

RICHTER PARK AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
Virtual meeting via Zoom
TUESDAY, May 19, 2020, 6:00 PM

In compliance with Connecticut General Statute § 1-225, these minutes are being provided for informational purposes and are subject to approval of the Richter Park Authority Board of Directors at its next regular meeting.

Chairman John Priola opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Members present: John Priola, George Radachowsky, Don LoRusso, Al Mead, Bob Eberhard, Leroy Diggs, Wendy Grispin and Judy Griemsmann.

Also present: Karen Madaus, Business Manager, Jonathan Pinto, Head Professional and Rob Dorsch, Golf Course Superintendent.

Absent: Pete Siecienski, Paul DiNardo and Felix Bonacci.

Approve minutes of previous meetings

Mr. Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from the April RPA meeting on April 21st. Mr. Diggs seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Public participation

James Sarath spoke in reference to the email that was sent today regarding resident rates and golf course conditions.

Correspondence

Mr. Priola read an email submitted by James Sarath regarding resident rates and golf course conditions.

Arts Association Report

There will be a "virtual" member arts show this spring. There have been 32 entries so far (as of today).

Musicals at Richter

There will be a MAR board meeting Thursday night to decide if there will be a 2020 season. Mr. Bria asked the RPA if the MAR season is cancelled, can the 2020 rent be waived. Also, MAR has been approached by three dance organizations about possibly using the stage for recitals this summer.

Mr. Mead made a motion to waive MAR rent for the 2020 season if no shows happen. Mr. LoRusso seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Mead is looking for recommendations from Mr. Bria regarding fees that the dance organizations may pay to use the stage and then a percentage that would be split between MAR and the RPA. Mr. Bria will get information to send to the RPA.

MPC-Richter House

No update.

FORe

There will not be a raffle this year. The May 28th “virtual” breakfast has already raised \$2,000 (with \$800 in expenses). Reminders have been sent out as well. The FORe board is waiting to see the status of the Danbury Amateur regarding fundraising for the event.

Business Manager’s Report

All May and June 2020 outings have either moved to a later date in the season or have opted to postpone until 2021. There was some discussion as to how this will effect the season, but the economic results of these moves won’t be known until the fall.

Head Golf Professional

Rounds and driving range numbers are up from last year. There has been a great response to the pin pad for the driving range instead of using tokens. There were six straight days of 200+ golfers last week. The staff has been reduced greatly, and Jonathan and Joe have been starting on most days.

There has been a slight decrease in Pro Shop sales, but we’re not as far behind as anticipated Memorial Day weekend sale is coming soon.

Grounds and Greens

Staff is currently restricted to 40% of normal, and overtime is much lower at this time than in year’s past. With a smaller staff and current CDC/CSGA guidelines, only the basic day-to-day things are getting done.

Financial report

Mr. LoRusso discussed the current financial situation including the bank accounts and reconciliation. Income is up due to being able to stay open when other golf courses are closed. We are catching up on City loan payments and are current on our payables.

Mr. Mead made a motion to accept the financial report and have it put on file. Mr. Diggs seconded. **Motion pass unanimously.**

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee will continue to look at employee medical benefits, as well as employee benefits in general, and will present at the June or July RPA meeting.

Chairman's Comments/Report

Discussed how Art Haddad's input at the RPA meeting in April 2020 mentioned other golf courses which are funded by their City, which Richter Park is not. Additionally, we are allowing walkers seven days a week currently. We are also at in-season resident rates and offering a special rate from 12pm – twilight special on weekends and holidays as well. We are trying to take the competitors into consideration and can adjust things as we go.

The RPA should be supporting the Richter Park staff. All staff should wear face masks around the clubhouse. Mr. Diggs mentioned that the Café staff is talking about moving to wearing face masks and gloves as well.

The Café needs updated certification through the City to re-open the patio areas. New outdoor seating configuration needs certification and approval as well.

Old business

None.

New business

None.

Mr. Mead moved to adjourn at 7:58pm. Ms. Grispin seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**