

LWGA Minutes for Meeting 02/17/09

Meeting was called to order at 6:10PM by Chris Lorusso in the McManus Room at the Westport Public Library.

Present: Linda Clair, Patty Kondub, Jean Murdoch, Daisy Fischtrom, Elaine Horelik, Jane Dowley, Anne Krygier, Chris Lorusso, Suzanne Goldstein, Marion Potter, Greta Solomon.

Chris started the meeting announcing the changes at Longshore for 2009. Parks & Rec will be sending a package in the mail, but here are the golf highlights:

Longshore Updates:

1. We all need to get new hand pass & new photo. Longshore has a new reservation system called the Chelsea System. We need to register our credit or bank debit card to reserve t-times via phone or online.
2. Cancellation Policy: 24 hours ahead of time, otherwise Longshore charges you full price. The person booking t-time is responsible.
3. Westport residents can now book t-times 5 days in advance (last year it was 3 days in advance).
4. Non-residents can book t-times 2 days in advance.
5. 6:30AM you can book t-times by phone. After 7:30AM you can book on-line for that day!
6. If someone in your party cancels, you can add another person at the last minute without a penalty. Anne K asked about a last minute cancellation due to emergency. Chris said she thought Longshore would probably work with the person.
7. Longshore is no longer having starter times! It was murmured if it is going to be tough to walk-on? (Patty Kondub, LWGA Secretary, is not sure who said that).
8. Rates are not going up at Longshore! Rounds were down in 2008. As a matter of fact, LWGA never filled times past 9:26 or 9:36.

LWGA Business:

1. LWGA signup sheets are due 5 days in advance. We put them up two weeks in advance. Barbara Downey removes sheets on Wednesdays to turn in Thursday morning. If we do not fill t-times, the town will take them. If you can not play at the last minute, call Barbara and the first tee.
2. Trophy Week: The LWGA Board has decided we return to "Trophy Tuesday"-----thus to qualify for a Trophy you must play on a Tuesday. Let's keep Trophy Tuesday special, and also LWGA hopefully will be more assured of filling our Tuesday t-times.
3. By-law change: The LWGA Board proposed we open LWGA membership to non-residents. Model this on Smith Richardson for membership, but greens fees are still guest fee rate (apx. \$50 for 18 holes). Westport residents still access t-times first. LWGA t-times will not be increasing in quantity. The Golf Advisory Committee (GAC) realized this is in the best interest of the town. The LWGA has been in existence since 1960.

LWGA had 86 members in 2008. We need to grow our membership. At next membership meeting on 3/17 at 9AM we can vote on admitting non-residents to LWGA.

Chris will email the current membership the proposed change to the by-laws:

Amendment to ARTICLE III, Section 2, Line 1 be altered to read:

"Membership shall be honorary or active and limited to ANY WOMAN INTERESTED IN JOINING LWGA, RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT, interested in playing golf."

***NOTE: on 3/5 via email Caryl Beatus had an excellent change to this proposal, which the Board agreed with and proposed at the 3/17 membership meeting:

“Membership shall be honorary or active and limited to ANY WOMAN INTERESTED IN JOINING LWGA, RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT, MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WESTPORT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.”

4. Handicaps: Daisy Fischtrom asked if there is a cap on handicap? Chris Lorusso said there is no cap on handicap since it is not in the by-laws---but it is 40.2 for tournaments and we play to that index. There used to be a handicap restriction but not anymore. A long time ago you used to have to play in the 9 hole league prior to joining the 18 hole league. Daisy made a point that we should note that handicaps are involved in tournaments.

5. Publicity: Sean Doyle (LMGA) and Chris Lorusso will coordinate publicity about non-residents eligibility to join the LMGA & LWGA once our membership approves this change to the by-laws. Sean advocated to GAC (Fred Hunter chairs the GAC) that non-residents join LWGA and play during our Tuesday t-times. The LMGA already allows non-residents to be members of LMGA!! Chris will also reach out to Oak Hills, Sterling, Smith, etc.

6. Dates to note:

April will be “Come Out and Play”. One does not have to be a member of LWGA to play during our t-times. This is to encourage new members.

May 5th is our first tournament.

April 21 is aeration.

7. Misc:

Chris also suggested LWGA members take turns being starter on the tee, similar to a “hostess”, to explain what the tournament is about and welcome new members. Chris will talk to Caryl Beatus about coordinating this effort.

Member/Guest: we are still looking for a chair. Tentative date is 7/21. We are waiting for SNEWGA’s championship date. We do not want to conflict if possible.

At 7:05 Patty Kondub made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Suzanne Goldstein seconded the motion.