

**Golf Commission Meeting  
June 27, 2011  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; George Furkiotis; Dave Galla; Tony Guzzi; Jim Steidlmayer; Jonathan Turk

**Members Absent:** Teri Deal; Tony Johnson

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:**

Review and approval of the Minutes of May 23, 2011 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Guzzi to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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**Audience Participation:**

- Mrs. Kristine Miklus, of the Donald Miklus Foundation, updated the Commission on the progress made during the past several months. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Library Mini Golf event was held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The nice weather kept some people away, but the 110 players enjoyed 18 fun holes of mini-golf. Mrs. Miklus thanked the Trumbull Library, Police, and Fire Departments for their support of the event. She also thanked the Trumbull Rotary for their very generous donation of \$5,000 to the foundation. Other large donors include BMW of Bridgeport, Peoples Bank, and LPGA Girls Golf. In addition to the mini golf, the annual golf tournament will be held on August 1<sup>st</sup>. As far as the actual construction of the facility is concerned, the building has been made sound, the heating and cooling system is installed, the ceiling grid is installed, the front entrance is updated and landscaped, and the interior office has been framed. An engineer is working on plans to modify the ceiling beams to allow for a simulator. After that the electrical will be upgraded and the walls insulated and sheet rocked. The goal is to be able to obtain a CO for the fall and open the facility.
- Mr. Dray asked the consensus of the Commission on placing a plaque outside the facility to acknowledge the very generous donors to the facility. The Commission was in consensus that it should be allowed providing we follow any restrictions in place by the Town of Trumbull. Mr. Dray will follow-up with the Town.
- Mr. Al DeWalt, of the Senior Men's Club, invited all Trumbull juniors to ages 10 – 15 attend their tournament to be held on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$5 and includes all golf fees and lunch.
- Mr. Matt D'Amico, Trumbull resident and member of the Senior Men's Club, addressed the Commission regarding a letter he sent to all Commissioners addressing the 150' poles. He stated that he did not have a problem so much with the fact the markers were removed as he did with the process that was followed. He felt that the outcome had been pre-determined. His stated reasons for this viewpoint included the fact that 1) Bobby Brown has gone on record as recommending the poles remain, 2) Several Commissioners spoke in favor of leaving them only to abstain in the vote, 3)

The Commission meeting was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and the poles were removed and replaced with Kirbie markers on the morning of May 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. D'Amico stated that he was expressing his own view point and not that of the Senior Men's Club, but noted that there were several members of the Men's Club in attendance which demonstrated their feeling on this issue. He also stated he was not asking for a survey of all golfers, but did ask for consideration in bringing back the poles.

### **Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):**

#### **Labor:**

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Cook, Gallant, Romano)
- Eight part-time groundskeepers (DeFrancisco, Goodwin, Markaj, Oleyar, Hoepfner, Messina, Balkun, Valluzzo)
- Seven seasonal groundskeepers (Bowden, Bird, Kish, Tyborowski, Edvardson, Bronsky, Matera)

#### **Maintenance Department Overview:**

- The course is in excellent shape. Mr. Nagashima is particularly happy with the fairways and Glen greens. He feels that we have the most grass we have ever had going into the stress of the summer heat.
- The maintenance crew has begun edging the bunkers. In addition, they will pick rocks, weed, and add sand.
- The Greens Committee met to discuss ways that maintenance issues can positively affect pace-of-play. Some areas have been cleared and in some areas the grass is being grown to facilitate that issue.
- A broken draining pipe on #17 was discovered and replaced. The area has now dried out.
- A solid tine aeration is scheduled for next week. The aeration was not done last year due to the early start of hot weather and Mr. Nagashima felt that it must be done this year.
- The greenside irrigation heads will continue to be upgraded to the water saving 855s heads.
- The ponds will be treated this week.
- OSHA has conducted an inspection of the facility. While nothing egregious has been found, there are several smaller matters that must be addressed. These include such areas as installing an eye wash station, replacing gas containers, allowing access to a side door, installing load bearing stickers, etc. We are awaiting a final report from OSHA. At that time we will have 30 days to address the issues. We will be scheduling a meeting with OSHA to ask for an extension on any issues that require a longer time period to fix as well as address any items that were previously identified and fixed while awaiting the official report.
- The maintenance crew is working on its new June and July schedule. While not totally embracing the schedule, they are going to review the schedule at the end of the season to see if any improvements or changes can be made.
- A new Toro sidewinder rough unit will be ordered next month.
- Mr. Steidlmayer asked about the condition of the Knolls #5 green. Mr. Nagashima reported that the area was aerified last week. He will evaluate the condition in a few days and if not enough of an improvement has been made he will patch the area with plugs.

- Mr. Turk asked about the repair of some slight damage on Knolls #14. Mr. Nagashima reported that the repairs have already been made.

#### **Green Committee (Owen Evans):**

- Mr. Evans handed out an updated projects tracking report and stated that 12 of the projects have been completed. Mr. Evans asked Mr. Guzzi to give an update of the maintenance projects completed to aid in pace-of-play: 1) #3 Knolls has had 20' clear cut to the right of the bunker to aid in ball search, 2) #8 Knolls has had the bunker weed wacked, and 3) #12 Knolls on the left will be allowed to grow grass to slow down balls rolling down the hill.

#### **Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):**

##### Tournaments:

- June Tournaments: American Legion (88 players); University of Bridgeport (112 players); St. Vincent's Special Needs (195 players)

##### Pro Shop:

- Cleveland Demo Day scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> with both a play day and van tech.

##### Instructional Programs:

- Adult programs:
  - May 29 – Short game school – 11 participants
  - June 4 – Short game school – 13 participants
  - June 12 – Ladies Game school – 7 participants
  - June 26 – Couples golf school – 4 participants
- Junior programs:
  - Junior Golf Club events began June 23 – rained out
  - Summer Golf Camp begins June 28 with a full roster
  - Glen Junior Golf League Summer Session began June 18 with a full roster
  - CT PGA Jr. Golf Event schedule for June 27

Mr. Dray commended both Mr. Janik and Mr. Dave Bove, PGA Professional, for their work in all of the training programs at Tashua Knolls Golf Course.

#### **General Manager Report (Bobby Brown):**

##### Golf Operations:

- May rounds 2011 - 5176 Knolls vs. 2010 – 5872; 2223 Glen vs. 2010 - 2317
- June to date 2011 - 5210 Knolls vs. 2010 – 5567; 2437 Glen vs. 2010 - 2496
- Six days were lost in May due to weather and three were lost in June

##### Plant & Facility:

- The solar panel lighting at the foot of Tashua Knolls Lane is still not operational. Mr. Marsillio of the Public Works department will be contacted for advice.
- Fairfield County Sprinkler conducted their quarterly inspection and the system was found to be working properly.

- Both double doors to the clubhouse are experiencing problems mostly attributable to age. They will be attempted to be fixed, but their increasing age is making it difficult to find replacement parts. Eventual replacement of the doors may be inevitable due to safety concerns.
- Mr. Brown, presented the Commission with a summary of some of the features of Fore! Marketing. The course currently uses Fore! for its tee time reservations and will be converting to their point-of-sale system in the winter.

**House Committee (Tony Johnson):**

- None

**Finance (Dave Galla):**

**Monthly revenue - May Munis**

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$242,939	\$278,406	+14.6%

**2011 May MTD Revenue – Point of Sale System**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total income	\$ 312,860	\$ 270,491
Rounds*		
Knolls	5872	5176
Glen	2317	2223

**2011 Annual Revenue (Calendar) YOY – Point of Sale System**

Knolls	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$543,492.50	\$470,121.00	-14%
Glen	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$134,381.00	\$118,778.00	-12%

**Sales June to Date – Point of Sale System**

Knolls	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$171,989.00	\$162,211	-6%
Glen	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$44,130.00	\$41,436.00	-6%

**Expenses**

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**Items of Note:**

- The Commission should continue to be cautious of spending throughout the remaining months of the current fiscal year.
  - With pending expenditures in the month of June not yet recorded, two main budgetary categories of concern continue to be:
    - Materials – Office (534401) - \$6,249 remaining for Fiscal year
    - Materials – Program (534402) - \$32,985 remaining for Fiscal year

## Sales Tracker

	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	YOY Change
July	298,759	338,129	349,235	349,368	308,880	-11.6%
August	296,946	296,366	313,028	307,515	347,428	13.0%
September	236,314	255,737	272,890	300,783	285,885	-5.0%
October	154,412	156,507	155,835	153,187	158,778	3.7%
November	89,415	60,925	54,929	86,395	82,555	-4.4%
December	47,154	8,817	15,733	13,830	14,916	7.8%
January	2,768	3,463	73	140	-718	612.9%
February	1,700	2,990	339	2,780	4,676	68.2%
March	12,916	26,048	50,591	30,382	12,592	-58.6%
April	115,777	179,889	188,703	197,860	144,913	-26.8%
May	296,403	258,558	277,921	242,939	278,406	14.6%
June	303,218	319,167	292,608	366,530		100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,855,783</b>	<b>1,906,597</b>	<b>1,971,886</b>	<b>2,051,707</b>	<b>1,638,310</b>	<b>-20.1%</b>
<b>Less Sales/Use Tax</b>	<b>24,171</b>	<b>24,465</b>	<b>25,262</b>	<b>21,087</b>	<b>21,593</b>	
<b>Net</b>	<b>1,831,612</b>	<b>1,882,132</b>	<b>1,946,624</b>	<b>2,030,620</b>	<b>1,616,717</b>	
<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>		<b>2.76%</b>	<b>3.43%</b>	<b>4.31%</b>	<b>-20.38%</b>	

## Correspondence:

- Mr. Bill Holden, golfer, sent an email to Mr. Brown to express his appreciation to Mr. Robert Scott, Tashua Knolls Golf Course Ranger, in finding one of Mr. Holden's hearing aids that was lost on the course.

## Old Business:

- The subject of memorial benches was once again discussed. There was a consensus that the idea had merit. The cost of more permanent poly-resin benches will be determined.
- Mr. Dray began a discussion of the 150' poles by stating that in addition to the letter received by Mr. Matt D'Amico as discussed in the Audience Participation section, he received an email from Mr. Bill Wagner to Mr. Brown requesting return of the 150' markers, and a letter from Mrs. Diane Vieira, President TKWGA 18 holers, requesting the return as well. Mr. Dray stated that he contacted Mrs. Zel Finkenstadt of the Ladies 18 holers to inform them that in the future something would be placed on the sides at 150'. Mrs. Finkenstadt reported back that after discussing the matter with Mrs. Vieira, the letter was being retracted. Mr. Dray then addressed Mr. D'Amico's letter and stated that the reason the kirbies were installed the day following the meeting is because several of the markers were already in stock. Mr. Dray also stated that he felt that several points in the letter were misplaced and stated that the members of the Commission were not

politically motivated to vote one way or another. He stated that certain members do caucus, but they are not influenced in voting one way or another. Mr. Dray said the decision was well thought out and done with the betterment of the course in mind. Mr. Brown was asked his opinion and he stated that he had received numerous complaints from customers. He also felt that it decreased pace-of play. Mr. Dray reported that he requested Mr. Janik conduct a comparison of pace-of-play before and after the kirbies were in place which found no difference in pace-of play. Mr. Steidlmayer received numerous complaints from Men's Club members. Mr. Dray reported that he had poled many members prior to last month's meeting, but admitted that he had not poled every member. Mr. Guzzi reported that he had heard a number of complaints as well and thought it would be a good idea to re-install the poles on some of the blind holes. Mr. Galla stated that his experience at the recent St. Vincent's tournament is that golfers who are not familiar with the course use the poles and with all due respect did feel the poles increased the pace-of play. The Commission then discussed the idea of replacing certain of the poles.

A motion was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Mr. Evans; to reinstall the 150' poles on the #2, #5, #11 and #15 holes. Motion carried; Abstain - Dray

An amendment was made by Mr. Galla; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer; to revisit the issue if more polling is done to customers that would affect the issue. Motion carried 4 – 3; For – Furkiotis, Steidlmayer, Guzzi, Galla; Against – Dray, Turk, Evans

#### **New Business:**

- Mr. Dave Galla congratulated Mr. Bobby Brown on being awarded the distinguished Paul Harris Award by the Trumbull Rotary at their recent awards dinner.

#### **Executive Session:**

Mr. Evans made a motion at 8:55 PM, seconded by Mr. Guzzi, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, was invited to attend the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. Evans at 9:15 PM and seconded by Mr. Turk. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans; seconded by Mr. Turk; to approve the Agreement for Golf Course Management at Tashua Knolls Golf Course between the Town of Trumbull and ATK

Golf Services Inc. Motion carried 5 – 2 For: Evans, Guzzi, Turk, Dray, Furkiotis; Against: Galla, Steidlmayer.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Guzzi at 9:25 PM; seconded by Mr. Evans; to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk