

VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH
GOLF ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES of September 21, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

A. Present:

Absent:

Stephen Mathison – Chairman

Rich Pizzolato – Vice Chairman

Curtis Witters – Secretary

David Talley – Member

Jeff Irish – Member

Jeff Egizio – Member

Landon Wells - Member

B. Staff Members Present:

Allan Bowman, Director of Golf

Beth Davis, General Manager

C. Council Members Present:

Darryl Aubrey

D. Public Present:

None

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the August 17, 2020 GAB Meeting were approved 7-0.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Golf Report. Allan Bowman, Director of Golf, delivered his report.

The Village Manager has received some complaints from homeowners living adjacent to the 16th hole due to golf balls hit from the tee into their back yards. To solve this problem we will reorient the tee markers on the 16th tee and we have planted three cabbage palms on the left side of the hole, just before the bunker complex, to discourage shots to the left of the bunkers.

The bunker project is underway. We have completed holes 16 and 17 and are working on 18. The project includes grading the bunker faces, installing upgraded soil, and placing sod. Brightview estimates that it is a 6 to 7-week project but is attempting to speed up the work. We will close one hole a day during weekday play, in order for the work to be done. Golfers will be told to take a net par on the closed hole.

New drainage is being installed on holes 6,13,15, 16, and 17.

We are observing that the old fairway grass, Bermuda 419 is reemerging in some areas of the course. We will fight the 419 in the fairways because the Latitude 36 works better for the fairways on our course.

We hope to begin the project to install electricity for the two restrooms on the course next week.

We have included replacement of the driving range mats in the budget for next year. We are looking at Turf Hound mats to be installed over a concrete slab that will be poured.

We have had 4,668 rounds played in August to date. The course will have 44,000 rounds through August, and we expect more rounds during September than we had in that month in 2019. The course is on pace to have 48,000 rounds for the fiscal year. This is well in excess of number upon which our budget is based, 42,500 rounds.

Allan asked the Board to begin thinking about whether in the future Village residents should be given some priority in becoming golf members of the club. The consensus was that such a policy would be appropriate. This is an issue to be addressed in upcoming years. Currently 70% of our golf members are village residents and 30% are nonresidents.

Should we consider some other options apart from “membership”?

We have selected new management software, but it is not yet installed. We are targeting March for the new software to be online.

The PGA of America is working with Palm Beach County regarding relaxation of COVID restrictions. Those restrictions may be reduced in a few weeks and we will review our tee time policy. We may be allowed to put two players in a cart, with a divider between them.

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

Neighborhood golf cart and bicycle traffic on cart paths was discussed. It was pointed out that sand on the cart paths and areas of washout pose a danger to bicycles.

One member of the Board asked if the club would allow use of personal golf carts on the course to members paying a trail fee. Allan told us that private carts may not be suited for use on the course and that trail fees would create a shortfall in revenue.

We are having an issue with the range ball machines. The machines are not properly dispensing balls. Allan says staff is working on the problem.

The club owns the machines, and we are considering replacement in the next budget year.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 19, 2020.

Minutes by Curtis L. Witters, Secretary.