

VILLAGE OF GLENCOE
GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Golf Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:07 p.m. at Village Hall. The following members were present:

Dale Thomas, Chairman
Joe Keefe
Jim Hirsch
John Nesbitt
Ron Schmidt
Scott Shore

Committee member Mitch Melamed was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY MINUTES

The October Golf Advisory Committee meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

There was no public comment.

4. MANAGERS MONTHLY REPORT

- Stella reviewed the October monthly report.
- Due to the frost starting later than usual the leaves were falling later. This will require the maintenance staff to be kept on later in the season.
- Dale asked why the leaves were falling later in the season. Dave Arden mentioned that we were in a drought situation over the summer that caused the trees and leaves to be dryer and fall later in the season.
- The Senior Fall Classic was held this year and was a very popular event. There were over 80 players participating. The event is used primarily to thank our seniors for their patronage throughout the year.
- Fall rates went into effect October 12th and will remain in place until November. If we are still open in December we will drop the rates again.
- The Buckthorn Barbecue was held in the clubhouse that included Arnold Randall from the Forest Preserve as the keynote speaker.
- The financials to date are exceeding all budgeted numbers. Stella estimated the end of year positive cash flow will be \$350,000 this year.
- Rounds have exceeded last year although we had 1,500 rounds in November and December which will tough to do this year.
- John asked how we limit our expenditures on maintaining the current clubhouse with a new one in the future. Stella responded that there is a lot of disrepair but we handle issues as they happen. There are issues such as the sewage pipe under the clubhouse that could break at any time but until that happens we won't fix it.

- Stella added the clubhouse is as good as it's going to get at this point.
- Dale suggested Stella keep a list of issues that need to be repaired in order to present to the community and Village Board to rationalize the new clubhouse expense. Stella answered she has been keeping a list of repairs needed and presented the list to the committee.
- Dale added this issue is similar to the water plant issue the village is facing now as far as completely replacing the structure versus updating and renovating it. The report Stella presented to the committee will go a long way to convince the Village Board and residents that new construction is the only option.
- Joe added that the clubhouse is already damaging the course's reputation and the sale of outings at the course.
- John asked what the Village Board's general opinion was as far as the new clubhouse. Dale's feeling is the board supports the new construction but the overall cost of the project will be an important factor as well.
- Dale added that showing the residents the business aspects as well as the social benefits of a new clubhouse will be key in selling this project.

5. LONG RANGE PLANNING PRESENTED BY DAVE ARDEN

- Dave Arden informed the committee there have been 19 diseased and dead ash trees removed and 9 new trees have been planted in their place.
- Dave said there are too many trees on the golf course that were planted too close to each other. The rule of thumb is there should be no trees planted within 30 feet of other trees. Dave presented the committee with an outline of the removed trees as well as where the new trees were planted.
- Dave added that 28 ash trees were treated for disease. John asked if Dave has noticed any difference. Dave answered that it is too soon to tell this year but he should be able to check for improvement next season.
- John agreed with Dave that there are too many trees on older golf courses and mentioned Skokie Country Club removed 50 trees after completing a tree study.
- Dave added we have about 80-90 ash trees which is actually a low number of trees compared to other courses. North Shore Country Club removed 144 ash trees in 2012.
- Stella informed the committee that the willows near the 17th tee are dead. This is our biggest willow tree issue; these are the same trees the Botanic Gardens would like removed.
- Joe asked about the willows behind the 16th tee. Dave said those trees were dead-headed and are in good shape.
- Dave informed the committee the trees near the 17th tee and adjacent to the Botanic Gardens are dead and will be the first to be removed. Money has already been spent to trim those trees just to keep them safe. The plan is to take down the 3 worst trees and plant cypress, river birch, or alder trees to replace the willows. The willows will be removed over the course of three years.
- Dale suggested asking the Botanic Gardens to share the expense of the willows since they are in favor of them being removed.

- Joe asked if Dave will be using willow trees to replace trees removed or cut down. Dave said that nurseries don't stock willow trees anymore so that is not an option.
- Joe asked that Dave try to keep the willow on #15 as it adds to the beauty of the hole.
- Dave added the 10 willows between holes 11 and 17 are in good shape after being pruned and deadheaded.
- Stella informed the committee the 3-year tree program will begin next fall beginning with the willows by 17th tee and the following years will address the willows between holes 10 and 17.
- Dale presented a plan to re-align the driving range towards the first green and away from Westley Rd. If the current golf shop was removed when the new clubhouse is built there would be room to move the tee box backwards to accommodate a buffer zone between the end of the range and the first hole.
- Stella responded that if the range was moved we would lose the buffer zone between the end of the range and the first hole. The tee area on the range would need to be moved backwards towards the parking lot about 30 yards. We would also need netting around all sides of the range as well as adding some berms and landscaping.
- Joe asked if this would solve the political issues with the range. Dale said he believes this plan would go a long way to create enough of a buffer to capture the slices from the tee and keep balls off of the road and should create less opposition from our neighbors.
- John asked how we're going to contain the balls from the first fairway. Stella added the netting would be 90 feet and taper to 60 feet all the way around the range. There is no way that the range could allow the use of drivers and not be netted all the way around.
- Joe asked Dave if it would be possible to remove any buckthorn behind the 5th tee. Dave said his staff did remove about 5 feet of buckthorn this year and is looking at some other spots including behind the first green to remove buckthorn as it is starting to impede the out of bounds area.
- Dale asked if there was a way to put up fencing behind 17th green to prevent another car from entering the course and causing damage. Dave thinks even if we put a smaller decorative fence up it may deter vandals from driving onto the course.
- Joe asked about the 60% flight golf balls on the range. Stella answered that the public is generally against them but we could conduct another survey to judge interest in them.
- Stella presented a golf ball trajectory study to the committee that was conducted that shows exactly where and how high netting must be installed to keep the range safe.
- Dale asked Stella to look into netting that could be removed or unraveled during the off season. Dave answered he believes Sportsman's uses this netting and that could be a possibility.
- Ron asked if a handful of bays on the range could be angled and used strictly for hitting drivers. Stella said the problem is that the range would need to be fully staffed around the clock to enforce this policy. People

generally ignore the policies set forth i.e. the irons only sign. Someone would have to be on the range constantly.

6. CLUBHOUSE TASK FORCE UPDATE

- Stella reported to the committee that the next step in the clubhouse project will be to negotiate a contract with the chosen architect. She expects the contract to be finalized in January.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- John mentioned that with all the new players this year and with all the positive comments on the golf course that have been made that it will be interesting to see how much repeat business we get.
- Joe along with the entire committee commended Dave and his crew on the overall shape of the golf course this year.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.