Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the Kewanee Park District Office Board Room, 1095 Cambridge Road Kewanee IL 61443 Thursday August 20, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Present: President Andrew Verstraete, Commissioners Jim Powell, Jim Heberer, Jacque Verscha, Steve Brackett, Director Brian Johnson, Secretary Christy Jackson-Ehnle and Dan Erickson (Superintendent of Golf Course)

Absent: None

President Andrew Verstraete call the meeting to Order. The Minutes of July 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed and discussed. Jim Heberer mentioned that Justin Raver had mentioned the gold course yardage marker and that tells the golfer the distance. He would like to get the golf course measured again the slope rating and the distances checked again just to make sure everything is accurate. Brian said the last time they did a course and slope rating was in the late 90’s. Jim Heber made a motion to have the course measure and slope rated. Jim Powell asked Jim Heberer if he thought it changed that much to have it checked. Jim Powell seconded the motion to have the curse rated. All in Favor. Motioned Passed. Jim Powell motioned to accept the minutes as written. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The July 2020 Financial Statements was presented. The Board reviewed and discussed the Financial Statements. Jim Powell mentioned that the 19th Hole Restaurant sales looked good. Jim Powell motioned to accept the July Financial Statements. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

The July 2020 Bills for Approval were reviewed and discussed. Jim Heberer motioned to approve the bills for August 2020. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Open Business: Dan Erickson said that he is here to talk about two gentlemen Ray VanDeGenacthe and Jonathan Frantzen. He mentioned that its Ray’s job is to run the big grass cutting machine and some of the requirements are to operate it safely around people and he keeps it nice and takes care of it so we don’t have to repair it all the time. He also has to maintain it, so he knows how it operates and what are the parts. About their worth and how much they do operating and keeping up the machinery. His job is worth more than minimum wage and his job is important he operates a $70,000 machine. Andrew Verstraete asked Dan what he is asking for a raise. Dan said would like to keep him above the minimum wage. Jim Powell asked how long he has been here, 5 years. Brian was explaining with the minimum wage increase this would get him $2.00 raise every year for the next five years. Jim Powell believes that he is deserving of $11.00 hour. Jim Powell motioned that Ray get a $1.00-hour raise. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Dan said that Jonathan Frantzen is happy here, and that all the stuff that Dan has to do within late fall all through winter and springtime, he is concerned with Jonathan going to be on 1000 hours of payroll since he starts early in the season. He would like to use him in the winter to work over the 1000 hour mark, there is so much to do in the winter that he and Shane need all the help that they can get, he is a good asset. Jim Powell asked Brian that if he gets over 1000 hours is, he eligible for IMRF. Dan is asking basically for more hours now. Jim Heberer asked for information about this and Brian said he will get him that information. Steve mentioned to table this until next month and list the winter jobs for John. Jonathan Frantzen working more hours was tabled until next month until they get more information.

**Director’s Report and Meeting Minutes**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Thursday August 20, 2020 at 5:30pm. As far as I know everyone will be here.

1. Mike Perva — Mike has completed the Wi-Fi for the 19th Hole and outside the 19th hole. The passwords are Golfcourse2.4 and Golfcourse5. Both are protected with the word 19thhole. I asked Mike if he would like to get compensated for his time. We give him a golf season ticket and a cart, but he never uses them. I suggest that we send him a $500.00 stipend like we have done in the past and forget about the golf passes. What do you think?

**Director Johnson suggested that instead of giving a season golf pass could we give Mike Perva every year a $500.00 stipend for compensation for the internet work he does for the park district. Jim Powell motioned to give Mike Perva a $500.00 stipend check for this year. Jacque Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motioned Passed.**

**Jim Powell mentioned that we are using Packee’s equipment to clean up Chautauqua Park from the last storm we had, he would like to see Denny Packee get something. Brian said that he already gave Denny & Scott Packee gift certificates. Denny has given us the Mini X to use which has been valuable to us. He would also like to thank KHS football team, we had about 10 players come and help clean up Chautauqua. When McDonalds heard that KHS was coming out to help they bought everyone lunch & all the volunteers. Also, would like to thank Barb Salisbury, Linda Hove & Jerry VanDeVelde who have been there everyday with rakes and would like to give them a $25.00 gift certificate. Jim Heberer has been out there raking leaf’s also, thank you! He would like to get the certificates out to them and was asked about sending a thank you letter to McDonald’s and Brian said he would. JR asked Brian about getting help for trees and grinding stumps out & the miscellaneous trees that are so far gone that need taken down the rest of the way, maybe allow him $2,000.00. Jim Powell asked if he was going to get Ricky to do it. Jim Heberer made a motion to give JR a $2000 budget to finish up Chautauqua Park. Jim Powell seconded the motion for the $2000 budget to clean up Chautauqua. All in Favor. Motion Passed.**

**Brian mentioned the balance in The EE Baker Trust $1,115,189.70 this is also a security blanket as well. Jim Powell asked about the maintenance, the pole barn if we were worried about finances, we would have this to take $20,000 if needed to help, it is nice to have.**

1. Taylor's Way — We did receive a report from Taylor's Way agreeing that the cottonwood tree and the Mulberry Tree at the entrance should come down.

This will be helpful if we are questioned as to why we took those trees down.

1. K.H.S. Ground Use Contract — I have sent out the contract for KHS Sports this year. If you notice we are in the third year of a three-year contract, so I knew there would be no discussion.as to if we should raise the price or not. We may hear back that they do not feel they should have to pay the full amount as they never used the fields for a lot of their sports. My argument is a contract is a contract whether you use the facilities or not. They have NOT said this yet, I just want you to be prepared if it does come up.

**Brian mentioned that also they are switching the season on sports they will be going on until summer during our recreational sport season.**

1. COVID19 —As we all watch TV and listen to the radio, we hear the Henry County Covid19 cases have reached the 250 mark and that Peoria County has been put on the Governors Watch List because of rising cases, we must wonder if this will ever end or if we are going to be hit with another wave or a new strain. The Governor’s Office has released the new guidelines for all youth and adult recreational sports, including, but not limited to, school-based sports (IHSA — IESA) programs. A copy in enclosed.

**Brian mentioned that he had a couple of spectators wanting a golf cart, you can or cannot permit attendance on the course, but you should not be renting golf carts out. This person said that he has a disability, and this does not say to allow a cart for a disability you would have to go back to phase 2. Brian rented him a cart, and anyone that is physically disables he is going to rent them a cart and will talk to Tim Atwell about renting carts. Jim Heberer noted that the guideline says that no spectators should be allowed to rent a cart but not cannot check with Mr. Atwell about renting carts to make sure.**

1. Interstate Fence — Troy Waller has sent some ideas for the front porch at the 19th Hole Patio. He measured up the distance and came up with some ideas. I do not believe that this is what you are looking for but some comments on this would be helpful. I also believe that Troy will complete the Windmont Park Fencing in August sometime.

Jim Powell asked about the guard rail between #16 & #17, Jim Heberer suggested that Brian check it out when he, Dan & Jerry go out on the course and discuss it along with the tee markers. Andrew Verstraete suggested that Brian and Dan go out on the course and golf at least once or twice a month and observe what needs to be done.

1. Memorials — I have several memorials that are being requested with money to go along with them. Looking for some acceptable ideas on how and where to spend this money...
   1. Earl Stout - $430.00
   2. Francis Smith (Todd Smith) - $500.00
   3. Leo Swearingen - $905.00
   4. Roy Cordrey - $1250.00
   5. Ron Oldeen - $3510.00
   6. Paul Mowbray - $4355.00

**Brian mentioned that there is already a lot of memorials and where and what does he add. Andrew Verstraete suggested that we get a project and do it. Jim Heberer mentioned upgrade the lighting, the outlets and a second fountain at Windmont Park, what would that cost. Brian said he thought around $10,000, we also have to get the families to agree, this money cannot be spent until we have the family’s blessings. Brian said how is everyone going to know who paid for this, Andrew Verstraete suggested to place a plaque letting them know who paid for the fountain, placing the plaque in concrete acknowledging them. Brian said he would get with the families and ask them what they think and if they want, they can have their donation back.**

1. Bank Lease — We Will pay off the equipment lease this October and am looking for suggestions for a possible new lease in 2021. I have asked Dan and JR to come up with their lists, as far as equipment goes. Dan has suggested giving him and JR a range that they can spend on USED equipment. He feels they can get more going down that road. We also have talked about...
2. Fencing for the 19th Hole Patio
3. Pole Building with wash bay for chemicals
4. Maintenance Truck
5. New Playground Swings
6. Windmont Park Tennis Courts
7. Trees for golf course

**Jim Heberer mentioned that we were going to see what we have to spend between the tax money, G.O. and what will be left in the account. Jim Powell ask if they were going to get some estimates for the pole building. Brian said that they will get some estimates, but Dan wants to do the inside work himself. Brian mentioned that Dan bats for his employees but asking for a raise when they just got a $1.75 HR raise and with the minimum raise increase, they are getting good raises. Asking for Jonathan Frantzen to work this winter and some of the problem we have in the winter is that Dan & JR just can’t take their vacation in the summer, they will be using their vacation and won’t be here and they’re vacation is owed to them. Last month Dan came to the meeting and ask for more money for Jonathan now he wants him to work all winter, who is going to be next.**

**Steve Brackett asked if we are going to keep the 19th hole open longer last year it was open October. Brian said yes mid-October and what would they want to do, in past they stayed open, but the numbers drop. Let’s see what happens after Labor Day.**

**Jim Heberer mentioned to get a list of Dan & Jr’s priorities then give them a range to spend. Andrew Verstraete said that is what he was talking about months ago, each department having its own budget. Brian said that he would invite them to the next meeting to discuss their priorities and a price range they are comfortable with. Jim Heberer said he would be comfortable giving them a high range because they are tight with the money. Brian said if you gave them $40,000, they probable would buy extra that is needed. Andrew Verstraete said that these two know the cost and would not blow the money. Jim Heberer was thinking $30,000 but does not know what they need. Brian said that if they are going to work on a solid project them give them a third person for the winter to get that done. Andrew Verstraete said that he would like to work on the pro shop, a third person would be great for that. Jim Heberer suggest getting some one in there to draw up the plans and get some measurements and move forward if the board decides.**

1. Dan Erickson — Dan went to Pontiac to help a fellow greenskeeper, and good friend at his golf course. He stayed 2 days grinding their reels and helping in many ways. The people in Pontiac wanted to pay him but he asked for equipment in trade instead. Dan came home with a fairway aerator (6foot-wide), a utility cart and several other tools. He is going back in the future to see what else they have, to accommodate the aerator. I initially charged Dan with 2 days off, but I am taking them back off the record as I feel he was working for the Kewanee Park District, not on vacation.

9.) Dan — I also talked to Dan and Shane about removing the old tee markers and replacing them with newer ones that are not sponsored. They are looking for ideas and I hope you all are as well. We also talked about removing all the benches on the course and possible only replacing a half dozen or so that have no memorial on them. This will cause some damage to all tees and create extra work but should be worth it in the long run.

10.) Purchasing Airifier —Dan would like the Board to consider purchasing a new ProCore 648 Airifier and a drag box for the greens. This would eliminate the hiring of the airifring company and the guy that picks up the cores for us. They come twice a year and charges us $2,600.00 per visit, so this purchase would pay for itself in 5 years. You have already committed to Windmont Park fence project (which Troy Waller said is 2 week out yet) so you need to look at your balances in the General Obligation Accounts to see if you feel comfortable with this or if it should wait for the lease purchase.

11.) G.O. Accounts —2018 G.O. Balance is $5,688.16 and the 2019 G.O.

Account Balance is $141,425.42. The Windmont Fence Project is

$37,260.00. If you agree to both projects the total amount coming out of G.O. is $61,851.27. This would close out the 2018 account and leave a balance in the 2019 G.O. Account of $85,262.31.

**Jim Heberer asked Brian if he was comfortable with the balance $85,262.31 in the G.O. Account and Brian said yes because we should be getting our second installment of the Henry County taxes around the first week of December, usually this installment gets us through the winter but this year we hadn’t had the pool open and the expenses or the programs or fishing derby. Jim Powell asked if we should put projects on a lease or get them done without. Brian said that he thought we were looking good and should not put them on a lease and looking more to put that for the wash bay. Let us get the cost for the building and wash bay then tell JR & Dan this is what you have to spend. Andrew Verstraete said that they both should have budgets so like Dan would not have to ask to purchase because they know their budget. Jim Powell mad a motion to let Dan purchase the Airifier for 24,591.27. Steve Brackett seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.**

12.) Jerry Bowers — I received a second letter from Jerry Bower asking the Board to consider placing a set of tees off blocks in the front of several fairways. It also explains his reasoning for the request. He is asking for your consideration.

**Jim Heberer thought by adding the tees maybe it would get more people out here to golf or to get the younger kids like with their parents like with my kids they can just go up here and hit, don’t know how to get that word out. Jim Powell said #12 get more for that. Dan mentioned that you can put a set of tee markers in the middle of the fairway now they are going to have to be moved every time its mowed and that is going to be time consuming and costly but if that will generate revenue to support it then good to go. Steve Brackett suggested to put in ground tee markers. Dan said that is a good idea. Steve said that way you will not have a maintenance problem. Jim Heberer mentioned that we have a lot of seniors come out to golf, but he would like to see the 7, 8-year-old kids have a beginner’s tee. Maybe not in the fairways may somewhere in an offset. Jim Heberer suggested that Brian Dan & Jerry take a tour and see where they would want them to be. Andrew Verstraete suggested that they play golf and see where they want them. Steve Brackett mentioned the work involved and Dan said a lot less work than having to move the tee markers every time they mow. Jim Heberer motioned that Brian, Dan & Jerry Bowers go play golf and agree together where to put the markers where they would like them. Jackie Verscha seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed. Jim Heberer asked Dan if JR could get his field airified and the school soccer field airified and Dan said yes, he would help and run the machine. He needs to seed at northeast, and he can get the right variety of seed needed.**

13.) Kevin Skoglund—Also wanted to report we did receive a letter from Kevin Skoglund addressing the future of the Windmont Park Lighting and how we could downsize it to keep it going.

With nothing further to discuss Director Johnson turned the meeting back to President Andrew Verstraete, he asked if anyone had anything to discuss.

Jim Powell asked why keep liberty park and just that corner anymore since we do not have anything there, let Kewanee have it. Brian said that we can and remove the playground equipment we always owned that end, but we provide the playground equipment and upkeep. If we take the playground equipment out the neighbors are going to be upset.

Jim Heberer asked JR about northeast pool, he said it hasn’t been open this year and was going to talk to Brian about seeing if Dooley’s could come out and run the pumps because he was worried about bearings or something be compacted. Jim Heberer asked about the couples playday, its Saturday September 26th.

Andrew Verstraete asked Brian how we are doing on activities passes, Brian went got his list and read off the passed that were handed out.

Christy mentioned that comcast finally gave a quote on internet for the Windmont Shelter and it would of cost $148.00 monthly, double what the original quote was with a two-year contract, without the extensive construction. Brian asked do we want to go back to the old security system. We could have the same thing as northeast for less. The board agreed not to go with comcast.

With nothing further to discuss Steve Brackett motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jim Heberer seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Passed.