

***APPROVED MINUTES*** of the Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye, the Rye Golf Club Commission and Rye Golf Club Strategic Committee held in City Hall on June 12, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

DOUGLAS FRENCH Mayor  
LAURA BRETT (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)  
RICHARD FILIPPI  
PETER JOVANOVIĆH  
JULIE KILLIAN  
CATHERINE F. PARKER (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)  
Councilmembers

ABSENT: JOSEPH A. SACK, Councilman

Also in attendance were: Rye Golf Club Commission Members - John Duffy (Chair), Frank Adimari, Patrick Dooley, T.J. Hanson, Patricia Geoghegan and Arthur Tiedeman and Rye Golf Club Strategic Committee Members – Peter Marshall (Chair) and Bill Gates.

1. Opening Remarks by Mayor Douglas French

Mayor French said the workshop was being held with the members of the Rye Golf Club Commission and Rye Golf Club Strategic Committee. The Mayor said that there are two prevailing questions in connection with the Club – should the City be in the restaurant business; and, if so, what is the proper level of governance to run the operation? A five-point plan was put together last fall to deal with: tightening up financial policies and procedures; conflicts of interest; getting the Club up and running for the season; determination of a long-term view for the Club; and, how will the correct governance be put in place.

2. Presentation by the Rye Golf Club Commission on proposed changes to Commission responsibilities

Members of the Golf Commission presented an overview of proposed changes to the Rye Golf Commission Charter:

- The Golf Club Commission would have principle responsibility for negotiating contracts that pertain to the Golf Club because it involves use of Rye Golf Club money. The types of contracts would include: lifeguards, the Club Manager position, and the chef. The City Manager would still execute the contract. The City Council would have the highest authority.
- The Management of the Golf Club should report to the Commission in order to provide greater opportunity for oversight.

- Consultation with and functional approval authority for the Commission in connection with expenses over \$2,500.
- Increased flow of information to the Commission in order for them to be as fully informed as possible in order for them to be able to identify problems before they happen or make recommendations.

A goal is to fulfill the original mission of the Commission

There was discussion about how the recommendations might be implemented; liability issues; responsibility for hiring and firing; conducting independent audits; whether an RFP (Request for Proposal) should be issued for running the restaurant or the entire Club; and, methods of resolving disputes between the Commission and Club Manager. The City Manager reported on problems with the NorthStar computer system used by the Club and ongoing efforts to produce better reports.

3. Presentation by the Rye Golf Club Strategic Committee on recommendations for the long-term use and operation of the Rye Golf Club

Peter Marshall said that the Strategic Committee has looked at different models such as issuing an RFP for the operation of the restaurant; maintaining the current status with City employees running the Club with the Commission as an oversight; or issuing an RFP for the entire facility. They would like direction from the Council and input from the public on the pros and cons of the alternatives. There was discussion regarding the possible effects of these options. The Strategic Committee thinks it is a good idea to prepare an RFP to explore possibilities for the restaurant. It was suggested that the City reach out to contacts in the industry for help in drafting an RFP.

Another workshop will be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to the July 10th Council meeting.

4. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse  
City Clerk