

Golf Advisory Committee

September 25th, 2018

Present: Larry Davies Chair, G. Fasulo, F. Biancaniello, J. Lynch, O. Novy, F. Daly

Absent: John Malinowski, Director of Golf

Minutes from August 2018 meeting accepted

Director of Golf Report:

Chairman Larry Davies met with John Malinowski prior to the meeting as John had a prior commitment that conflicted with the meeting schedule. Committee Current Open Item questions were primarily discussed. Andre was not at our meeting due to hip surgery. The following information was reported to the committee by LD:

Current Open Items:

1. The schedule for the outside bathroom(s) renovations is sometime in the off- season RFP have not been issued to date.
2. Employee logo shirts: (Terns) – Because of the high employee turnover rate at the Terns Grill they have depleted the supply of logo shirts that this committee thought should be worn. JM is ordering more.
3. Fencing to hide the GC maintenance area: Trees were planted in place of a fence around the rear maintenance area as an alternative to fencing.
4. 2019-20 membership rate meeting OPGAC can present suggested changes, needs to happen before end of October.
5. Per JM - We currently use UM Turf Program for course condition consultation. The committee will need to get details from Andre if we are using them or another Turf Program that may be available.
6. Tee Time utilization report - the committee is still waiting for this report that had been requested over 6 months ago. We need a more detailed explanation from JM as to the reasoning behind the delay and when the committee can expect data relating to tee time utilization.

New Items discussed with JM:

1. Loss of greens, weed encroachment on fairways and greens, poor bunker condition, etc. John advised that a personnel issue (employee who was supposed to monitor soil moisture condition during the course of his shift) left without advising anyone during one of the hot/humid days. This resulted in a lack of watering that had an immediate effect of burning the greens. This employee's employment was terminated.

2. Fairway weed control – The current weeds that have spread on the fairways and greens cannot be chemically treated without killing grass so only the upcoming cold weather will kill the weed off.
3. Rough height and type – according to JM the rough grass type we have can not be cut down without it dying leaving the rough area with no grass at all.
4. Bunker maintenance – the bunkers are experiencing soil encroachment due to a lack of edge trimming. JM advised that due to the \$40K cut back in maintenance staff labor that this issue along with others are not being addressed as they would like.
5. Assistant Pro and Phil’s responsibilities – John advised that Phil is working on obtaining his PGA credentials, oversees Terns as well as the Pro Shop activities. He also manages employee staffing for Terns as well as fills in for hours in the Pro Shop and Terns as needed. There has been a high rate of employee turn over in Terns that has created a good deal of challenge and operating problems this year. Regarding an assistant pro – John advised that the cost for an assistant pro would be prohibitive given the current budget cost cutting.
6. Answers to club member complaints regarding Terns failures for scheduled event food support – the short answer is the ball got dropped.
7. Effects of the Ocean City Club low ball membership drive program – We anticipate membership loss.
8. What are the plans for course improvement during the off season? – John and Andre will compile a list of targeted projects and present to the committee.

Committee discussion/comments:

Course conditions were discussed extensively regarding loss of the greens, weeds, fairway conditions, rough conditions, bunker maintenance. Joe Lynch researched another golf course with the same kind of problem we are seeing, he has information he obtained as to a solution he will get it over to Andre. Also discussed was the \$40K that had been reduced in the 2018-19 course maintenance budget. This amount represents 3-4 part time minimum wage employees who would supplement the maintenance staff in activities such as trimming, raking, mowing, etc. during the peak playing months for course play.

Frank Daly advised the committee that the BOD was changing the process for department budget development for 2019-20 and that department heads (who per FD will be held accountable) will create their own budget requests with JB and then it would be up to the board to approve. A bottom up approach that differs from past board history. The OPGAC strongly suggests the monies removed from the current budget for course maintenance be reinstated.

2019 Golf rates were discussed at great length Ocean City is promoting a 2 year limited golf membership that seems to be selling to many Ocean Pines Residents, this will negatively affect our course and/or membership.

Larry and Olga will work together to create the annual report to the BOD.

OPGAC Recommendation for immediate consideration:

- Committee feels just because the current conditions happen most every year we should not accept that answer. We also strongly urge we bring in some outside Turf Management personal from UM turf program or any other organization that can help provide any kind of guidance to avoid course degradation.
- The Committee believes that Pro Shop personnel as well as Bag personnel need Customer Service training to improve the culture of a positive customer experience at the golf course. We highly recommend JM create a manual that provides guidelines for employee customer service.
- Improvement of food operations at Tern Grill operations needs to be implemented before next season or turn the F&B over to Matt Ortt Co's.
- GAC Committee representatives would like a seat(s) at future golf membership budget meeting.
- GAC also would like to have representation at any meetings related to the remodeling of the 2nd floor of the Golf Club.
- Committee's recommendations for 2019 is to leave membership rates at the same level and to expand the Limited Membership (30/60) to include Husband & Wife. Email will be sent to JB and John.

Public Comments: None

Next months meeting will be 10:00 AM on October 24th to enable John Malinowski to attend our meeting. Larry will confirm our room will be available. (Meeting time to be scheduled after confirmation with JM and Admin. Staff).

Respectfully Submitted

Olga Novy

Member OPGAC