



**AGENDA
GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2023
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 December 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - 4.2 January 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - 6.1 Golf Club Top Ten Priorities
 - 6.2 Meeting Days and Times
- 7. FRIENDS OF FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF COURSE UPDATE**
- 8. MGA UPDATE**
- 9. WGA UPDATE**
- 10. STAFF COMMENTS**
- 11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- 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, December 14, 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: All four members were present: Member John Pelican; FBMGA Representative Member, Fenton Markevich; Member Lynn Sikorski; and Member Jim Rauschenberger.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Member Rauschenberger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Chairman Pelican recognized a request from John Spatola, a City resident, to speak. Mr. Spatola discussed his opinions/suggestions on aspects of the golf course, including that the description of Toptracer golf in its advertising should reference the courses available to play on the simulation and that coupons be used to attract seasonal visitors to play the golf course. Lee Murray, President of Friends of the Fernandina Beach Golf Club, Inc., was recognized and discussed the organization's desire to coordinate with Parks and Rec on projects associated with the course, primarily focused on beautification. Ross Powell, who lives off of the South course, was recognized and noted the need to improve the signs for the golf course on heavily traveled streets and suggested adding references to "Toptracer golf" on the signs to highlight that feature to the general public.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the October 2022 and November 2022 meetings were approved.
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - 6.1 INTRODUCTION OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER: Catherine Vorrasi, directors of Parks and Rec, introduced David DeMay, the new general manager of the golf club. Mr. DeMay discussed his tentative views and plans for the golf

course following his third day on the job. He referenced the potential for the golf course and the need to improve the condition of the course and improve marketing.

6.2 INPUT SESSIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION: Director Vorrasi summarized her plans for best utilizing the Advisory Board in the future. Parks and Rec will bring matters to the Advisory Board to solicit comments before bringing them to the City Commission to request approval/take action. One example is a suggestion to reassess fees and make potential recommendations for changes that are anticipated to be brought before the Advisory Board in the next month or so.

Director Vorrasi summarized changes in the meeting format reflected in the agenda including recognizing public comments during any agenda item.

Director Vorrasi discussed a series of evening meetings being held by Parks and Rec. She then solicited comments from the Advisory Board members on categories for suggestions/comments to implement changes: Condition of the golf course, club house/restaurant, driving range/Toptracer, putting green and pro shop. Discussion followed on those topics. Director Vorrasi confirmed that long range planning would be done by Parks and Rec with input from the Advisory Board.

Anyone with comments/suggestions for the golf course can make them to a dedicated email address - wearelistening@fbg.org. Comments are welcome from anyone, not just city residents.

7. WGA UPDATE: Member Sikorski provided a summary of WGA activities/concerns.

8. MGA UPDATE: Member Markevich provided a summary of MGA activities/concerns.

9. STAFF COMMENTS: No additional items from Director Vorrasi.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Member Rauschenberger suggested tracking metrics of those playing the golf course and looking at websites that review the course to see the negative views of the course. Member Pelican had Director Vorrasi confirm that monthly reports would be provided at Advisory Board meetings. Member Pelican identified the demand for more racquet

facilities being raised at various Parks and Rec meetings identifying the golf course facility as a possible site for additional courts. Director Vorrasi confirmed the matters were raised at meetings but that there are no plans under consideration at present to be use any golf course property for that purpose.

Director Vorrasi noted that anyone requesting items to be placed on the agenda for future Advisory Board meetings can send the request to Mr. Demay.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

Submitted by Jim Rauschenberger, GCAB Secretary

John Pelican, Chairperson

Jim Rauschenberger, Secretary

MINUTES

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

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: All four members were present: Member John Pelican; FBMGA Representative Member, Fenton Markevich; Member Lynn Sikorski; and Member Jim Rauschenberger.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Member Rauschenberger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
4. ITEM NOT ON AGENDA: Member Pelican inquired as to the ability of Advisory Board Members to add items to the agenda and have them identified in the agenda published on the city's web site in advance after running into issues on adding items to this month's agenda. Director Vorrasi responded that items would be added to the agenda following requests by Advisory Board Members. The agenda is generally posted/distributed a week in advance of the meeting so Members were requested to send in agenda items to Parks and Rec Assistant Director Scott Mikelson more than a week prior to the meeting to avoid additional work required if requests less than a week prior to the scheduled meeting.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Chairman Pelican recognized a request from Mike Meadows, a City resident, to speak. Mr. Meadows expressed concern as to the cost involved with 6 City employees being present at the meeting, the absence of financial information being presented at meetings, the course superintendent not attending meetings and the absence of detail on the agenda distributed/posted.
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - 5.1 ELECT OFFICERS: Director Vorrasi requested that the annual election of Advisory Board officers take place. John Pelican was nominated to be chair, the

nomination was seconded and Mr. Pelican was unanimously elected to be chair. Fenton Markevich was nominated to be vice chair, the nomination was seconded and Mr. Markevich was unanimously elected to be vice chair. Jim Rauschenberger was nominated to be secretary, the nomination was seconded and Mr. Rauschenberger was unanimously elected to be secretary.

Discussion followed as to the vacancy of the fifth Advisory Board member and the need to have such vacancy filled by a volunteer. Concerns were expressed as to possibly having Advisory Board meetings on dates other than Wednesdays. Director Vorrasi indicated that Parks and Rec staff would inquire as to the availability of other dates and that changing the meeting date would be added to agenda for the February meeting.

5.2 INITIAL OBSERVATIONS BY THE NEW GENERAL MANAGER AND UPCOMING PROJECTS: General Manager DeMay summarized his meetings with all stakeholders in the golf course and the positive feedback he had been receiving and a general level of excitement regarding the progress of the golf course. He highlighted steps being taken and planned to be taken in the future with regard to various aspects of the course/facility including: (a) Toptracer/driving range: addressing drainage issues, a golf academy and promotion of TopTracer; (b) the putting green - the need to address the obvious poor status of the putting green will involve getting bids for redesigning the putting green, as well as moving the practice sandtrap; (c) the golf course - tee boxes; fairways, tree trimming and other improvements will be addressed to the extent possible from the current budget with more costly/long term items to be discussed further and addressed in future budgets; (d) club house renovation - Director Vorrasi indicated that funds were in the current budget for improvements and were expected to go out to bid on February 20 to address ceiling issues in the restaurant area and replace the doorway/metal gating in the main hallway and that the City's public works department was updating the fire alarm system; (e) signage improvements and tee box monuments being repaired/replaced with assistance from Friends of the Fernandina Beach Golf Club; and (f) marketing the golf course for events based upon 2 of the 3 nines being in good condition.

In response to concerns expressed by Member Rauschenberger on the South course always being required to be played by the Blitz notwithstanding its relatively poor condition/needed to have down time during the growing season

and that many Blitz and nonBlitz players were driving carts too close to the greens, Mr. DeMay indicated that a regular rotation for playing the three nines would be established and communicated in advance and that rangers and roping would be utilized. Member Pelican expressed concern about using mulch in areas that are in play, such as the roughs on east side of 2 West and the west side of 8 South. Member Markevich referenced a shortage of carts that arose one day because so many carts were not available/out of use highlighting the need for new carts that has been acknowledged for a number of years. Director Vorrasi indicated that a request for new carts would be added to the budget request for the upcoming fiscal year (2023-2024) and requested support from the Advisory Board in that process when the request is presented to the City Council. With respect to the specific shortage mentioned by Member Markevich, Mr. DeMay indicated that steps were being taken to address the matter. Concerns were also expressed by Members as to dog walking on the course. Mr. DeMay indicated that signage and rangers would be utilized to address the matter.

Chairman Pelican recognized a request to speak from Mike Meadows. Mr. Meadows expressed concern about brochures distributed by Parks and Rec for an upcoming forum that simply reference “golf” and provide no detail. Mr. Meadows voiced concerns about projects being ill-conceived and wasting funds. He referenced Toptracer as an example.

6. MGA UPDATE: Member Markevich provided a summary of MGA activities/concerns.

7. WGA UPDATE: Member Sikorski provided a summary of WGA activities/concerns. She indicated there was increased regular membership and that seasonal memberships were under consideration.

8. STAFF COMMENTS: Director Vorrasi stated that the February 8 Advisory Board meeting would conflict with the City’s visioning meeting and requested the meeting be moved to February 15. All Members indicated such a change would work for February 15 at 9am. She also described the flyers previously referenced by Mike Meadows for upcoming forums being conducted by Parks and Rec, including a forum on golf to be held on January 24. She described the forum as intended to communicate with the community as to the need for changes to be made and where Parks and Rec anticipates addressing the needs. In response to a question from Member Pelican as to financial reports, Director Vorrasi indicated

that Parks and Rec was preparing regular reports to be provided to City Manager Martin and the City Council would provide the same to the Advisory Board.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: In response to a question from Member Rauschenberger, Director Vorrasi stated that over the the next two to three months the current prohibition against tipping by credit cards or otherwise would be revisited. Director Vorrasi indicated that there were 6 open positions for maintenance that were being posted, as well as openings in all other areas of the course.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:04am.

Submitted by Jim Rauschenberger, GCAB Secretary

John Pelican, Chairperson

Jim Rauschenberger, Secretary



2023/2024

Golf Course Top Ten Priority List

1. A. Entry putting green renovation
B. New golf carts
2. Sod several areas on the golf course
3. Driving range: Alleviate drainage issue and landscape all areas building; repair netting
4. Tree work on the golf course: Removal, trimming and root pruning in specific areas
5. Golf course tee boxes: Level and redesign specific crowned tee boxes
6. New 75hp main irrigation pump
7. Clubhouse dining and restrooms renovation
8. New Driving Range restrooms and kitchen
9. Irrigation system for the Clubhouse