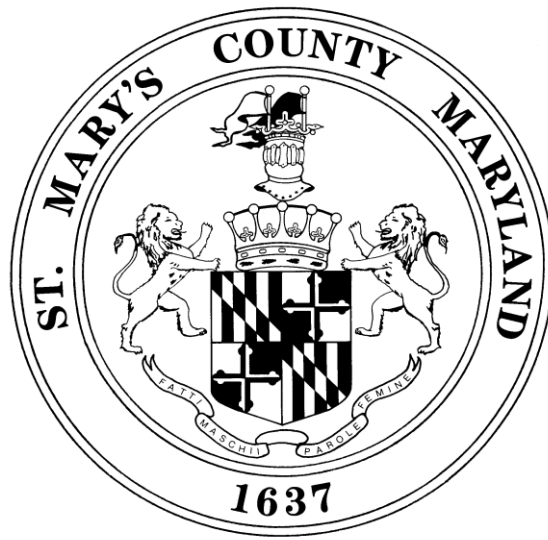


Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board



2020 Annual Report

David Phalen, Chair
James Hodges, Vice-Chair
Terry Black
Peter Delman
Patrick Dugan
Bernie Kneeland
Greg Weaver

Arthur Shepherd, Director, Department of Recreation

February 14, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Board

The Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board (WSGCAB) is comprised of seven (7) community members (one of whom is a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board) appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to provide "advice and assistance concerning the Wicomico Shores Golf Course and on issues, fees and policies relating to the Golf Course."

Calendar year 2019 Board members: David Phalen, Chair; James Hodges, Vice-Chair; Terry Black (beginning December); Peter Delman; Tommy Dixon (through October); Patrick Dugan; and Bernie Kneeland; Greg Weaver (Recreation and Parks Board member).

Meeting Attendance*

Members	Jan 22	Jul 22	Oct 21	Dec 16	Total
D.Phalen			A		3
J.Hodges				A	3
Terry Black	--	--	--		1
P.Delman					4
T.Dixon	A	A	A	--	0
P.Dugan	A	A			2
B. Kneeland					4
Greg Weaver	A				3

*NOTE: The scheduled April meeting of the board was canceled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2020

- The Board had a quorum for all four meetings held in calendar year 2020
- After brief closures in accordance with state and county guidelines in the spring, both the golf course and the Riverview restaurant reopened in April to provide services and some of the earliest recreational opportunities available to citizens of St. Mary's County during the initial stages of the COVID pandemic.
- Despite pandemic safety policies limiting tee times and group sizes, golf course usage compared favorably to numbers from 2019, outperforming many reported national golf course usage statistics and projections.
- The CIP project to pave and expand cart paths was largely completed within budget projections.

- Scheduled equipment purchases were completed through CIP funding, assuring continued best practices in maintaining the course as a valuable recreational enterprise for the Southern Maryland region.

PROBLEMS, CONCERNS & CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED OR EXPECTED

- Course manager Nick Isom's decision to step down from that position at the end of 2020 will create a transition period as a new manager is hired and gets up to speed with course and restaurant operations while assuring the facilities continue to provide high-level services and enjoyable recreational activities.
- Maintaining the course in optimal condition to allow for a positive experience for golfers (particularly during peak seasons of play) remains a continuing challenge. Several greens maintenance concerns will require course management to remain as proactive as possible.
- Providing staff of both the course and the restaurant with the tools needed for successful operations and upkeep remains an ongoing challenge.
- As county businesses and recreational facilities expand offerings in the expected wind-down of the pandemic, maintaining fees and prices for the course and restaurant at levels that meet current and anticipated future budgetary needs without discouraging community use of the available facilities will require ongoing oversight and discussion.
- Both the course and the restaurant will need to continue exploring new options for making the facility a more inviting destination for families and other groups seeking a wide variety of recreational and entertainment opportunities in St. Mary's County

PLANS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

- Completion of Capital Improvement Projects from 2020 (such as the finishing touches on paved cart paths and irrigation and drainage repairs) should take place early in 2021.
- A priority for additional CIP funding (if available) will include repairs and updates to maintenance facilities to ensure the condition of the course remains a top option for recreational activities for citizens of the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- The board will continue to discuss and make recommendations for the future regarding the CIP plan of action for the golf course and restaurant.
- Staff and management will continue to work with the board as needed to promote community interest and usage of the facility and its programs.
- The course manager will work to assure adequate, qualified grounds crew staffing is provided to maintain and continually work to improve the physical environment of the course.
- The board and staff of the course and restaurant will continue to work with the Recreation and Parks division to seek out appropriate opportunities for Wicomico Shores to help serve the public need for diverse healthy and sustainable recreational activities in St. Mary's County to enhance the health and economic well-being of the community.