

Mayor
David Martin



Director of Operations
Mark McGrath

Superintendent of Recreation
Laurie Albano

Golf Course Superintendent
Hidalgo Nagashima CGCS

Office of Operations
E. Gaynor Brennan Municipal Golf Course
451 Stillwater Road
Stamford, CT 06902

Golf Commission
Robert Tyska, Chairman
Thomas Birkett
Michael Briscoe
Andrea Brantner
Robert Judge

 **DRAFT**

Minutes of the E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Commission; September 15, 2020

Present were: R. Tyska, M. Briscoe, A. Brantner, R. Judge, T. Birkett

Absent: None.

Staff: L. Albano, H. Nagashima, A. Aulenti, V. Levin, B. Ukperaj.

Public: None.

Meeting was held by zoom due to restrictions set in response to COVID-19. Chairman Tyska called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Mr. Briscoe entered zoom meeting at 6:06 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Judge made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Brantner.
Motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Briscoe not yet present for vote.

Reading of the Minutes

Ms. Brantner made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 18, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Briscoe. **Motion passed unanimous.**

Comments from the Public

None.

Monthly Report

Mr. Ukperaj gave a report on rounds in the month of August. Rounds and revenue increased over August 2019 despite losing two days due to a hurricane. Fiscal and Calendar year updates were given to the commission. Mr. Briscoe inquired about the first half of September thus far to which Mr. Ukperaj replied. Mr. Ukperaj reported for next month's meeting a quarterly update will be given. Ms. Albano informed the Commission that EGB has submitted to the City the

amount lost due to the Hurricanes but there has been no answer as to whether there would be reimbursement.

Supt. of Greens Report

Mr. Nagashima reported on golf course work and staff. Mr. Nagashima relayed on work completed focusing on weed control and planned upcoming fall renovations. Cart path paving and future lime treatment for the course was also outlined. Commission members asked various questions in regards to having seed mix bottles back to carts, more trash cans on the course and other COVID related impacts on the course operation.

Pro-Shop Committee

Ms. Aulenti informed the Commission of possibly limiting entrants to the City Tournament. There were also questions as far as running out of carts and spectators. Policies and rules will be put in place due to COVID. Mr. Levin introduced the possibility of changing the raincheck policy at EGB due to it being unfair and making it a prorated raincheck depending on the number of holes played from what was paid. Mr. Judge made a motion to change the raincheck policy as suggested by Mr. Levin. Ms. Brantner seconded. **Motion passed unanimous.**

House Committee

Mr. Briscoe inquired on how negotiations are going with the restaurant and the City. Ms. Albano replied she has been involved in answering questions from the Parks Bureau Chief and Director of Operations and facilitating Mr. Zody's proposal through. Ms. Albano hopes the answers she has given will satisfy them or they may have to meet with Mr. Zody if there are further questions, so then the proposal will move forward.

Personnel Committee

Ms. Albano gave update on upgrade of course CSS position. Ms. Albano reported that progress was made with HR and the upgrade is on the Personnel Commissions agenda for Sept. 24th.

Greens Committee

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee

Nothing to Report.

Union Business

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Mr. Tyska asked if there was a meeting with Mr. Jokhakar from a previous meeting. Mr. Ukperaj replied on attempt to set up a meeting.

Request for use of the Golf Course

Nothing to report.

Outing Request

Nothing to report.

League Requests

Mr. Tyska inquired about status of leagues and Mr. Levin gave an update.

Old Business

No updates on COVID situation.

Mr. Tyska updated the Commission on the progress of the rate proposal. Mr. Tyska also summarized the meeting that took place with the Mayor concerning the rate increase, last fiscal year's deficit and having the golf courses combined or having the money Sterling pays to the City and keeping that money for the City's golf courses as what is done with the Marina Fund. The Mayor was open to both courses operating under the umbrella of the Golf Authority but only if both golf boards were to agree. If not, the Mayor was not open to EGB having the ability to keep the money that Sterling pays to the City of Stamford. Mr. Tyska expressed his disappointment in the answers received and outcome of the meeting. The Commission discussed the situation regarding the disparity to both courses, how revenue from the driving range drives Sterling Farm's and their ability to keep rates below market value as well as the disparity in how both courses are treated by the City with Sterling having their lease payment cut in half saving them \$160,000 yearly. Having two golf courses is an asset to the City of Stamford and to have both courses being run by two different organizations with different operations is not in the best interest of citizens. Most residents do not realize there is a difference and that Sterling keeps all their driving range revenue. Sterling will see no upside in combining and losing that revenue.

New Business

Mr. Tyska reported he is seeking a replacement for his position on the Commission as he is moving in March and will be resigning at some point. Mr. Tyska was thanked by all for all his work over his time with the Commission.

Mr. Tyska stated next month's meeting is to be held Tuesday October 20, 2020. Ms. Brantner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Briscoe. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting ended 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Bekim Ukperaj
C.S.S. EGB