



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
LONGSHORE CLUB PARK
260 SOUTH COMPO ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880

February 11, 2019

GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINAL Minutes

The Golf Advisory Committee met in the Westport Town Hall, Room 201, on February 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the newly appointed Chairwomen, Jane Dally.

Members Present: Jane Dally, Chairwomen; Marie Gross; Rich Raphael; Jim Harman; Gary Solomon; Judy Domkowski

Members Absent: John Ehli

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting were approved by a vote of 6-0-1.

Public Comments

The public was given the opportunity to make comments. No comments were made.

Presidents' Report

- Jon Janik reported for John Lieber, President of the Longshore Men's League, who was absent. The men's league reported that the board will meet next week.
- Regina Masterson represented the LWGA for President, Winnie Hamilton, who was absent. The LWGA is continuing to work on their 2019-member handbook. They sent out the membership application. They are accepting membership payments via Venmo, an electronic payment app. The LWGA has scheduled a board meeting for March 18 to prepare for their opening meeting which is scheduled for April 2 at 6:00p.m. at the Saugatuck Congregational Church.
- Mea Anderson represented the Longshore Women's 9-Hole League. They are holding a member coffee on March 21. A majority of their membership supported the proposal to change holes 3 and 18 to par 5s for women.

Proposal to Change Holes 3 and 18 to Par 5s for Women

At the last meeting, the committee and the public discussed the possibility of changing holes 3 and 18 to par 5s for women. Since then, the 9-hole women's league polled their members who support this change. There was discussion on whether the senior men, some of whom play from the yellow tees, would object to the change and it was decided that they could continue to play from the yellow tees. Jon Janik communicated with Timothy Walter, the course rating

chair for MGA, who confirmed that the recommended yardage for par 5s for women is 401 – 590 yards. The committee agreed that the 3rd hole would be too short to justify a par 5 but that the 18th hole could possibly be a par 5 due of the current difficulty most women have when playing that hole. Jon will check with the MGA to see if we could designate that hole to have a white/yellow tee combination that women can use if they choose. Jon agrees that if we don't address this change now, before the course is rerated and the scorecards reprinted, then there would be little chance of this change ever being implemented. The recommendation will be shared with the LWGA to see if there is support in this revised recommendation. There will be a vote at the next committee meeting on this change.

Chelsea Tee Time Reservation System

Throughout last season, there were ongoing issues with accessing the automated phone reservation system. Jon Janik reported that Chelsea Reservations will not be making further upgrades to the system. Because it is expected that the system will continue to experience problems and we must continue to work with Chelsea during the 2019 season, it was recommended that the automated phone system be discontinued. Jon also reported that Chelsea will now be offering a smartphone application. A demo version is available and Jon will request access codes for committee members. Judy made a motion to drop the use of the automated phone reservation system.

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1.

The current settings for the online reservation system do not allow customers to reserve tee times on the day of play. Earlier versions of Chelsea Reservations experienced a lag in the time it took for a reservation booked through the online system to be visible at the counter in the pro shop. Because this is no longer an issue, the committee supported updating the system to allow customers to book tee times on the day of play. Gary made a motion to modify the current tee time structure so that non-residents can book tee times after 12:30 P.M. on the day before play for Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Westport residents will be able to book tee times beginning at 12:00 noon, giving them a 30-minute advantage over non-residents.

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1.

Proposed Greens Fees for the 2019 Season

Jennifer Fava presented a proposal for increasing greens and cart fees for the upcoming season. Jennifer explained that the increase will help pay for the bunker restoration. Due to overall rounds being down last year due to the weather, we have a loss of \$41,000 that needs to be recouped. The increase in the fees will help bring down the debt. The proposal increases all greens fees by \$2.00. Cart fees increase \$1.00. Fees for pull carts and range balls will not be increased. Judy made a motion to accept the fees proposed by Jennifer Fava, with the exception for greens fees for non-residents twilight rate, which will be raised \$5.00. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1.

Out of this discussion, Judy raised a concern about LWGA members who are nonresidents and able to play during the LWGA Tuesday tournaments for resident rates. Jennifer Fava gave background on why this was implemented by all the Westport golf associations in 2014. The purpose was to increase dwindling membership in the associations. Memberships increased when this fee plan was implemented. Discussion by the committee expressed concern that this would cause a drop in membership. The LWGA is one of the only area leagues that is growing membership. Gary suggested that we could institute a non-resident hand pass for non-resident

league members with a proposed cost of \$100. More discussion and research should be done on this topic which will be added to the March agenda for the committee and reported on at that meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Todd Salamone reported on the current work that is going on at Longshore Golf Park which includes trimming shrubs, cleaning beds, and removing debris. They will be spraying the greens for snow mold control. This month, Todd will begin recruiting for his grounds crew.

Golf Professional's Report

Jon Janik reported that he has purchased items to sell in his pro-shop so it will be well stocked for the start of the season. Off season play was brought up at the last meeting with the question why we don't do this at Longshore. Jon agreed to research this with area golf courses after the winter to determine how many rounds were played over the winter for those that remained open. Jon reported that the MGA won't be rerating the course until May. The new scorecards will take a one-month lead time to print.

Therefore, we may not have the new rating and new cards until July 1st. Question remains: Do we wait to switch the holes until after the rating and new cards are available or do we switch holes when the course opens and provide temporary cards?

Jon will be contacting the major GPS companies to switch 9 and 14 in their devices.

The Friends of Park and Rec will fund the new holes signage and directional signs. Jennifer indicated that she needs a long lead time to create the signage and needs input from the committee on what information to include on the signs.

Action: need one or two volunteers from the committee to walk the course with Jennifer and determine verbiage for new signage.

Jane Dally recommended that the committee, or several members walk the course periodically to identify any issues that need to be addressed during our meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Gross