

VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH
GOLF ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of August 16, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Mathison at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

A. <u>Board:</u>	Present	Absent
Stephen Mathison – Chairman	X	
Rich Pizzolato – Vice Chairman	X	
Curtis Witters – Secretary	X	
Jeff Egizio – Member	X	
Landon Wells – Member	X	
Orlando Puyol – Member	X	
Sandra Felis – Member	X	
B. <u>Staff Members:</u>		
Allan Bowman, Director of Golf	X	
Craig Lindsey, Assistant Professional	X	
Beth Davis, General Manager	X	
Lenore Dingle, Membership Coordinator	X	
C. <u>Council Members:</u>		
Darryl Aubrey	X	
Susan Bickel		
Mark Mullinix	X	
David Norris		
Deborah Searcy		

D. Public Present: Numerous members of the public attended, in order to be heard regarding the new, proposed tee time policy.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes of the July 19, 2021 GAB Meeting were approved 6-0.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Golf Report. Allan Bowman, Director of Golf, spoke to explain the tee time policy issue confronting the club and the Golf Advisory Board.

Allan addressed the meeting to provide background regarding the issues presented to the club regarding our tee time policy and group play, which was a subject of controversy even before he was hired as Director of Golf. During 2020, when the COVID pandemic closed the club and then limited play for a number of months, group play did seem to present a problem.

The issue of a policy regarding group play was the subject of a Golf Advisory Board meeting in November of 2020 and representatives of several groups spoke to the Board. The Board recommended that the club develop a new policy concerning group play.

In 2021 the Village Council has received complaints regarding group play and the difficulty of members obtaining tee times at the golf course. Allan and his staff have considered solutions to the problem for several months. We now have 293 members and there is a large demand for tee times during morning hours.

A new tee time policy has been proposed and circulated to members. Allan has received a number of complaints by email concerning the policy; all of the emails have been reviewed.

The underlying issue regarding tee times is should all members be treated equally?

By definition, groups are 12 to 28 golfers. At the present time, no new groups are being recognized at the club.

Allan conducted a survey of local public access golf courses. Group play is not allowed at either Sandhill Crane or Abacoa.

Allan showed the meeting copies of recent tee sheets; group play consumes nearly all of the tee times before noon on many days. He asked the public in attendance, "What do you suggest we do to solve the problem?"

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A number of club members spoke concerning group play.

Harry Kravit spoke on behalf of "Harry's Hackers". He says his group needs fixed tee times due to their need to schedule other matters, such as medical appointments. He opposes a lottery system.

Ross Beverstein spoke and said he understands the problem but doesn't have a solution.

Allan Bowman summarized for the meeting the proposed lottery system.

Charlie Murphy spoke as a representative of "The Sharks". They have 35 members and seek tee times three times per week.

Jim Peterson spoke, also as a member of The Sharks. He asked if afternoons would be available for group play.

Tom McGill spoke. He has been a member of the club for many years and said the demand for tee times exceeds the available supply. He suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to consider a group play policy.

John Rothberg suggested that the groups should become parts of the MGA and WGA.

Robert Birnbaum spoke and proposed that one week per month be set aside for non-group play. He noted that group players are among the best members of the club.

John McFarland suggest allocation of tee times to group play on a pro rata basis; if 60% of members are in a group, groups should enjoy 60% of the tee times.

Steve Paige said that there should be equitable sharing of tee times.

Karen O'Connell spoke on behalf of the "Par Tee Girls". That group has 30 members.

Mike Beck, Maureen Black, and Susan Filardo spoke.

Tom McGill, who serves on the Village Audit Committee told the meeting that group play is not a revenue or financial issue.

Village Manager Andy Lukasik spoke and reminded the group that no Council action has been taken on the group play or tee time policy issue.

Several speakers argued that group play is a very good thing, it brings nonmembers to the club and promotes them seeking membership.

After lengthy discussion, Allan Bowman then summarized the issues regarding our tee time policy; under our current system, group play consumes most of our prime tee times. Allan then invited each interested group to designate one member of their group to meet as part of a committee to consider the tee time policy and make recommendation to the Golf Advisory Board.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 20, 2021.

Minutes by Curtis L. Witters, Secretary.