

## **Minutes from the Clubs Advisory Committee Meeting on April 19, 2012**

The Clubs Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting was called to order by Carol Ludwig at 4pm.

Present:

CAC: Carol Ludwig, Jack Ferry, Mary Anne Whitcomb, Pat Beisler, Ellen Spataro, Sandy Reifsnyder, Les Purcell, Pete Gomsak, Audrey Wahl.  
Diane Baker was not present.

OPA: Teresa Travatello

Summary of Actions:

- Carol Ludwig will invite Bob Thompson to attend the May meeting.
- Teresa Travatello will share information on the trends from the Yacht Club surveys for the next meeting. Teresa also offered to create specific surveys on entertainment or other topics as needed.
- The date of the May meeting has been changed to May 24; the location will be at the Yacht Club.

There were no public comments.

March Minutes: for future minutes, there will be a listing of members who were absent; March 2012 minutes were approved.

Old Business

Carol Ludwig sent the recommendations to the Board on license at the Beach Club. Les said there is an article in the paper saying OPA won't change the license.

### **Teresa Travatello's report**

#### Beach Club and Yacht Club

The Ocean Pines Association (OPA) is partnering with Seacrets radio station 98.1 and are having their listener appreciation party—981 people at the Beach Club on June 20. Yacht Club—Teresa provided a listing of the entertainment schedule. At the Board meeting, Teresa reported that OPA general manager, Bob said 40 resumes were received for the Yacht Club manager. These resumes were reviewed by a 3-person team and narrowed down to 2 candidates. When the person is hired there will be a reference book so that they can start work with this information. The Yacht Club staff will keep Hawaiian shirt uniforms from last year with removable name tags. On other news from the Board meeting: there was a motion to create a daily beach parking pass available to public. This parking pass allows the public to have a one day membership of Beach Club. A question was asked if one needs to be an Ocean Pines member to buy alcohol. Teresa did not know the answer to that question.

Discussion on Beach Club—members wanted to clarify if the one-day parking permit included a membership for parking only. Pete said this does not bestow any benefits of members. This is a new product, a one day parking permit, available for sale at the OPA office. That one-day pass may be purchased only two days in advance and expires after 48 hours in any weather condition (no refunds for rain, no parking space is guaranteed.). This is not an associate membership just a piece of paper that allows you to park for a specified time, hours and costs are specified in the motion. This has nothing to do with serving of alcohol; this issue has not been addressed. The purpose of doing this is to satisfy the

requirement from the IRS for tax-exempt status –that Beach Club parking had to be open to the general public. This is to foreclose the possibility of future taxes on parking revenue. The Board chose to give preference to members and only allowing limited sale of parking to the general public; responding to the IRS position upheld in the US Tax Court and the US Court of Appeals that the general public must have access to the parking for the revenues to be tax-exempt. The IRS also taxed OPA on the operations of the Beach Club; however losses from the Beach Club for the 2003-2004 years examined by the IRS were allowed to offset the revenues for the parking fees. The Board only took action related to parking; the complexity of liquor license is related to the zoning  
Teresa said Beach Club has class C club liquor license; zoning currently prohibits a retail establishment from being located at this site.

#### Yacht Club Facility

Teresa reported that Bob Thompson said pre-bid meeting was held on March 28; bids are due back May 18. There will be a special meeting to make them public.

Action—Carol will check with Bob Thompson on attending the May 2012 meeting

The Yacht Club Tiki Bar will open on April 27 and pool opens May 26<sup>th</sup>.

There was no information on when the change of hours for the Yacht club would occur.

#### Discussion

Jack Ferry asked about whether the CAC thought there was competition between the Country Club and YC when the two clubs have DJs on the same night. The general consensus was that the two venues attract different groups of people; the CC events are pre-paid reservations and the Yacht Club does not have this policy.

There was a reiteration that the Clubs Advisory Committee will be looking at bottom line financial trends for the Yacht Club and discussions on a regular basis with the Food and Beverage manager on successful events. Pete agreed that the committee's benefit is to offer suggestions and not massaging numbers.

The Committee asked Teresa if OPA could share any data from the Yacht Club surveys.

Action: Teresa will share information on the trends from the Yacht Club surveys for the next meeting. Teresa also offered to create specific surveys on entertainment or other topics as needed.

A question was asked if there was an entertainment tax on alcohol at the Yacht Club. Pete said there was no entertainment tax.

Due to member schedules, the date of the May meeting was changed to Thursday May 24 and will be held at the Yacht Club.