

**PARAMUS GOLF COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Call to order 6:32 pm by Andy Schuckers, Manager/Superintendent**

**1. Notice of meeting:**

This is a regular scheduled meeting of the Golf Commission and the notice requirements provided for the "Open Public Meetings Act" have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Record, filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Paramus, posted in Borough Hall and posted on the Borough Website.

**2. Roll call:** Vice Chairman Pete Caminiti Sr., Rob Thompson, Timothy White and Liaison Pat Verile. Absent Ralph Amato, Skip Clark Chairman, Joe Cirillo and Mike Blitzstein.

Also present: Andy Schuckers

**3. Approval of minutes from August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting:**

Vice Chairman had a couple of issues with the minutes and he requested an additional change to the August minutes with his response to Sean McGettigan a resident to be included. Minutes were modified with this change was then approved.

Motion: Vice Chairman                      Seconded: Rob Thompson

**4. Next meeting is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**5. Correspondence:** An incident report for a broken gps screen.

**6. Finance**

August was a good month however the rounds were down 2% compared to the last year. Rain and heat might have been factors. We are down financially compared to last year's August but the course is up compared to the last 5 years average. The range has done very well. Mini Golf's numbers are up 20% compared to the last 5 years.

**7. General Manager/ Superintendent Report:**

A commercial was filmed at Miniature Golf for a clothing company. Aeration took place on the fairways starting on the first of August and took about two and a half weeks. The course will be closed September 13<sup>th</sup> for drill and fill on greens. The drill and fill helped the course tremendously regarding drainage when heavy summer storms happen. Maintenance was able to mow the greens the following the day after the storm last week. The bunkers were a mess after the summer storm and we need to replace the sand. Tree damage occurred once again.

PGC did not receive capital money that was suppose to go towards new maintenance equipment. Some of the front-line equipment is 15 years old and Andy hopes the profits from this year will cover the needed equipment next season.

Budget was approved about two weeks ago and Andy is looking at all of the accounts to see where we are currently.

### **Old Business:**

The restaurant is still waiting on their liquor license. The Golf Commission asked if the restaurant paid rent last month and they did not. Rent has so far not been paid for this month. Vice Chairman stated he had been told they cannot open until they have a liquor license. Andy stated they can open without it as all other vendors have in the past. The restaurant was opening on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 12 pm- 7 pm. They are operating out of halfway house and have stated they are not able to find help(staff). There has not been a beverage cart out on the course and the PGC staff has receiving daily complaints. Andy does not have the contract between the restaurant and Borough to enforce it.

Online tee times: Andy and Sabrina received training on operating last week. The online tee time system is up and running to be tested by a few employees. Some members booked online as well in error and those times were cancelled and or staff tried to accommodate them over the weekend. Chairman and Vice Chairman are now enabled to practice making tee times on the online system. The rest of the Commission will be also set up to practice/test on the online tee time. The goal is starting October 1<sup>st</sup> to enable Resident members only to book online two days in advance and November 1<sup>st</sup> the course moves to online for all members Residents and registered golfers. Andy requested that the Vice Chairman go ahead and try to book online without guidance and to contact the course anytime after 10am if there was an issue.

Andy requested that the Commission think about breaking up the resident bookings available two days in advance to in person and online only. Vice Chairman stated that has already been cleared up, that this is a test period and they should be released at the same time. Vice Chairman wants the trial period to proceed with online and inline at the same time. Rob Thompson asked what time the pro shop opens.

### **8. New Business:**

Chairman, Vice Chairman, Rob Thompson, Andy Schuckers and Sabrina had a meeting to cover a few topics on 8/10/21. One topic was regarding golfer etiquette. Vice Chairman proposed that the ranger needs to be in charge of golf etiquette and suggested that someone should be responsible and paid more to train/oversee the rangers. Andy commented that was the responsibility of the Pro Shop Manager/Cashier and that position is vacant. Vice Chairman suggested the possibility of compensating a part time employee to be responsible for the rangers.

The online tee time system was also talked about as well as the Back 9 special. Vice Chairman asked why the back 9 was not open to the residents but to a lady's league. Andy

explained the amount of open tee times on the back 9 special is 1,596 times from April through August. Residents used 60 spots, registered golfers used 134 spots and the ladies league used 305. That left 1,097 times unused during the weekdays. Andy explained the ladies had three of the available seven times on the Back 9. Vice Chairman made mention that he would like the back 9 special advertise to all for a pre-paid league. Vice chairman stated he could not get a tee time on the back nine as in the past years.

Rob Thompson asked which days the lady's league had pre-booked for the back nine. They played Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. The ladies had the 7:10, 7:20 and 7:30 am tee times.

Andy asked if the Commission wanted to reserve a percentage of tee times on the back nine for Residents and the Commission would like to leave it open for all with no Resident preference blocked. Rob Thompson stated we should be making money on the back nine.

Andy brought up the Vice Chairman's question regarding insurance for age restrictions on the golf course. The Vice Chairman was going to contact administration after the last meeting to find out the insurance coverage. He did not get a chance to do that. Andy reviewed Ordinance 98-17 that covers the rules regarding age restrictions on the course. Vice Chairman still is concerned about what the specific liability is for the golf course. Andy said the policy is anyone 14 years and younger need to be accompanied by an adult and must keep up pace of play. The Vice Chairman question is directed for the Borough Administration to know the responsibility of the golf course for 13-year-old and younger playing on the course. The Vice Chairman asked if we are putting someone in harms way if a six-year child old gets hit by a ball or falls and breaks something.

The golf course is fully staffed except for the Assistant supervisor of golf and the Cashier/ Pro shop manager.

**Meeting open to the public:** *5 minutes maximum per person*

Sean McGettigan, resident, asked the following questions. When will the Golf Pro position be advertised and is it underway? What about the Assistant at golf maintenance? Andy and the Commission told Sean those positions will be discussed.

He disagrees with the Vice Chairman about the online tee times being conducted at the same time as in person bookings. He stated the people waiting in line outside are our bread and butter and play 60-70 rounds a year. If they can't get a tee time in person they will leave. He wants the people waiting in person to be taken care of first then open booking to online. The Vice Chairman disagrees. Sean invited the Vice Chairman to come out while he is ranger or others rangers to see how the job is conducted. The Vice Chairman wants the rangers to flag players who are not behaving properly and it should be noted in the shop so they are not allowed on the course. He feels the new golfers need to be educated first especially due to that the comments that the course etiquette has changed due to new golfers. Sean doesn't feel they should be thrown off the course but agreed with the Vice Chairman that if poor behavior has crossed a line they should not be able to play again.

Andy thanked Nancy and the tournament committee for their help running the tournaments.

Nancy Vasile, resident and member, reviewed the final tournament of the year scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>. Nancy requested that the course be set up fair for tournaments. Andy advised that he set up the course for the tournaments and made sure it was a proper challenge. She directed a comment towards the Vice Chairman stating that the course lost many golfers this year and last year during the trial periods that were put in place changing Paramus residents tee times. She wanted to state that the Commission needs to be careful on what they are going to be try and for how long the trial period last before PGC continue to lose more regular golfers. She stated that a lot of it is due change in golfers and that the course is in great shape but the greens are in terrible shape now due to nobody fixing ball marks. In the past, when there were more regulars playing, there was more care for the course. Now it's clear that many people do not care and you can recognize that the course is not being cared for by the public. Vice Chairman stated the protocol and people change as the years go by and these new golfers need to be trained.

She wished that the Commission had been there for the tournament last month. The participants ended up ordering food and enjoying each other's company and it was a lot of fun. She wanted to talk about the comradery that makes her point of how important the tournaments are for the golf course. She invited all to come for this upcoming tournament because they plan to do that again.

She asked Andy when water will be available on the course again? Andy advised all that the Borough Health Department had advised him not to make those available but the rakes and ball washers were permissible. He will check with them again if something has changed regarding water on the course. She also inquired about compensation for her time running the tournaments. Her final question regarded the commission reaching a quorum if they have only three of a seven-member board? Andy responded to Nancy that the commission is made of five members and two alternates. Vice Chairman further explained the role of the alternate members and how the Commission reached a quorum for tonight's meeting.

James Cullen, resident and member, wanted to say that its great to hear the Mini Golf is up 20% and its been great to see many adults taking their kids over there. He asked if there are any capital plans for restrooms at Mini Golf? Andy stated that the course still has the capital to build the ice cream building with restroom facilities at the Mini. James suggested signs to be made for mini golf patrons for directions to the restrooms.

**9. Good of the order:** None.

**10. Closed to the Public 7:31pm**

**11. Adjournment: 8:02 pm** Motion: Vice Chairman      Second: Rob Thompson