

**Fenwick Park Commission
Minutes
July 11, 2015**

In attendance: Voting Members: Frank Keeney, Peter Bulkeley, Bob Gay
Voting Member yet to be approved: Margaret Wade
Borough of Fenwick: Larry DeBlasiis, General Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4pm.

Frank Keeney thanked Tom Riggio and all out going members of the Park Commission for their excellent work.

Approval of Minutes of 8/22/15 FPC – Motion by Bob Gay, and seconded by Peter Bulkeley, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Larry DeBlasiis presented the General Manager's Report:

1. **Crosswalk and Cart Path** – Completed except for white line striping by State and some attention to stone removal on path itself, which has been causing some “tracking” issues. (Peter B. suggested that stone be left as is - the stone will settle in over time.)
2. **Shack** – Construction Complete. Player colored ticketing has been discontinued. Cash register system in use with minor issues to be resolved. Once fully operational, the ability to track daily usage by player type will be available. (Peter B. asked that this information be collected manually until issues resolved.)
3. **7th Hole Cart Path** – Larry will review and make improvements given that the rear bunker is tagged for removal and the present path is difficult to maintain. Larry is looking at developing a new path that runs the opposite side of the green and over to the 8th tee on the left.
4. **9-Hole Rates** – Starters have received several complaints about the \$35.00 rate with associated comments. In response to some of

- the comments, Larry directed the superintendent to trim various plantings along the tee boxes and to clean up cart paths around the course.
5. **Park Monitor and Signage**– Highly active and producing excellent results. Monitor is concerned about access by fisherman. Asked that on points controlled by Land Trust signage be placed that states something similar to Grove (Open Dawn to Dusk). (Bob G. stated that Land Trust thinks this is fine if Borough will enforce.) Also asked for signage at beach suggesting “Borough Residents and Pass Holders Only”. Peter B asked the Burgesses revisit land ownership at beach in front of Ryder and Wright Cottages. The LPLT and the FPC will need to make a request to the Burgesses for approval to proceed. It was also discussed that (1.) the hours of the Park Monitor will be changing but always available at the golf shack and (2.) the intention was for the Monitor to work some evening shifts but not on a regular basis.
 6. **Use of Ryder Course** – Need to establish old tee box or a designated area for residents/ticketholders that want to repeatedly practice chipping to the greens. Doing this on the fairway sections of this course is creating serious divots that are not always repaired by players. Superintendent will mow the old tee box for more obvious use; however, the placement of the greenside bunker at that location may cause maintenance/debris issues. The use of the larger tee box is another possibility for this type of repetitious use. Will need some FPC direction. ¶In terms of allowable usage of Ryder course: For clarification, until 9/13/2015, course is open to Borough residents and their families and ticketholders (whose child/grandchild pays \$5), after which it will be open to cash players as well. The course is to be used for any repeated practice off the designated “Tee box” and for actually playing the 5 holes.
 7. ¶**Placement of Porta-Potty Structure at Beach:** At the Burgesses’ request, this is being looked at and options will be presented to the Board of Burgesses at their July 16th meeting. Because of the way the structure is designed and placed, some options will be more expensive than others. Change options could run about \$1000.

8. Lifeguards in place for season although one already quit and has been replaced. Staffing was not easy this season. Reports on the swim instructor have been excellent.

Frank Keeney delineated areas of responsibility for new Park Commission:

Peter Bulkeley – Golf

Bob Gay– Land Trust liaison, Tennis and Park Lands

Margaret Wade – Beach and Pier

Peter Bulkeley reported on Y-T-D course revenue:

YTD - first 10 days 13% ahead of revenue for the same time 2014

2014 \$3,080

2015 \$3,266

Peter B. reminded group that last year July was a record. Peter B is keeping close eye on daily revenue in order to determine the effect of new pricing. There is some thought that the \$35 pricing may be too high for local players but OK for “summer” players. Peter B suggested that Fri/Sat/Sun rate increase might be better suited for July and August rather than June. In addition Peter B stated that the rates should immediately drop as of Labor Day (9/8) and that the Manager should have prerogative to drop rates as needed as weather deteriorates. The group also discussed that League play is a great source of revenue for the course.

Peter B. and the Park Commission will plan to analyze numbers in September for recommendation for rates and rate schedule for 2016. Commission will continue to watch rates closely hoping to drive revenue while understanding that there is no urgency to implement Long Range Plan for golf course. Peter B. and the group also discussed that Tony Pioppo’s contract should be renewed.

Bob Gay suggested from the perspective of the Park Lands that the area over by the starter shack doesn’t look great and needs to be improved. Bob G. stated that he would try to collaborate with Jennifer McCann who has access to grant funds available to do plantings in the area to encourage wildlife.

The Commission also discussed the request to place the Long Range Plan for the golf course on the website and it was decided not to do so at this time. The plan was created as a suggestion and may change over time.

The meeting concluded at 5:05pm.

Bob Gay moved, seconded by Peter Bulkeley, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed unanimously