



**AGENDA
GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
9:00 AM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - *The minutes for the August 10, 2022, regular meeting, are presented for approval.*
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 6.1 CANDIDATE FORUM** - *Finalizing details for the forum to be held Wednesday, September 28, 6:00pm.*
 - 6.2 MEETING SCHEDULE** - *Discussion and direction regarding the the Golf Course Advisory Board's meeting schedule, in consideration of monthly versus meeting every other month.*
- 7. MGA UPDATE**
- 8. WGA UPDATE**
- 9. MARKETING UPDATE**
- 10. AGRONOMY UPDATE**
- 11. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

All members of the public are invited to be present and be heard. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the City Clerk at (904) 310-3115 or TTY/TDD 711 (for the hearing or speech impaired). All interested parties may appear at said meeting and be heard as to the advisability of any action, which may be considered with respect to such matter. For information regarding this matter, please contact the Golf Course Manager.

MINUTES

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

City Hall Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 AM
2. ROLL CALL: Member Pelican called the meeting to order and called the roll: Present: Member John Pelican; FBWGA Representative Member, Sue Simpson; Member Lynn Sikorski; and Member Jim Rauschenberger; FBGC General Manager, Mike Cooney; and FBGC Superintendent, Blaine Ellerbe.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Member Simpson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
4. CHAIRPERSON APPOINTMENT: As a result of the resignation of Lee Murray from the Board, a vote was taken to appoint a new chair. Member Rauschenberger moved to appoint John Pelican as the new chairperson and Sue Simpson as the new vice chairperson. The members unanimously voted to appoint John Pelican as the new chairperson and Sue Simpson as the new vice chairperson.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Member Pelican moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting and was seconded by Member Simpson. The minutes were unanimously approved.
6. PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Meadows addressed the Board. Mr. Meadows mentioned that a number of trees on the course that were recently planted were dead, dying or stressed and suggested an irrigation system be added to the clubhouse area. Mr. Meadows inquired as to the status of the golf professional position. General Manager Cooney noted that the golf professional position would become an independent contractor position with revenue shared 20% with the city and 80% retained by the professional and be required to provide 20 hours per week assistance with the golf course. The work formerly performed by the

golf professional as an employee would be performed by two part-time employees.

6. OLD BUSINESS: Member Simpson suggested a forum be sponsored by the Board for City Commissioner candidates and noted that her partner is a candidate and that she would recuse herself from the process. After discussion, it was agreed to pursue the candidates' forum further and meet as a workshop on Tuesday, August 16 at 9:00am.

7. FINANCIALS: General Manager Cooney went over the financials. He noted that the 3595 rounds (about 120 per day) played during July was a good performance given the hot weather. The relatively high expenses of \$136,361 were due in part to purchases of equipment parts, fertilizer and weed control. General Manager Cooney noted that Toptracer had been generating a net profit for the last seven months and that some headway was being made after a slow start. The small loss for food and beverage in July was primarily due to food costs. Member Rauschenberger requested that future reports reflect a comparison with prior year results to highlight differences. General Manager Cooney referenced that the budget for next year was expected to be approved next week with somewhat increased funding for the golf course including for work on cart paths and the clubhouse. Mike Meadows addressed the Board and inquired as to the penalty for terminating Toptracer. General Manager Cooney reiterated that Toptracer is making money on a monthly basis following a slow start and that lights had only recently been installed. He suggested that Toptracer be given a chance and there not be a rush to shut it down. He noted that the annual cost is about \$60,000 for licensing fee and labor.

8. GOLF RATES FOR 2022-2023: General Manager Cooney went over the proposed golf rates for 2022-2023. In response to a question from Member Sikorski regarding seasonable memberships, General Manager Cooney noted that there is a seasonal membership for \$500 that is not advertised very much. Member Sikosky suggested additional consideration be given to an unlimited seasonal membership for regular, seasonal players. General Manager Cooney noted that there are 125 regular city members and 25 unlimited members. In response to a question, Cooney noted that Golfnow contributes about 10-15% of the rounds played at Golfnow rates.

9. GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD VACANCY: Discussion followed as to filling the vacancy on the board created by the resignation of Lee Murray.

10. MGA UPDATE: While Lee Murray had been the MGA representative, Member Rauschenberger confirmed with General Manager Cooney that the MGA had a tournament in August in which approximately 40 people participated. Lee Murray is the tournament director for the MGA and is returning to town later this month and will begin organizing the fall schedule following the summer heat slow down.

11. WGA UPDATE; Member Simpson noted that members had questions about the new rates and Toptracer. General Manager Cooney noted beer and snacks would be available while Toptracer is open in the evening, as would bathroom facilities in the clubhouse (with the balance of clubhouse locked up). Member Simpson noted that some members had inquired as to a local rule for roots. General Manager Cooney suggested a free drop should apply anywhere on the course, fairway or rough, to avoid broken wrists and would look into placing something on the scorecards to that effect. General Manager Cooney said a sign would be added to the 7 South area to highlight the drop zone as the paint doesn't last. A suggestion was made to paint the area weekly and cut the drop zone area. Member Simpson also noted unanimous positive views on the shape/condition of the golf course for the first time in several years. All Board members agreed with that review.

12. MARKETING UPDATE: General Manager Cooney noted that marketing was continuing as before with the kiosk at the Ritz, Golfnow and other activities. Approximately \$10,000 is left in the marketing budget that was being redirected to tree trimming.

13. AGRONOMY: Blain Ellerbe highlighted areas being stripped out and ready for new sod on the putting green and tee boxes on 1 and 8 South. He noted that the last aerification of the greens was being completed today. He noted that grass cutting was becoming more efficient. In response to a question, Blaine noted that overseeding would only be done of the par 3 tee areas and possibly expanded to the weaker tee areas that could not be resodded. Blaine said the tree trimming would be focused primarily on 1 and 8 South tee areas, and 7 and 8 North tee areas.

11. ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03am.Submitted by Jim Rauschenberger, GCAB
Secretary

Lee Murray, Chairperson

Jim Rauschenberger, Secretary