

**OAK HILLS PARK AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2010**

PRESENT: Larry Andronaco, Chair; Tom Aikenhead; Martha Lemmon; Mike Corsello; Paul Cifatte; Bob Virgulak, Kristrun Romano; and Bill Kementzides.

STAFF: Vincent Grillo, Jr., Executive Director and Tom Vorio, Superintendent.

ABSENT: Ralph DePanfilis.

ALSO PRESENT: None

PUBLIC: Michael Spremulli

Mr. Andronaco called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Andronaco asked the Authority Members to review the minutes of March 11, 2010.

Page 2, Water Use Committee, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence, "Ms. Lemmon reported that it was decided a response would be too time consuming so the extension request was rescinded".

Page 2, Water Use Committee, 2nd paragraph, remove 3rd sentence, "~~Ms. Lemmon stated that she and Mr. Vorio would like Mr. Hart to clarify his instructions~~".

Page 2, Water Use Committee, 2nd paragraph, 4th sentence, "Mr. Andronaco stated that he, Mr. Vorio, and Ms. Lemmon plan to request a meeting with the DEP to discuss the status of the consent order".

****MR. CIFATTE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2010.**

****MR. AIKENHEAD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION, MR. VIRGULAK.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Setti requested that Oak Hills post the tournament schedule on the website calendar to give players advanced notice. Mr. Grillo replied that he would be able to post the tournament schedule by the end of April.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Grillo reported that revenue for March was only down \$2,000 compared to March 2009, which was a very good month. He noted that considering they had a very bad storm mid-month he is very happy with March 2010 revenue. He noted that April is off to a fantastic start.

Mr. Grillo reported that the new insurance company has already provided a check for \$25,000 to cover the initial cost of damage from the March 13th storm. Mr. Grillo noted that the storm left about 30 trees damaged and some structural repair would be necessary. He stated that Mr. Vorio estimates the total cost of the damage to be around \$30,000.

Mr. Grillo reported that the new web site would be up in the next two weeks and that it would also allow people to purchase golf gift cards online would make purchases convenient and easy.

Mr. Grillo stated that the new food canteen would open no later than May 1st but they must prepare the site before they can put the structure in place.

Mr. Grillo noted that he would distribute the renderings for the proposed miniature golf course for discussion under new business.

Mr. Grillo commented that the finances held out through March and expects to see the revenue numbers start to go up again. He noted that Mr. Aikenhead would review the balance sheet and P & L summary in his financial report.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Vorio stated that it has been a busy month. He reported that the newly hired Assistant Superintendent resigned due to illness. Mr. Vorio advised the Authority Members that he would start a search in the next couple of weeks after they finish current projects and complete some other work.

Mr. Vorio stated that the course opened two days later than expected on Thursday March 18th because the severity of the storm caused over 30 trees to uproot, break or fall down. He stated that the tree company brought in extra crews to Oak Hills and finished cutting and removing the wood in three days.

Mr. Vorio reported that they received four inches of rain from another storm 2 weeks later, which caused significant flooding around the course but did not flood the area near North Taylor Avenue. He stated that areas with new drainpipes handled the water nicely but the areas with old metal pipes flooded, showing the need to continue to replace old drainpipes on the golf course.

Mr. Vorio stated that the irrigation system sustained no damage from the storm. He reported that he had to run the irrigation system to water the greens due to the recent dry weather.

Mr. Vorio stated that he and Mr. Grillo reevaluated the management of the fairways in order to save some water and reduce chemical use. He stated that they also redirected some fairways for safety reasons. He stated that he would institute a 15 foot "no mow" rule to keep grass clippings from going into the course waterways. He advised the Authority Members that he would aerate the front nine greens on April 26 and the back nine on April 27.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Tennis / Restaurant Liaison Committee

Mr. Cifatte reported that Mr. Gocke plans to open the tennis facility on May 1st.

Mr. Aikenhead noted that when asked, Mr. Gocke was not quick to say he wanted to attend the restaurant committee meeting. He advised the Authority Members that Kathy, the owner of Quattro Pazzi, was available to meet with the Committee next Wednesday. He stated that he frequently dines at Quattro Pazzi and he believes business has picked up. Mr. Cifatte passed around the Quattro Pazzi advertisement published in The Hour on Thursday, April 8th. He noted that his contact at the newspaper ran the ad as a favor to him. Mr. Andronaco thanked him for taking time to get an ad in the paper and felt that the restaurant would appreciate the gesture very much.

Greens, Facilities & Water Use Committee

Mr. Kementzides stated that the greens are in good shape with exception of a soggy area on the 10th fairway. Mr. Vorio replied that the area was still drying out.

Mr. Andronaco commented that the entrance building lost some roof shingles in the March storm. Mr. Grillo replied that he expected a repair estimate from a contractor any day.

Ms. Lemmon advised the Members that she and Mr. Vorio decided to wait until the system was running before they write up a list of talking points for Larry Andronaco.

Finance Committee

Mr. Aikenhead advised the Authority Members that there were no big changes in the March financials because the season has barely begun. He reviewed the cash balance on the previous year comparison.

He reported that the low numbers in the P&L financial summary was a partial result of the decision to forgo a 2009 fee increase.

He noted that they received a copy of the letter Mr. Hamilton sent to the Board of Estimate with the information he and Mr. Grillo provided to Mr. Hamilton at their meeting last month.

Human Resources/Policy Committee

Mr. Virgulak asked Ms. Romano if she would be involved in the search for a new Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Andronaco advised the Authority Members that once Mr. Vorio finishes a search for a qualified applicant he would give the matter over to Mr. Grillo who would do his part then contact Ms. Romano.

Legal Committee

Mr. Corsello had no information to report.

Master Plan Committee

Ms. Lemmon had no information to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Andronaco inquired on a start date for the site work on the food canteen location. Mr. Vorio replied that he was expecting Deering Construction to submit an estimate this week. He stated that if the price is too high he would look for an alternative.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Virgulak noted that a couple golf courses around the area offer 2 for 1 golf deals. Mr. Grillo noted that he is looking into a Tee Time marketing company that finds tee times for golfer for a fee as a way to increase the number of golf rounds. Mr. Andronaco remarked that the special rate offered Monday – Thursday 1:00 to 4:00 has increased the number of rounds and didn't feel the "2 for 1" deal would work well at Oak Hills. Mr. Grillo noted that the number of rounds at Oak Hills was comparable to the Fairfield golf course and more than Long Shore.

Mr. Grillo distributed the mini-golf plan renderings from Harris Construction and noted that the full plans with topography are at the office for review. The Authority Members reviewed and discussed the plans and proposed mini golf course. Ms. Lemmon advised the Authority that the current Harris plan design depicts a mini-golf course built on a level site whereas Oak Hills must have a plan that designs around the sites bedrock outcrops and slope because it is too expensive to level the site for a flat mini-golf course. Mr. Grillo replied that first he would prefer to propose the concept of a mini-golf course to the City to find out whether the City of Norwalk would consider financial support for the project before he sends Harris revisions to the plan. The Authority Members and Mr. Grillo discussed their options and determined that they must pursue both avenues simultaneously to determine, soon than later, the proposals viability.

The Authority formed an ad-hoc mini-golf committee with Mr. Virgulak as Chair, Ms. Lemmon, and Mr. Aikenhead. Mr. Andronaco advised the Authority Members he would contact Mr. Goldblatt to ask him to volunteer on the committee.

Ms. Lemmon advised the Authority Members that it would be necessary to set aside money to purchase materials to replace the 130 ft. corrugated pipe and repair the drainage on the 17th fairway this fall.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

****MR. AIKENHEAD MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

****MS. LEMMON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Sheila Sullivan