Darryl Aubrey		
Susan Bickel		
Mark Mullinix		
David Norris	X	

Deborah Searcy

D. Public Present:

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the April 10, 2023 GAB Meeting were approved 6-0.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

Allan reminded the Board that we are subject to the Sunshine Law. Two members of the Board may have a conversation. No more than two members may discuss Board matters outside of a meeting of the Board. There cannot be email conversations between Board members.

The tee sheet is less busy; some members are returning north for the summer.

Allan communicated with a group of golfers at the club, comprised of members and nonmembers about golf at the club. The group raised concerns about the pace of play. Our options to address the issue include 10-minute tee times and posting of rangers on both sides of the course to monitor the pace of play.

Allan reviewed the records of play for January through May as recorded on the golf carts and found that the average time per round was between 4 hours and 5 minutes and 4 hours and 11 minutes. Only a small percentage of rounds exceeded 4 hours and 20 minutes.

We have offered membership to five individuals on the waiting list. Four are residents of the Village and one is not.

For April play was down by five hundred rounds due primarily to rain. Revenue was slightly down across the board.

Allan conducted a “Best Practices Visit” to Abacoa Golf Club and found a similar financial picture to ours at North Palm Beach.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Village Council approved our proposed projects for the golf course. On June 19<sup>th</sup> the projects will start. We will aerate on the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> and be closed to the public until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Allan is exploring reciprocity play for members during the aeration.

Our future projects include the environmental station and stabilization of pond banks.

Allan reports he is pleased with new superintendent from Brightview.

Our course will have its centennial in 2026 and Allan is considering some major projects prior to the centennial. They would include changes to the bunkers on holes 2 and 10 to open up additional driving areas in the fairways, as suggested by Jack Nicklaus. Also under consideration are artificial turf greens on the driving range for use as practice targets.

Allan told the Board that the grass in our fairways is healthy and should be good for 6-8 more years.

We have placed boxes for broken tees on our par three tee boxes, generally for the red, white, and green tees.

The club will host an outing for The Benjamin School on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

In the recent tornado, we lost a couple of trees.

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A member of the public spoke and asked if the prisms or reflective tape on the pins can be replaced or repairs as some are not registering on range finders.

Another person asked about the bunkers on the course containing plantings are to be treated as waste areas.

A third person told the Board that her husband was struck by a golf ball from the driving range while in the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway. She asked if the club would install protective screens between the range and the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway. Allan told us that more trees are being planted between the range and the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway to provide protection.

Lastly, a club member asked if we can enforce rules about proper golf attire on the practice green adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

The next meeting will be June 12, 2023.

Minutes by Curtis L. Witters, Secretary.