

Kentucky Section PGA Board Meeting

March 21, 2010

Holiday Inn North – Lexington

I. Call to Order

President Steve Shafer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. (EDT)

Present were: Gary Bebelaar, Carmello Benassi, Russ Johnson, Ralph Landrum, Bill Moore, Chris Osborne, Mike Riley, Bryan Slone, Mike Thomas and Kelly Williams. Also present were Dick Bradow, PGA Employment Consultant and staff members Mark Hill, Bill Coomer, Aaron Kincade, Barbara Peak, and Patsy Fitzpatrick.

II. Minutes

Mr. Bebelaar stated he believed we should consider either a transcription of all dialogue for Board meetings or to just record motions, etc. per Roberts Rules. Mr. Thomas stated he had spoken with Christine Garrity and she had recommended if the section is going to post minutes online, we post a summary in lieu of minutes. Mr. Riley stated that he had spoken with Darrell Bock and Christine Garrity, and that they had indicated the current form in which we are recording our minutes is basically a summary. Mr. Shafer noted the item was under Old Business and would be discussed later.

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the December 9, 2009 minutes as presented. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

III. Financial Report

Mr. Osborne referred the Board to the financial statement and notes, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. He noted the Tee Pass sales figure and sales were down compared to the previous year. Mr. Hill noted that with 307 Tee Pass units sold to date, the goal would be to realize a small profit for the year, but, it would most likely not meet the budgeted level of net revenue. Discussion followed regarding promotion of the Tee Pass. Mr. Bebelaar inquired about sponsorship receivables, and if we had received payment from any of the sponsors. Mr. Hill stated payment had not been received to date.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

IV. President's Report

Mr. Shafer stated his primary message at tomorrow's meeting would be to convey to members and apprentices that they are the key to success at their facilities. He requested that each member of the Board convey an important message and challenge to the membership during their reports. He thanked Ralph Landrum for his work with the Growth of the Game Committee and Kelly Williams for his work on the Growth of the Game Summit and for the Education program for tomorrow's meeting. He noted that the Finance Committee, with assistance from Mark Hill, is drafting an updated financial controls document listing details of the KPGA's internal controls and review/audit procedures. He noted that the officers and Mark Hill would attend the PGA District 10 Meeting in South Carolina in April, at which the candidates for PGA Secretary would be interviewed. Mr. Bebelaar asked if any of the candidates had contacted the KPGA's delegates. Mr. Shafer stated he had received very limited correspondence to date.

V. District 10 Report

Mr. Thomas reported he recently returned from the Middle Atlantic Section's spring meeting, and it was interesting to note that the Virginia State Golf Association and Maryland Golf Association were present at the meeting and encouraged the members to continue to work to promote and grow the game. Mr. Thomas noted that Mike Ahrensbrak from the Middle Atlantic Section would succeed him as the District 10 Director. He noted the We are Golf Initiative, a joint effort between the PGA of America, GCSAA, CMAA, and NGCOA. He thanked the staff for supporting the Pros Fore Clothes Foundation through the collection effort at tomorrow's meeting.

KPGA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2010

Page 2

VI. PGA Employment Services

Mr. Bradow noted that 170 KPGA members and apprentices had completed the PGA Compensation Survey, and the section had finished seventh among all sections in terms of participation. He noted that four new positions were being advertised since the last Board meeting – Crooked Creek Golf Club, Links at Novadell, Barren River State Park, and Western Hills Golf Course. He noted that he had reached out to KPGA members and apprentices via email inviting them for one-to-one counseling sessions at tomorrow's meeting. He noted the KPGA's unemployment rate was 3.7%. Mr. Benassi asked if other states were seeing similar employment reductions. Mr. Bradow stated other states and sections were seeing more dramatic job reductions and eliminations, and that the KPGA's had seen less change than most sections. Mr. Bebelaar asked about the compensation levels of recent job postings. Mr. Bradow stated that the trend seemed to indicate lower compensation levels. Mr. Thomas stated that one factor in less job openings is that fewer members are opting to retire and are staying in their jobs longer.

VII. Executive Director Report

Mr. Hill noted that the Kentucky Golf Economic Impact Study could be conducted this year, rather than waiting until 2011, and that the budgeting issue this creates would be covered under New Business. He reviewed the list of new sponsors for 2010. He noted that the section currently ranked 10th of all 41 sections in terms of participation in PGA programs. He noted that it was too early to forecast the GHIN numbers for 2010, and would be in position to provide those numbers at the next meeting. He noted that junior golf program enrollment was up at this point compared to last year. He thanked the staff for their efforts.

VIII. KPGA Foundation Report

Mr. Shafer noted that the deadline for grant applications was February 1, and that the Foundation had received two grant application requests. Both requests were approved – First Tee of Louisville for \$2,000 for PGA instruction to program participants and Operation State Tournament for \$2,000 for PGA instruction to program participants. He stated the Foundation would host the Don Fightmaster Golf Outing for Exceptional Children on April 26 at Shawnee Golf Course.

IX. Committee Reports

Assistants/Apprentices – Mr. Moore stated he had attended the education workshop at Golf House Kentucky, which focused on the golf course superintendent's role. Mr. Riley asked the Board, on behalf of Mrs. Wilson, who was unable to attend, if the Assistant/Apprentice Division meeting could be conducted before lunch tomorrow, and, if changes in the playing privilege requirements could be made for apprentices attending PGM courses which were being conducted at the same time as the fall and spring meetings and other education seminars. Mr. Moore stated the Assistant/Apprentice Division should bring any recommended changes to playing privileges changes to the Board for review and approval. Mr. Shafer stated the change in time for their meeting tomorrow would not be a problem and he would announce it during tomorrow's business meeting.

BREAK

Communications/Employment – Mr. Riley stated his report would be submitted as written for the meeting, and that Bryan Slone and he would give a presentation at tomorrow's meeting detailing the PGA Blueprint for Success.

Education – Mr. Williams thanked Steve Jablonowski and Craig Heibert for their assistance on the Education Committee. He reviewed the agenda and speakers for tomorrow's meeting.

KPGA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2010

Page 3

Government Relations Committee – Mr. Osborne stated that he would announce at tomorrow's meeting that this was a new committee with not much to report at this point. He stated he would issue a call to action to attendees at tomorrow's meeting to promote golf and its financial impact to their local leaders. He stated the Economic Impact Study, once completed, would be a good tool for the committee's use.

Junior Golf Committee – Mr. Benassi stated that for his report at tomorrow's meeting, he would challenge attendees to spend more time with the junior golfers at their facilities outside of lesson time. Mr. Thomas detailed an effort he had undertaken to strengthen relations with his students. Mr. Kincade reported that enrollment in the junior golf programs was up compared to last year. He stated he would continue to send emails to KPGA members and apprentices with updates on the junior golf program. Mr. Williams detailed an event tentatively scheduled for May 8 at his facility which would feature Josh Teater.

Membership – Mr. Williams stated he would recognize new members at tomorrow's meeting. He stated he would also recognize any new certified professionals.

Growth of the Game – Mr. Landrum noted that three facilities had committed to date to host a Play Golf America Day (Golf Course of Kenton County, The Golf Complex, and Gibson Bay). He stated that another event, promoting women's golf, would be scheduled at a later date for a Louisville location. He reviewed details of efforts to recruit facilities for the Get Golf Ready Kentucky Day on June 5.

Seniors – Mr. Moore noted a fairly large group of new seniors for 2010, which was listed in his written report.

Special Awards/Scholarships – Mr. Slone stated the nomination forms would be distributed in early May. He noted that the committee had met last week at Golf House Kentucky. He stated the committee had recommended that each year's award winner, plus one additional individual, be submitted for the national awards. He stated the committee had recommended that a list of all nominees be posted on the website. Mr. Shafer stated that he had attended the meeting, and that the idea of presenting special awards in the spring, as opposed to the fall, was discussed at the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the idea of moving the award ceremony and presentation to the spring. Mr. Shafer asked if Mr. Slone would like to make a motion regarding the change. Mr. Thomas noted that a motion was not necessary. Mr. Slone stated that the special awards for 2010 would be presented at the fall meeting, and, beginning with special awards for 2011, special awards would be presented at the spring meeting. Mr. Benassi asked if the nomination form could be amended to require the individual making the nomination to detail why they are nominating the individual.

BREAK

Sponsorship – Mr. Bebelaar stated the several new sponsors had been approached, though their sales representatives, with some success. He asked the Board to take note of the sponsors listed in his written report. Mr. Hill noted the new sponsors for 2010.

Tournaments – Mr. Johnson stated that the committee would re-visit the exemption in the Kentucky Open for KPGA top finishers on the Assistant Player of the Year list at its next meeting. He stated that a copy of the tournament schedule, along with entry deadlines, would be distributed at tomorrow's meeting. Mr. Bebelaar complimented the committee for offering the ability to download the schedule into Outlook. He asked if the Match Play Championship entry form could be made available at tomorrow's meeting. Mr. Johnson stated it could. Mr. Johnson stated that at the previous meeting, a change in the tournament rules and regulation which would not require completion of the Rules of Golf test had been approved by the Board, however, it was discovered this is also covered in the by-laws.

KPGA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2010

Page 4

Mr. Johnson made a motion that the requirement regarding the Rules of Golf exam be removed from the by-laws. Mr. Benassi seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

Mr. Benassi asked if any other events would have lower entry fees for 2010, similar to what had been done with the Pro-Pro in 2009. Mr. Johnson said the committee had not made the decision to reduce entry fees for any other events. Mr. Bebelaar stated that the Pro-Pro had been subsidized by PGA Tour dollars as a result of the lower entry fee revenue.

2011 Senior PGA Championship – Mr. Shafer stated that Ben Rubin, Championship Director for the 2011 Senior PGA Championship, would be at tomorrow's meeting to give a report.

BREAK

X. Old Business

Mr. Shafer stated that the issue of non-member attendance at meetings had been researched by Kelly Williams with the Indiana Section and by Mark Hill with the Carolinas, Middle Atlantic, and Tennessee sections. Mr. Hill stated that the three sections he contacted address the issue in a similar manner in which the KPGA currently does, i.e. on a case-by-case basis. After discussion, Mr. Shafer announced that a policy regarding the issue was not necessary, and the section would continue to address requests on a case-by-case basis.

In regard to posting Board meeting minutes to the website, Mr. Riley stated his belief the Board needed to address the philosophy of how it should record its minutes, i.e. in strict accordance with Robert's Rules or in summary form as has been the section's history of recording minutes. Considerable discussion followed.

Mr. Riley made a motion that the minutes, as they are currently being produced, be posted to the Members Only area of the website once they have been approved by the Board of Directors. This would begin with the current meeting's minutes, and they would be posted once approved at the next Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Benassi seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

XI. New Business

The subject of section dues for 2010 was addressed, and Mr. Shafer referred to a dues structure spreadsheet which was included in the Board meeting materials. Mr. Hill stated that the subject was being presented as a procedural matter, and that from his perspective, a dues increase was not necessary at this time. Mr. Bebelaar noted that the KPGA's dues remain the lowest nationally in many categories, but not in apprentice dues in certain categories, and asked if those dues should be reduced.

Mr. Williams made a motion to leave the current section dues structure in place for 2010. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

The next item under new business was in regard to playing privilege appeals from individuals who would not meet playing eligibility requirements. He stated that three requests, each made in writing, had been submitted by KPGA Member Eric Geswein and apprentices Thomas Brummett and Barry Payne.

Mr. Thomas made a motion that the request from Eric Geswein be honored, contingent upon his payment of a \$100 fine and attainment of the number of education hours needed prior to the first event in which he competes. Mr. Riley seconded the motion. Motion approved (9 in favor and 1 opposed).

KPGA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2010

Page 5

Mr. Bebelaar made a motion that the request from Mr. Brummett be honored, contingent upon his attainment of the necessary number of education hours needed prior to the first event in which he competes. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

Mr. Thomas made a motion that the request from Mr. Payne be honored, contingent upon his attainment of the necessary number of education hours prior to the first event in which he competes. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

The next item under New Business was funding the Economic Impact Study. Mr. Shafer noted the total cost was \$25,000, of which ½ is covered by the World Golf Foundation, leaving a \$12,500 obligation. Mr. Shafer noted that Mr. Hill had recommended that the KPGA fund ½ of this cost (\$6,250), with \$3,125 from 2010 dollars and \$3,125 from 2011 dollars. Mr. Hill noted that the KGA-PGA, Inc. and Kentucky Golf Foundation would be asked to cover the other ½ of the costs.

Mr. Moore made a motion that the KPGA contribute \$6,250 toward the cost of conducting the Economic Impact Study for Kentucky, with \$3,125 paid in 2010 and \$3,125 paid in 2011. Mr. Slone seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

The next item was replacement of Kevin Holler on the Board of Directors, as Mr. Holler has re-located to Columbus, Ohio for a new job opportunity. Mr. Shafer stated he had discussed this with KPGA Member Chris Brown, and he had agreed to complete the remainder of Mr. Holler's term, pending approval.

Mr. Thomas made a motion that Chris Brown be appointed to complete the remainder of Kevin Holler's term on the Board of Directors. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).

Mr. Hill asked that eligibility for special events be placed under Old Business for the next meeting so that he could research the issue and address the Board regarding the topic at the next meeting.

Mr. Hill reported that he was finalizing details for the Las Vegas Pro-Am, and should have the dates and details soon, and it would be either the third or fourth week of October.

XII. Adjournment

At 9:05 p.m., Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Riley seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).