

Fenwick Park Commission – In Person Special Meeting
Saturday June 17, 2023, 9:00 AM 4 Nibang Avenue
Approved Minutes

8:55AM - Frank Keeney, Scott Pulver, Bob Gay, and Margaret Wade all sworn in by Clerk for Park Commission term, Frank and Margaret also sworn in as Burgesses.

1. Call to order 8:58AM Present were
Members: Frank Keeney, Scott Pulver, Margaret Wade, Bob Gay.
Other: Jeff Champion, General Manager; Matt LaChance, Golf Operations Manager; Hall and Connie Wilson, Bruce Baird, Bill Webster.
2. Approve minutes from November 1, 2022, meeting Motion made by Bob Gay, Seconded, approved unanimously.
3. Comments from the public – Bill Webster regarding possible LPLT fundraising tournament.
4. Superintendent's Report – report by Daryl Aresco, read by Jeff Champion:
 - We have been hearing positive feedback on the condition of the golf course this spring. We lost a little grass on the greens this past winter, most likely during the end of winter when hydrated, non-dormant, grass plants were exposed to 3 days of extremely low temps. These areas should be fully recovered in the next few weeks.
 - This spring, for the first time that I am aware of, we had an outside contractor deep tine aerate our greens. Deep tine aeration not only helps to alleviate compaction, layering, reduce thatch, etc. it increases drainage, especially on old push up greens like ours. Deep tine aeration punches holes 8"-10" deep whereas our traditional aeration process is only able to aerate 4". We saw immediate results from this process, most notably with how quickly standing water on the greens dissipated after the process. Going forward I hope to be able to have this service done every other year.
 - Nematodes, a microscopic turfgrass pest that lives in and damages the roots of turfgrass plants, continue to be an issue weakening greens and causing them to wilt easier than normal. We are continuing to work with URI on this issue and are trying some new chemistry this year to help control them. Two years from now we hope to have another very promising product, currently labeled in agriculture, to be labeled for golf and available to us.
 - We have a great team this season and have hired and trained employees so we can roll greens more frequently and vertically mow the greens more often. Both these practices help to improve the play and health of the greens. We purchased a new roller this spring which has helped make rolling greens more efficient and produces a better product.
 - This spring we started a new lease on a rough mower, as we do every 5 years. One of the reasons why we rotate equipment out is to capitalize on the

improvements that have been made to the equipment by the manufacturer. A great example of this is the new rough mower. Last year and years before, rough would take 3 days to mow. We can now mow rough in less than 2 days mainly because of the increase in speed this mower is able to mow at. This not only saves on labor and fuel but is less time the mower is on the course amongst golfers.

- Irrigation. We have always been restricted by our lack of quality irrigation water. Over the years we have made the system better by tying in old abandon wells from the property and adding a few small city water inputs. With the improvements we have been making to the trees we have further increased the demand on the system. With bunker and green work next on the list once tees are finished I will be working on our options to increase the amount of water available to irrigate.

Scott Pulver added that all reports he is receiving about course conditions are positive. The tree removal on hole #8 and near St. Mary's have been well received.

Matt LaChance made comments about the success of keeping rounds under two hours and how the staff has been complimented by many on its professionalism, helpfulness, and friendly demeanor.

5. General Manager's Report:

- a. Summer Staff is complete for lifeguards, beach, and park monitors. The usual challenges of having many of them leave in early August.
- b. Golf operations are going well, Matt is getting acclimated to FGC while building his team and keeping rounds under two hours.
- c. Trespassing is an all-time high; the park monitors will have their hands full this year. --A discussion took place regarding the inner lighthouse being available as well as the social media misinformation about the East end and overall beach access.
- d. Moving the entrance to the Meadow/Grove is going smoothly.

6. Margaret Wade:

- The beach has been cleaned, graded, sand imported, and beach panels installed. Beach panels overall are still in good shape. Some panels are showing a little sagging but still maintain an acceptable deck surface. Most furniture is out besides most of the umbrellas. All umbrellas are set to be installed the last week of June.
- The playground had minor repairs and sanding done this spring. We also received a large order of warranty replacement parts that we will be scheduled to install next spring. Labor is not included for replacing the warranty items. Labor is around \$6000 and there are monies in the maintenance fund of FIF to pay for it.

- The Pier wooden structure has been repaired and all panels and ladders have been installed. We continue to lose at least one ladder a year no matter how we try securing them to the pier. We are working with CT Dock and Dredge on fabricating some aluminum brackets that will hopefully better secure the ladders.
- Discussion about the condition of the hydrangea along the walkway to the pier took place between Margaret and Daryl.

7. Tennis Report given by Frank Keeney:

- We hired a new company, Oval Tennis, to open and close the courts. Communication, timing and quality of work have all been top notch thus far. Oval also removed our old hitting wall and replaced it with a longer lasting, better playing, quieter, fiberglass wall. The roots of the Arborvitaes surrounding the courts had crept far into the courts over the years and were showing at the playing surface. To render this issue we root pruned the Borough owned arborvitaes. Court 4 still has some issues with the clay separating below the surface. Oval is aware of the issue and will be working on a plan to remedy the issue. Oval suggests we look into replacing our net posts next season.
- A sign is being made for new tennis wall to say "TENNIS BALLS ONLY".
- The plexiglass in the bulletin boards was replaced and looks great.

8. Bob Gay ... LPLT liaison:

- a. No meeting has taken place, new officers forthcoming.
- b. Next meeting is June 24th.

9. Frank Keeney comments:

- a. Next golf course projects include the 8th tee box, 4th tee box (blue) which will involve DEEP, and irrigation considerations.
- b. A letter of reprimand was sent to a Ticket Holder.

10. Adjournment – Motion made by Bob Gay, seconded by Scott Pulver to adjourn at 9:47AM. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeffrey Champion
 General Manager