

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 5:00 pm at the Sanctuary Golf Course Clubhouse, New Lenox, IL.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

- Call to order** President Fischer called the April 10, 2014 meeting to order at approximately 5:00 pm.
- Roll Call** President Fischer directed the Recording Secretary to take roll call. Upon taking roll call, the following were present, Commissioners: Larson, Jansma, Kraemer, Schulz and President Fischer.
- Also in Attendance** Executive Director Greg Lewis, Parks-Maintenance Superintendent George Travnicsek, Golf Course Superintendent Douglas Eggert, Director of Golf Bob Schulz.

Bid Results/Recommendations: Pre Cast Structures for Haines Park & Walker Country Estates Park

Executive Director Lewis noted we have the bid results recommendations for Precast Concrete Structures for Haines and Walker Parks. Parks-Maintenance Superintendent Travnicsek noted the rebid actually saved the Park District over \$9,000 which fell well below the budget. Parks-Maintenance Superintendent Travnicsek noted LB Foster came in as the low bidder at \$73,554.68. President Fisher asked what the budget for was for each park. Park-Maintenance Superintendent Travnicsek noted Haines budget was \$62,500 and Walker was \$32,500. Parks-Maintenance Superintendent Travnicsek noted he hopes to have the projects completed by the middle of June. Executive Director Lewis noted this was an odd bid as George's Landscape was buying the units from them. Executive Director Lewis noted he feels they are bidding so low to get the experience but he feels very comfortable with the decision. Parks-Maintenance Superintendent Travnicsek noted what will happen is, at Haines Park they will move the project to the high and dry area because right now the cinderblock building is in the flood plain. Parks-Maintenance Superintendent Travnicsek noted that building will now be used as storage by the Recreation Department. Parks-Maintenance Superintendent Travnicsek noted at Walker the building will be 10 ½ x 20 ft. one half of the structure will be mechanics for the splash pad and the other half will be storage for the Recreation Department. President Fischer requested any other questions or comments. Hearing none, President Fischer requested a motion to approve Precast Concrete Structures for Haines Park and Walker Country Estates Parks to LB Foster in the amount of \$73,554.68. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

General Golf Industry Statistics

Director of Golf Schulz wanted to note they had a pretty good year, except for obviously the weather hurt them. Director of Golf Schulz presented some statistics:

- In 2013 14 Golf courses opened and 157.5 closed. Director of Golf Schulz noted the courses that are closing are not high level courses.
- Since 2006 there has been a cumulative net reduction of 643 golf courses. Director of Golf Schulz noted NGF, PGA of America and USGA don't want to see this happen, but the good thing about it is, is that this will correct the market, as there are too many golf courses for the amount of players.
- Gradual Market Correction is expected to continue. Director of Golf Schulz noted the market correction in the next 8 years is going to help get greens fees up.
- Annual net reduction supply should be in the 130-160 range, healthier supply and demand. Director of Golf Schulz noted we are doing the right things here, giving the right product and once this correction happens and the economy stays stagnant, we will have fewer golf courses, more golfers including rounds and revenue.

Golf Course Clubhouse Operations

- Staffing.
Kyle and Lindsey have moved on;
Hired Ethan/Andrew – Director of Golf Schulz noted the customers love them, which will be great for the golf course;
All other staff is returning except for a couple who have moved on;
Director of Golf Schulz noted they will be getting new uniforms. Studies show you should change your uniform every 6 years.

- Senior Rates.
Director of Golf Schulz noted the rate is still \$28, but noted next year he looks to increase the rate, with the circumstances the way they are, maybe increase \$1 every year until they draw the line and stop playing. Executive Director Lewis noted as Board Members they need to think about the price increase. Director of Golf Schulz noted he won't increase the rate if it will affect them. President Fischer asked how long the rate has been at \$28. Director of Golf Schulz noted it has been that rate for 2 years; they started at \$25 and increased it every 2 years. Director of Golf Schulz noted the senior players love the free coffee and would rather have the free coffee than raise the rate. Director of Golf Schulz noted the Home of the \$28 Wednesday. Director of Golf Schulz noted if they raise the rate for next year, it will be the home of the \$29 Wednesday. Director of Golf Schulz noted they are very busy on Wednesdays and said it's a good rate. Director of Golf Schulz noted the ad campaign is a huge success. Director of Golf Schulz noted they are also going to target a \$59 weekend rate as they get a lot of people who drive from up north to save money on the weekend for our rates.
- Range.
New Range Balls- Director of Golf Schulz noted we sold the old balls and the customers love the program. Director of Golf Schulz noted they may go up a \$1 a token, but will see what happens;
Practice Home- Director of Golf Schulz noted a lot of people come here to practice;
Range Tee Rye Grass – Director of Golf Schulz noted he talked with Golf Course Superintendent Eggert and they are going to just do straight rye grass on the range this year as it is a quicker recovery. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted the rye grass is a fast grower, fast fill in, a weaker plant that doesn't tolerate winters too well. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted they are going to cover it again next winter and go from there. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted they chose not to cover this this past winter because they had issues coming out of spring and unfortunately 75 inches of snow backfired on him. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert hopes to have it completely turned over in 2 years to rye.
- Food and Beverage.
Director of Golf Schulz noted food prices are through the roof. Director of Golf Schulz noted he had to raise the prices. Director of Golf Schulz noted the \$1 PBR will stay the same. Director of Golf Schulz noted they are making a better margin on the \$1 PBR than on the \$3 Miller Light. Director of Golf Schulz noted the \$2 20oz draft is also one of the better margins and will stay the same. Director of Golf Schulz noted it has been a great success with the daily specials that have been geared towards the leagues. Director of Golf Schulz noted they have upgraded the POS System, the tips are now included when you cash out. Director of Golf Schulz noted instead of handwriting orders, they will now be printed for the cook. Director of Golf Schulz noted this is a better way of tracking and more professional. Executive Director Lewis noted there are some accounting and interface issues with the POS System. Executive Director Lewis noted they have assured us they are going to get the issues corrected. Executive Director Lewis noted if it does work out, Director of Golf Schulz can get us a better package that includes a 3 year contract. Executive Director Lewis noted the Board will then have to enter into a resolution, so they should be expecting it in the next couple of months.
- League Play.
Director of Golf Schulz noted the time is going to move up to 11:30 and try to get some more play from that league. Director of Golf Schulz noted Jr. League play end time was 3:00 and now will be 4-4:30. Director of Golf Schulz noted the new league on Thursday's as the Mokena Lions who have come over from Green Garden. Director of Golf Schulz noted they are 40 strong and have been playing at Green Garden for the last 31 years. Director of Golf Schulz noted the Couples League will be coming back and have increased their numbers. Director of Golf Schulz noted they may have another couple's league coming over from Woodbine next year, so he hopes to be able to merge both of them.

- High School Golf.
Director of Golf Schulz noted they still have 8 teams, 4 teams out of Central and 4 teams out of West. Director of Golf Schulz noted they are on a lighter schedule than in the past. Director of Golf Schulz noted they budgeted \$30,000 and the actual was \$24,753 which is very low. Director of Golf Schulz noted the increase for 2014 with Matches/Tournaments, Director of Golf Schulz noted he meets with the AD's in February for the schedule. Director of Golf Schulz noted the budget for 2014-2015 is \$32,000 as they are going to have a regional this year.

Golf Course Maintenance Operation

- Winter Damage
Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted the photos of winter damage on #5 taken the middle of March. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted this is the worst green on the golf course. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted there are 4 types of Winterkill, direct low temp kill, wind desiccation, anoxia (ice encasement), crown hydration and mechanical damage. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert explained each of them in detail and what greens have been affected.
- New for 2014
Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted new tee signs will be installed, weather permitted. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted they are instituting new ball washers. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted they have new bigger stainless steel garbage cans that went out today. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted the new asphalt and pavers in the dock area. Executive Director Lewis noted we will eventually have to work our way around the building just as a safety standpoint. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted he and Parks-Maintenance Superintendent Travnick spoke with Paul Bee-Bee about moving trees on the course. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted this is still on hold as the ground is too wet. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted they are going to move 38 trees from Tearling Nursery. Director of Golf Schulz noted 20 are going to the parks and 18 are coming to the golf course all for \$100 each.
- Golf Course Playability Focus
Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted the greens recovery consensus says it's going to be slow. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted last year they did a handful of bunker quality program and will do them in house a handful at a time. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted there are not too many issues with the tees and fairways just some winterkill issues. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted they will cut down some rough between 12 and 17 and 5 and 7 and some other areas are earmarked.
- Equipment Needs for 2014/Proposed 7 Year Equipment Plan.
Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted his recommendation is to hold off until the fall to find out exactly where they are financially. Golf Course Superintendent Eggert noted they have a Plan A and a Plan B in place. Executive Director Lewis noted last year they had a lowest point outlay of 56,000; the highest point was 142-143,000. Executive Director Lewis noted if we followed through with the equipment, last year we were at 76, this year we are at 91. Executive Director Lewis noted there is nothing coming off. Executive Director Lewis noted they have outlined a 7 year plan. Executive Director Lewis noted we need to stay on top of things and maybe even be able to hold off until spring.
- Future Considerations.
Executive Director Lewis noted that we do the repairs we have to do to the irrigation system, cart paths and bunkers within the budget that we have. Executive Director Lewis noted everything on this list we have talked about over the years for example, submitting to get a grant for the water fountains, but unfortunately we did not get the grant. Executive Director Lewis noted we know what it would take to make these improvements. Executive Director Lewis noted without a grant or a windfall none of these improvements are really going to happen. Executive Director Lewis noted if we put the referendum on the ballot

again and get it, we can hopefully spread the wealth, but we need to maintain the product we have and move forward. Executive Director Lewis noted we are trying to fix and take care of things as they come up. Executive Director Lewis welcomed anyone's suggestions or ideas. Executive Director Lewis noted VGM that we use for rebates over the last 4 years has netted us \$14,000. President Fischer noted this was a good presentation and was happy Director of Golf Schulz was not asking for more money. Commissioner Jansma asked Director of Golf Schulz how many course have closed within a 50-75 mile area besides Woodbine. Director of Golf Schulz said he could get him the number but did not have the numbers. Executive Director Lewis noted we are not hurting as bad as they are down south due to the weather. Commissioner Jansma and President Fischer brought up the subject of video poker. Executive Director Lewis thought it could bring in approximately \$15,000; however it was brought up that the Village had an ordinance that only the VFW and the American Legion could have the machines. Executive Director Lewis noted that we would stay on top of it, but we have schools and children at the Golf Course. Executive Director Lewis brought up the subject of fees for the use of the golf course by the schools for the special tournaments, but said it has not come to that and there are other options. President Fischer asked if there tournaments generate money for the schools. Director of Golf Schulz noted it does but he did not have the numbers. Executive Director Lewis noted the school does not look at it as revenue they put it back into the program to offset their costs.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:14p.m. President Fischer requested a motion to adjourn the April 10, 2014 Special Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Jansma. Upon voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Heckler
Recording Secretary