

APPROVED INFORMAL MINUTES of
the Special Joint Meeting of the Rye Golf Club
Commission and the City Council of the City of Rye
held at Whitby Castle on June 27, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

RICHARD FILIPPI (arrived at 7:17 p.m.)
PETER JOVANOVIK
JULIE KILLIAN (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)
CATHERINE F. PARKER
JOSEPH A. SACK
Councilmembers

ABSENT: DOUGLAS FRENCH, Mayor
LAURA BRETT, Councilwoman

Members of the City Council attended the regular monthly meeting of the Rye Golf Club Commission held at Whitby Castle. The meeting was called to order by Richard Verille, Chairman of the Golf Commission.

1. Mid-year Update

Golf Club General Manager Scott Yandrasevich read a report outlining the general operation of the Club, which receives no tax dollar support, but contributes to the City General Fund. Topics covered included:

- Financial – Year to date revenues vs. expenses. The Club began cutting back expenses in April. Revenues are trending up and expenses trending down. Over the past few years there has been a planned use of reserves to balance the budget but it is not advisable to continue the practice in the future.
- Operations – Ten years ago the Commission and Management were directed to elevate the operation of the Club. Some of the changes implemented include: improvements to the facility and golf course; methods of communicating with the membership; full-time city staff has been reduced; and changes have been made to membership categories. The \$300 annual food minimum was introduced to get members to utilize the facility.
- Short-term goals – Determine if the facility will be a club that supports the City without taxpayer support or a recreation facility that is subsidized by the taxpayers. Determine if Interfund Charges paid to the City can be reduced if the Club can purchase the service cheaper.
- Long-term goals – Repair and renovation projects and achieving financial stability.

There was a discussion among the members of the Council and Golf Commission regarding the financial operation of the Club currently and going forward; membership figures; membership communication; affordability vs. club experience; updating the Maximus study; the new food minimum; and extending the budget calendar deadlines for the Club.

Several members of the Club came forward to express their opinions, both favorable and unfavorable, regarding such issues as: the food minimum; term limits for commission members; the benefits of Whitby Castle; membership fees; membership categories; the election process; communication with members; member input in setting policy; keeping the pool open after Labor Day; opportunities for additional revenue; allowing members to bring food to the pool; and utilizing the membership to market the facility.

2. New proposed on-line voting procedure

Manager Yandrasevich outlined a proposed change to the voting procedures for Golf Commission elections developed as a result of concerns expressed about the number of invalid paper ballots received each year. The new voting procedures would involve on-line voting and do away with the paper ballot system currently used. The members of the Golf Commission voted to approve the proposed change, which will be presented to the City Council for approval at their next meeting. If approved by the Council, the change will be implemented for the upcoming election.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss Chairman Verille adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse
City Clerk