



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
May 31, 2024
7:00 AM
Village Links/Reserve 22

Board or Commission: Recreation
Meeting: Regular
Quorum: Yes

Date: May 31, 2024
Called to Order: 7:01 a.m.
Adjourned: 8:52 a.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Carol Scott	Chairperson	Present
Nancy Carter	Commissioner	Absent
Tony Coconate	Commissioner	Present
Scott Coldiron	Commissioner	Present
Brian Diver	Commissioner	Present
James Ozog	Commissioner	Present
Tom Slowinski	Commissioner	Present
Also Present:		
Jeff Vesevick	General Manager / Staff Liaison	Present
Steve Thompson	Trustee Liaison	Present
Noel Allen	Director of Golf	Present
Andrew Cross	Golf Course Superintendent	Present
Jon Satinover	Food & Beverage Director	Present
Mark Franz	Village Manager	Present
Greg Martin	Martin Designs	Present

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The May 31, 2024 meeting of the Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:01 a.m. at the Village Links of Glen Ellyn; 485 Winchell Way; Glen Ellyn, Illinois by Chairperson Scott.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 26, 2024

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 26, 2024 MEETING

MOTION BY: Commissioner Coconate

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ozog

RESULT: Unanimous

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**D. STANDING REPORTS**

1. *Manager – Jeff Vesevick* – Manager Vesevick provided an update, noting that while April was not as strong as last year, it still ranked among the top three in the past 10-15 years with over 6,000 rounds played. Rain affected the month, reducing the availability of carts on the 18-hole course to 60%. Food and beverage sales were decent, although the restaurant and bar saw an 18% decrease due to the weather. Despite the challenges, revenue from the amount of play reached \$140,000. Banquet bookings were lacking, but overall revenue was good.

Junior golf camps have started, and the annual June tournament is approaching, featuring contests on Friday and the tournament on Saturday, with some availability remaining for Saturday. On the food and beverage front, Chef Tom now has a Sous Chef, and the restaurant is fully staffed, receiving great reviews. Andrew has been working on the grounds, including protecting young bushes from cicadas and handling other projects.

Overall, April was a good month, and we are pleased to have retained our golfers from the COVID-19 period.

Andrew adds one of the goals this year is adding sand to bunkers, and we are about 50% completed. So far we've added 484 tons of sand to the 18th hole.

2. *Reserve 22 – Jon Satinover* – Director Satinover provided an update, noting the creation of a new position with Kim, which comes with a new salary. He commended the team for effectively managing labor in May. In the kitchen, the cost of goods is at 32%, and the chef is now producing farm-to-table food, which is expected to improve both cost efficiency and food quality.

There will be changes to the wine list next month, and on the liquor side, weekly cocktails are being offered. Staff onboarding and training have been completed, and team members are now familiar with their daily trainers. The team's commitment to customer service was a key factor in selecting returning staff from last year. Overall, we are in a strong position.

3. *Financial – Jeff Vesevick* – Manager Vesevick provided a financial update, noting that despite the rainy weather, golf saw a significant increase of 30% over last year. While food and beverage, particularly banquets, lagged behind, the expenses were higher due to golf shop renovations and equipment upgrades. Although our net position isn't as strong, we accomplished a lot in April and are now heading into our busy season, which should help offset these expenses.

4. *Trustee Liaison – Steve Thompson* – Trustee Thompson provided updates on various matters. At last night's public meeting, which was attended by 40 people, there was a discussion about the train station and underpass project. The project entails a complete replacement of the train station and the construction of an underground pedestrian

tunnel. Additionally, the parking decks on the south side and Crescent Road will need to be reconfigured. Public documentation is available for those who have questions about the project. Congressman Casten announced a \$10 million appropriation request for the train station project as part of the community grant funding for 2025, which will be a significant funding source for the project.

At Tuesday's Village Board meeting, the final segment of the hotel site was sold to the developer of the Chipotle site and approved by the Board, completing the sale of the hotel site. The Board also discussed fire service fees and the EMS contract regarding public safety, approving changes to cover increasing costs. Additionally, the State of Illinois has postponed the grocery tax decision to 2026.

E. 2024 Grounds Presentation – Andrew Cross

Golf Course Superintendent Cross reviewed the 2024 Grounds Presentation (see attached presentation). The following was included in the presentation:

2023 Challenges:

Labor – Cross mentioned that while staffing levels are adequate, the costs are steadily increasing. Retraining older staff continues to be a challenge with training. Additionally, managing weeds in the landscape beds remains an ongoing battle. Last year we experienced a very dry spring, and it appears this year will be similar.

2023 Accomplishments:

- Weed control on the property – we spray in fall.
- Purchased new equipment and the Halfway House received new siding and windows.
- Natives mowed down and spray on ground.
- Retaining wall repaired by the 5 Tee.
- Increased the rolling and minimized in season top
- Water management vis wetting agent improved
- Course cleanup – 10 Tee landscape cleaned up

New equipment purchases include GPS-controlled sprayers, a bedknife grinder, a greens roller, a topdresser, a bunker rake, and two sidewinders.

Audubon Initiatives – We are collaborating with Chef to determine which herbs we can grow. Additionally, the bees have returned this year.

Vandalism Repair:

Cross reminded the Recreation Commission about the vandalism incident on the 15th and 7th (9th) greens on the eve of the Glen Ellyn Open. Staff worked for nine hours to complete same-day repairs, using 153 plugs to fix the damage, which was estimated at \$10,000. The 15th green was reopened for play within three days.

Superintendent Cross reviewed the recent updates, which include new club washers at the first tees and new divot bottle holders at the halfway and first tees.

He also discussed his professional development, noting that he received his GCSAA

Certification in Fall 2022 and his arborist certification in November 2023. He also traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with state and federal officials to discuss the economic and environmental benefits of golf. In Illinois, the golf industry generates \$2 billion annually.

2024 Goals and Visions:

- Playability (every decision leads back to this)
- Continue to open up views across the course
- Refresh landscaping around clubhouse
- Expand use of drip irrigation for flowers where possible
- Safety (establish a safety first culture in the maintenance department, spread throughout)
- Detail work (bench areas, on course beds, etc.)
- Continue to evaluate and further refine our maintenance practices
- Continue Master Plan progress
- Elevate the experience for all patrons

F. Golf Course Master Plan – Greg Martin – Greg Martin discussed the engineering aspects and the next steps for the project. He mentioned that the village held two town halls, where most public comments were positive. They are currently compiling all the feedback. The next step is to review the master plan verification, ensuring that all recommendations align with the outlined budgets and scope of the Master Plan.

Martin outlined the services involved in this phase: preparing preliminary plans, drainage plans, cost estimates for sodding, future development details, and coordinating with V3 to finalize and assess the feasibility of the plan. This marks the first phase of design and development. Once approved, they will move on to prepare the final documents for bidding, which includes understanding the permitting application, construction, and technical documentation.

Chairperson Scott inquired about the duration of the process. Martin responded that it would take about five months. He emphasized the importance of consensus, stating that everyone in the room must agree on the desired outcomes, highlighting the significance of this stage.

Trustee Thompson asked about the level of agreement on the plan and whether staff concurred with the desired outcomes. Manager Vesevick confirmed that they understand the design features, benefits, and playability. He added that once Greg Martin completes the feasibility study, staff will need to decide whether to move forward.

Trustee Thompson inquired if the parking lot is included in the plan, noting that it floods during significant rain. Golf Superintendent Cross emphasized the importance of including the parking lot evaluation in the feasibility plan. Greg Martin confirmed that this aspect falls under stormwater management.

Village Manager Franz shared his experience with the clubhouse project alongside Manager Vesevick, acknowledging the challenges of securing approval amidst

stormwater issues. He expressed support for moving forward with Phase 1, commending the effort to address these concerns. He emphasized the importance of evaluating the irrigation system to avoid tearing up the golf course twice. He suggested considering the 18th hole, parking lot, and sand traps from a design standpoint, noting the significance of maintaining the course's aesthetic, which has served the community well for 60 years.

Financially, he pointed out the need to finance the project in a way that incorporates timing and potential lost revenue. He appreciated the comprehensive approach but stressed the numerous factors that need consideration. Greg Martin agreed, highlighting that irrigation is part of the plan and acknowledging the complexity of these issues. His intent, he noted, is to improve Village Links, not reinvent it.

The Commissioners agreed to proceed with the feasibility study, with the exception of Commissioner Coconate, who opposed the study. He believes the Commission should make a decision and move forward without it, citing the high cost of the study.

Satinover added that without the feasibility study, the Recreation Commission will lack the necessary research to support their decisions.

Manager Vesevick thanked the Commission for their input.

- G. OLD BUSINESS** – Manager Vesevick provided an update on the clubhouse renovations, stating that daily progress is being made, with completion expected by mid-July. Two of the offices are currently awaiting carpet installation.

Superintendent Cross reported that the pipe replacement at Panfish Park has been substantially completed.

- H. NEW BUSINESS** – Manager Vesevick reported that following the passing of Ed Posh, staff proposed renaming the boardroom at Village Links in his honor. The Recreation Commission agreed to rename it the Posh Boardroom.

Manager Vesevick also shared the comments/feedback from the Master Plan public meeting with the Recreation Commission.

- I. NEXT MEETING** - June 28, 2024

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Slowinski motioned and Commissioner Ozog seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Submitted by Elisa Pollina, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by Jeff Vesevick, Staff Liaison