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

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 October 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

5.2 November 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Introduction of New General Manager

6.2 Director to Lead Input Session for Parks and Recreation Community Campaign

7. WGA UPDATE

8. MGA UPDATE

9. STAFF COMMENTS

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

11. 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, October 12, 2022

City Hall Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 AM

2. ROLL CALL: ROLL CALL: Chairperson Pelican called the meeting to order and called the roll: Present: Member John Pelican; FBWGA Representative Member, Sue Simpson; FBMGA Member Fenton Markevich; Member Lynn Sikorski; and Member Jim Rauschenberger; FBGC General Manager, Mike Cooney; and FBGC Superintendent, Blaine Ellerbe.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Member Rauschenberger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Lee Murray, President of Friends of the Fernandina Beach Golf Club, Inc. (the "Friends") was recognized and gave a brief summary of activities of the Friends to date in raising funds and improving aspects of the Golf Course and related facilities. He introduced Ken Johnson who is the Friends' Beautification Projects Coordinator. Mr. Johnson summarized his focus on improving matters of first impression at the Golf Course, including signs needing to be repaired/replaced, exterior of the clubhouse needing pressure washing, the fountain off of 9 West/9 North needing to be repaired and restroom ventilation.

6. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: The City Commissioner Candidates Forum previously scheduled to be held on Sept 28 was canceled due to Hurricane Ian and has been rescheduled to Wednesday Oct 26 at City hall. Discussion followed as to logistics for the event.

In response to questions from Member Pelican, Superintendent Ellerbe summarized issues associated with the irrigation system, including controllers being broken (requiring inefficient manual operation of individual sprinklers), one of two major pumps being down and the second major pump needing to be used when not watering as well to keep pressure in the system due to the pressure

maintenance pump also being down. The Board unanimously recommended that the matters be addressed immediately.

The need for a new rough cut mower was discussed and it was noted that a new one is in the budget for 2023.

The RFQ for a golf professional was discussed.

6. BUDGET REVIEW;FINANCIAL REVIEW: Manager Cooney summarized the financial results in response to Member Pelican raising the proposed budget as an agenda item. Issues associated with the driving range and Toptracer being closed due to rain/drainage issues were discussed. It was noted that all bays have rarely been used for Toptracer over the last year - perhaps 3 times total - and consideration was being given to reducing the number of bays to save costs. The overall number of memberships is down from prior years though it is still early in the new membership drive season.

7. WGA UPDATE: Member Simpson solicited written comments from WGA members at their last play date and delivered them to Manager Cooney. In summarizing them she noted issues raised with the clubhouse restroom, pressure washing the clubhouse and adding sand to the traps. She also suggested moving furniture from the Toptracer facility to the clubhouse.

8. MGA UPDATE: Member Markevich noted the MGA had their annual meeting and that new officers had been elected

9. MARKETING UPDATE: Manager Cooney noted that with new lights at the range, it would stay open Friday and Saturday evenings until 8pm. He discussed other Toptracer facilities not charging for use of Toptracer and instead charging for balls and suggested further study of that at our facility.

10. AGRONOMY UPDATE: Superintendent Ellerbe expressed thanks to the Friends for adding the new fence to 9 West. He summarized steps taken to get the course back and running following Hurricane Ian. While the course drained well, the driving range was covered with salt water, which indicates that there is a drainage issue with water backing up from the creek. This is a matter that he is getting consultants to evaluate and make recommendations. At present following rains, many balls are becoming embedded up to 6 inches in mud, making them single use range balls. The putting green renovated in August to remove

contaminated soil and new sod is failing again. It appears that there is soil contamination in the subsoil though samples are being taken to confirm. The cost of a complete renovation of the putting green (based on 2021 estimates and costs) was approximately 30K. Mr. Ellerbe noted that costs have likely increased for that as they have for all fertilizer treatments - 50% or more. He also noted that adding sand to bunkers is only a temporary improvement, that the sand will quickly wash away due to the need to redo drainage on the bunkers. Such a renovation would be done in connection with redoing the greens. The 7 South forward tee will continue to have growth issues until a shade tolerant grass is used.

11. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION: The need to get new golf carts was discussed, with it noted that the existing carts are well beyond their useful life. Commissioner Ross addressed the meeting and suggested that the golf course needed $5-8 million in renovations to make it a class C facility. The source for such funding, and the will of the City Commissioners to raise it, is the question.

14. ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Submitted by Jim Rauschenberger, GCAB Secretary

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Lee Murray, Chairperson Jim Rauschenberger, Secretary

MINUTES

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

City Hall Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 AM

2. ROLL CALL: Chairperson 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. Member Fenton Markevich was absent.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Member Rauschenberger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Lee Murray provided an update on Friends of the Fernandina Beach Golf Club, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization formed to provide support for the golf course. Mr. Murray provided a summary of activities by the organization to date and suggested any persons interested in supporting the golf course contact the organization. Mr. Murray also raised questions as to the number of rounds played by City employees who play the golf course at reduced or no charge given that the Golf Course is intended to be self-sustaining.

5. OLD BUSINESS: A discussion of the City Commissioner candidates forum that took place followed. The Members thought that the event went well with a good audience.

Chairman Pelican raised issues associated with a bid being put out for golf carts. Budgetary considerations resulted in deferring purchasing golf carts and Club Manager Cooney said bids were being put out. Chairman Pelican noted that he met with the new Parks and Recs director to discuss clubhouse renovations as an individual citizen and not as a Advisory Board member. Member Simpson cautioned that any such suggestions should make clear that the individuals do not represent the Advisory Board and are simply as concerned citizens.

Chairman Pelican passed around the long range plan previously prepared by Billy Casper Management and summarized its provisions. He noted that funding for needed improvements is key and without City Commissioner funding commitments nothing will result. After discussion it was determined to discuss the needs associated with each of the three nines and other members address other needs of the course. Discussion followed as to improving cart paths and the various options/costs associated with each. Superintendent Elerbe noted that "millings" were coming to the course to be used to spread in various areas.

Chairman Pelican discussed the broken 5 West monument. Superintendent Ellerbe noted that plans were to repair the monument, as well as that at 2 West.

6 NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Pelican noted that the City Commission voted on November 1 to commit to City staff managing the Golf Course for three years under supervision of Parks and Recreation. While concerns were raised about the process through which the decision was made, the Board unanimously supported the decision. In connection with that discussion, Catherine Vorrasi, the new Parks and Recreation director, was invited to address the Board. She noted that she was undertaking assessments of all activities and needs and planned to report her findings to the Advisory Board. In response to questions, she noted that staffing and other issues associated with the Golf course were under discussion and would be addressed and discussed in more detail following selection of a new general manager to replace Mike Cooney, who is departing as of the end of the 2022.

7. MGA UPDATE: Member Rauschenberger, with input from Lee Murray in the audience, summarized the upcoming MGA tournaments and Blitz participation. Mr. Murray noted that the MGA tournaments were now providing a breakfast to all participants.

8. WGA UPDATE: Member Simpson said all of her concerns were addressed, though she raised concerns about complimentary play for City Commissioners and City employees. In response to questions from Member Simpson, Superintendent Ellebere stated that the 8 South tee box grass was doing fine and would improve with the growing season in 2023.

Director Vorrasi said they were looking at Golf Course privileges for City personnel.

9. MARKETING UPDATE: Lights on will be on at the driving range until 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Manager Cooney summarized ongoing marketing efforts. Consideration is being given to reducing the number of bays that utilize Toptracer technology to reduce monthly operating costs.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mike Meadows discussed the possibility of having people meet the new Parks and Recreation director. In response, director Vorrasi mentioned meetings were scheduled over the next two months in the community to solicit comments from the public.

11. FINANCIALS: Manager Cooney summarized the financial statements and results.

12. AGRONOMY UPDATE: Superintendent Elleberee summarized projects being undertaken during the non growing season.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.Submitted by Jim Rauschenberger, GCAB Secretary

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John Pelican, Chairperson Jim Rauschenberger, Secretary

Parks and Recreation Department

Community Input Campaign
November/December 2022

We value your input and your opinion matters to us! What are your needs and wants in the following five categories:

27 Hole Golf Course: _____

_____

_____

Clubhouse: _____

_____

_____

Driving Range / Putting Green: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Restaurant: _____

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_____

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_____

Proshop: _____

_____

_____

_____

Which organization (if any) do you represent? _____

*Please submit your responses to the Parks and Recreation Department in person at 2500 Atlantic Avenue or via email at WeAreListening@fbfl.org

Thank you.

Parks & Recreation

Community Input Campaign 2022

Nov. 15 Commission Meeting
City Hall; 6:00pm

Nov. 21 Coffee & Conversation
Ameila Island Coffee Shop; 7:00am

Nov. 28 Meet & Eat
City Hall; 11:00am

Nov. 29 Community Meet & Greet
MLK, Jr. Auditorium; 6:00pm

Nov. 30 Racquet Sports Meeting
MLK, Jr. Auditorium; 6:00 pm

Dec. 1 Community Meet & Greet
Atlantic Center Auditorium; 6:00 pm

Dec. 2 Youth Advisory Council
City Hall; 4:30pm

Dec. 5 Arts and Culture Nassau
City Hall; 12:00pm

Dec. 5 Racquet Sports Meeting
MLK, Jr. Auditorium; 6:00 pm

Dec. 8 Community Meet & Greet
Peck Center Auditorium; 6:00 pm

Dec. 12 Diamond Youth Sports Meeting
Peck Center Auditorium; 6:00 pm

Dec. 13 Park & Recreation Advisory Committee
City Hall; 5:00pm

Dec. 14 Golf Course Advisory Board
City Hall; 9:00am

Dec. 14 Rectangle Youth Sports Meeting
Peck Center Auditorium; 6:00 pm

Dec. 15 Skate Community Meeting
Peck Center Auditorium; 5:30 pm

Dec. 19 Golf Meeting
City of Fernandina Beach Golf Course; 5:30pm

CHARTING THE COURSE

INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSIONS

Our Focus:

DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE & WATERFRONT

RECREATION CENTERS

ATHLETIC FIELDS, SPORT COURTS & AQUATICS

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, TRAILS & BEACHES

MULTIGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Email us your feedback

WeAreListening@fbfl.org

PARKS & RECREATION

SPECIALTY SPORTS FORUMS

Nov. 30 — **RACQUET SPORTS** — THE MLK JR. CENTER, 1200 ELM STREET — @6pm

Dec. 05 — **RACQUET SPORTS** — THE MLK JR. CENTER, 1200 ELM STREET — @6pm

Dec. 12 — **DIAMOND YOUTH SPORTS** — THE PECK CENTER, 516 S 10TH STREET — @6pm

Dec. 14 — **RECTANGLE YOUTH SPORTS** — THE PECK CENTER, 516 S 10TH STREET — @6pm

Dec. 15 — **SKATE COMMUNITY** — THE PECK CENTER, 516 S 10TH STREET — @5:30pm

Dec. 19 — **GOLF** — THE CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF COURSE, 2800 BILL MELTON ROAD — @5:30pm

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE E-MAIL US AT
WeAreListening@fbfl.org