

OCEAN STATE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Director's Meeting

DATE: December 1, 2014 TIME: 5:29 PM

PLACE: North Kingstown Golf Course
North Kingstown, RI

PRESENT:

Trudy Dufault	Co-Founder
Pat Dickson	President
Vacant	Vice-President
Luanne Googins	Treasurer
Liz Duguay	Recording Secretary
MaryAnn MacLaughlin	Tournament Co-Chairperson
Jenn Moretti	Corresponding Secretary

ABSENT: Chris Anderson Tournament Co-Chairperson

GUESTS: Chris Trenholme (Handicap Chairperson), Erin Mernick, Carolyn Brown, Jackie Booth (Past President) Kathy Mis, (Rules Co-Chair), Peg Cherenzia,

CALL TO ORDER: The newly elected President welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 5:29 PM. The President also handed in her resignation as Vice-President, a position she recently held and is now vacant.

NEW BUSINESS: Due to the timing of the minutes being handed out and not having enough time to review the minutes for comments before today's meeting, it was suggested that the minutes for both the October meeting and the November banquet be tabled until the next meeting and any comments be sent to the President.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Handed out both the October's and November's Financial Monthly reports. The bills for both the Players Tournament and the banquet are still pending, for the Players Tournament still waiting for the bill from Montaup CC and from McGovern's Restaurant and recently received credit card bill for expenses for wrapping paper, embroidery from the Banquet.

CHAIR REPORTS:

HANDICAP REPORT:

Provided a written report outlining suggestions to the Handicap Breakdown as follows: Changes suggested for next year is to raise the handicap index for the Championship Division to 0-12; A Division – 12.1 – 20; B Division – 20.1 – 29 and C Division 29.1 and above and the maximum handicap someone can take would be 36, and for two person team tournaments, establish a handicap for the tournament by using the handicap from the lower handicapper and to make sure the divisions are divided evenly. Only put teams with handicaps having the handicap of 0-12 in the Championship Division regardless of combined handicaps. It was also suggested to have flights in some divisions where there are a lot of people in that division. In some cases you would pay a third of the field in each division. In larger divisions you would be paying more people but still paying a third in each flight. One comment was "If you are going to increase the Championship Division to 12 than you need to pay out more in that division". Another suggestion was to establish flights for larger divisions to make it more equitable for the players. The President suggested to post a breakdown of the divisions on the check-in table for players to view. The flights and handicap breakout should apply to both individual play and two person teams. For 4 person teams divisions are put together by the two lowest handicaps & divide the divisions that way. That way people with the same handicaps will be put in the same divisions. The handicap Chairperson will handle and be responsible for preparing the handicap breakdown sheet that will be posted at the in check-in table.

TOURNAMENT
CHAIRPERSON:

Wanted to mention that the rapport with the Golf Pros at the last two tournaments which were held at Wannamoisett and Metacomet were outstanding.

APPEALS:

No Report

WEBSITE:

Everything is going good. Next year's schedule will be posted as soon as it is ready. Also looking to have a replacement & will continue handling the website until someone is selected or volunteers.

STATISTICIAN:

No report.

RULES COMMITTEE:

The Committee Co-Chair provided a written report stating that there were no real problems or controversies with rules this season. Commended the Tournament committee for posting brief rules educational pages at most of the tournaments. Some of the major concerns of the Rules Committee is to ensure that any questions or rules issue be reported to the committee as soon as possible even if the rules Chairs are not present at the tournaments. That way the issue can be addressed as soon as possible and an answer be reported back to the member if not resolved immediately. Some members are waiting too long to follow-up on rules questions and some are receiving incorrect rules information by not asking a committee member first. Members need to be encouraged to ask more rules questions. The committee also would like to keep track of where problems with the rules occur so that if there is a recurring problem, there could be some education to improve the problem, especially if there a member is disqualified.

TOURNAMENT
DIRECTOR:

Recently sent out a tentative Tournament schedule via email to the Board for review and comment prior to posting on the website. Reviewed tournament costs and made adjustments accordingly. Only one course hasn't finalized their costs. Also Gift Certificates will not be acceptable at the following tournaments: Foxwoods' Lake of Isles GC, Mohegan Sun GC, Carnegie GC and any of the Par 3 Courses. A question was raised as to why the male/female event in October had low attendance. It was believed that there were several conflicting events being held around the same time. In 2015, there will be three male/female events as one was eliminated due to low participation. Also the entry fee for Lake of Isles will again be increased to \$85 for members and \$95 for non-members. Also look into the practicality of keeping the 10 stroke differential as most players select their partners based upon friendship and not due to differential strokes. Based upon previous years it appears the 10 stroke differential may not really matter. It was mentioned that as a reminder Handbooks should be ready to be mailed by mid-February.

Since Acushnet Valley CC does not have any banquet facilities or facilities for serving food to large groups, it was suggested to have box lunches available after the round. Other changes to the schedule include at the Back Nine Par 3 Tournament, there will be no lunches served however, players will have the option of ordering off the menu and will receive a \$5.00 chit towards their lunch; a brunch will be served at the Mohegan Sun Tournament and the entry fee for Carnegie Abbey will be \$75.00 for members and \$85 for non-members. It was requested to change the starting time for the tournament at Crystal Lake Event from 8 AM to 9 AM to allow for travel time. A question was raised if changing the handicap percentage from 80% to 75% handicap of a player's handicap is based upon 36 handicap or the actual handicap of a player as some players with high handicaps will be playing at a disadvantage. It was mentioned that the reason the Board went to a handicap maximum of 36 and using 80% of their handicap was to prevent someone from getting 3 strokes on Par 3 holes, which has happened in the past. It was suggested to allow a players with high handicaps a maximum of 40 handicap but limit Par 3 holes to 2 strokes. Another suggestion was to have a handicap maximum of 40 and applying 75% of the handicap.

A motion was made to accept the Tournament Director's Report and all Chair reports as presented.

VOTED: to approve the Tournament Director's Report and all the Chair's reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

Guest Attendance – The president mentioned that at future meetings the protocol for obtaining input and comments from the attendees will be to ask if anyone has any questions or anything they wish to ask, but will not allow an open comment period and that the members will not be a participant in the discussions of the general business of the Board meetings. The other changes will be not to allow one person take up most of meeting discussing their issue, until everyone else has the chance to speak on a topic.

Replacing VP- Board needs to make a decision to replace the Vice President. One of the Board members objected to how the process of selecting candidates for Vice-President was handled. That is appeared to be somewhat closed and did not allow for those who may be interested in the position to be considered or for the Board to discuss who maybe good candidates. The Board should have come up with a list of names suitable for the position and then

speak to those individuals to see who maybe interested. Suggestion was to have some transparency from the Board to come up with a better idea in soliciting candidates for positions, maybe suggest posting on the website during the nomination period if current board members are interested in serving additional terms. The Board considered and voted on two options for the vice-presidency position. The results of the vote (4-2) in favor of Jenn Moretti as Vice President and Erin Mernick as Corresponding Secretary replacing Jenn Moretti.

A motion was made to appoint Jenn Moretti as vice-president and Erin Mernick as Corresponding Secretary for the remainder of the respective terms.

VOTED: to approve the appointments of Jenn Moretti as Vice-President and Erin Mernick as Corresponding Secretary.

The Board has nominated the following members for Committee Chairs and the President will contact them to see if they are interested in the positions ; Carolyn Brown as the Nominating Co-chair, along with Janina McClosky ; Elaine Crawford- Statistician; Chris Trenholme- Handicap Committee ; Vickie Johnson- Scholarship Committee; Maryann MacLaughlin & Chris Anderson – Tournament Co-Chairs; Sandy Harper-Photography; Jackie Booth – Website. Those accepting the nominations will be officially appointed at the next meeting.

Storage Unit – It was recommended to rent a storage unit as most of the Associations belongings that have been collected over the years are scattered amongst board members and there should be a centralized area to keep everything together. It was suggested to get rid of some of the stuff or material that is not needed and to digitize all the documents.

Survey Monkey- Develop a survey to send out to members for obtaining suggestions and ideas for future tournament activities and see if there are any suggestions on improvement for the Association or the Board members to consider. Maybe send out the past survey or use the previous survey as a guide.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sending info to AD's of the High Schools regarding membership for young women- The president will reach out to Lisa Clark, a OSWGA member as well as a school teacher and Golf Coach about setting protocol for next year to present information on OSWGA Junior membership at their annual meeting.

Scholarship Criteria - It appears one of the candidates may have either have moved to a neighboring state and is no longer RI residents even though they were given scholarships last year. It was suggested that since membership criteria also doesn't require RI residency, than the same criteria should be allowed for scholarship criteria, therefore the residency criteria for being eligible for the scholarship should be removed. Also, the Treasurer will be contacting a guidance counselor from a school that has been successful in recruiting scholarship recipients to discuss process for obtaining scholarship information.

A motion was made to remove "RI Resident" from Scholarship criteria.

VOTED to no longer require RI residency as a Scholarship Criteria.

Banquet Comments & Suggestions- Some of the complaints were that there was not enough servers and help and that by the time some tables were served the food was cold.

2015 Handbook – Jackie Booth, requested that any comments changes or suggestions from the 2014 handbook be sent to her, listing the page number. It was suggested to have a two-sided page just listing the tournament events and dates for quick & easy accessibility.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. No date was set for the next Board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Duguay
Recording Secretary

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