

APPROVED MINUTES of the Workshop
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 July 10, 2013 at 7:00
P.M.

PRESENT:

DOUGLAS FRENCH Mayor
LAURA BRETT
RICHARD FILIPPI (Arrived at 7:25 p.m.)
PETER JOVANOVIĆH
JULIE KILLIAN
JOSEPH A. SACK
Councilmembers

ABSENT: CATHERINE PARKER, Councilwoman

Also in attendance were the following members of the Rye Golf Commission and Rye Golf Club Strategic Committee – John Duffy, Frank Adimari, Patrick Dooley, T.J. Hanson, Patricia Geoghegan, Chris O’Brien, Angela Sposato and Peter Marshall.

1. Summary and Further Discussion of Rye Golf Club proposed changes

The Rye Golf Club Commission (“the Commission”) has proposed that the Commission continue to serve in an advisory capacity with the ultimate decision-making capacity residing with the City Council and City Manager. However, the Commission believes that their oversight role in terms of reporting responsibilities and involvement in reviewing personnel and contract issues and expenditures should be increased. In response to Council requests at the last workshop for specificity on how this would work, a discussion was held regarding protocols suggested by the Commission. Corporation Counsel Wilson said the proposal needs to be clearer and more consistent, especially in connection with hiring and firing authority. She said there should be a way to have the Commission involved in the hiring and firing process in an advisory authority but the direct oversight would be with the City Council or City Manager. The Commission wants to make sure the Club Manager listens to suggestions from the Commission and provides them with information so that the actions of the General Manager are in alignment with the Commission. There was also discussion about auditing of the Golf Club going forward and making the pool more of a “public pool”.

2. Additional Recommendations to the Governance of Rye Golf Club

Mayor French suggested that the Commission should become more like the Recreation Commission, whereby they advise the Club Manager on policies they would like implemented, which are ultimately adopted by the City Manager and City Council. City Manager Pickup noted that the Commission has worked hard to reinvigorate their operating committees but that he worries about their ability to sustain this effort going forward. In the past, the Recreation

Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent were also charged with maintaining administrative support to the Golf Club, but this is no longer the case. The Commission suggested that it was important to hire a Club Manager who is responsible for the entire club operation in order to reduce the current burden on the Commission. The implementation of a process where the Commission would have recourse to go to the City Manager and City Council if the Club Manager does not follow their recommendations was also suggested.

3. Comments from the Public

Members of the public commenting included *Leon Sculti, Jim Codispodi, Bob DiMaggio, Maureen Casper and Aurora Giardella*. Their comments included a suggestion to have the members acquire the club from the City and make it a membership based club; suggestions on policies and procedures for how the Commission should run their meetings; a suggestion that differences between the Commission and City Manager should be brought to the City Council; conditions at the pool; and, a suggestion that the Interim Manager remain in his position after his contract runs out in the fall.

4. Discussion on Changes to the Structure of the Rye Golf Club Commission

A suggestion was made to change the makeup of the Commission so that it would include elected members but also three additional members who would be appointed by the Mayor and Council.

5. Discussion and Next Steps on a Potential RFP for the Rye Golf Club

Mayor French said that he felt the consensus from the last workshop was that doing an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the operation of the entire club was not appropriate at this time, but that it would be a good idea to do so for the catering facility to see what the market bears. Angela Sposato said she did not believe that doing an RFP for the entire facility was ever the idea of the Strategic Committee but that it may be beyond the time to go out for an RFP for catering and the castle for the 2014 season. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of doing an RFP now or waiting to see the results from this year or even 2014, and how the RFP should be structured.

6. Summary and Discussion of YTD Financials and Operating Decisions and Next Steps

City Manager Pickup reported that the City has decent numbers through June 30th. Members were given one more billing cycle for payment this year so there should be another \$386,000 in member payments coming in. There is also about \$80,000 for the 2012 minimum that has not been billed. The revenues are about 1% or 2% within what was expected for golf and pool. The expenses are running under at this point. Indications are that the \$75,000 cash positive budgeted for the year is on target. The Castle is showing progression in terms of meals and events and trying to make up some of the loss from prior year's business that was lost. Issues regarding allocations to cost centers are still being worked on and the Commission has

identified issues that must be addressed in the 2014 budget discussions. The goal is to complete the 2014 budget for submission to the Council in November

7. Adjournment.

The workshop ended at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn F. Nodarse
City Clerk