

Attendees: Greg Morris, Malcolm Peterson, John Babyak, Tom Taylor, Wayne Rowland, Jim Wilcox, Gary Manion, Jim Ewalt, Pete Sorge, Bob Hodges, Jeff Hild, Tom Tarpley, and Errol Myers.

President – Greg said that he didn't think that it was necessary to do an introduction of attendees because he felt that everyone knew each other. Gary Manion said that he did not know Jim Ewalt and they introduced themselves. Greg said that he would like to mention a few things. The first is leadership issues. We are still looking for a Historian. He is trying to avoid Division VI because there are many members of the board from that division. He didn't realize what this job entailed until he looked at some of the documents that had been produced. The Historian chronicles all of the board actions. He has also highlighted who was on the board. We need to know when everyone took a position on the board. Lloyd will be leaving as Tournament Chairman in 2019. That's a really important position. He thinks that we need to get someone lined up this year. Every one needs to be looking for "younger" people to take some of these positions on the board. The owner at Choptank said that he is not going to have a golf course anymore. The MISGA group at Choptank dissolved and many of the club membership moved over to River Marsh. Then the owner of Choptank changed his mind and he is going to have a golf course. Greg and Mal did a little presentation with two of the Choptank guys and the guy who is in charge of the golf operation at River Marsh. River Marsh may join MISGA next year. Greg likes River Marsh because it is such a great course.

Vice President's Report – Mal Peterson said that he had stuff that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Secretary's Report – John Babyak said that he is not going to read the minutes. He sent them out to all of the Board members two weeks ago so he was not going to spend time reading them. There was a motion to accept the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Dick Schwinger was not at the meeting. Greg handed out a Treasurer's report. We have about \$8,000 in our checking and savings account and \$21,000 in our CDs. Someone donated some money to MISGA and we use the interest from that account to supplement the tournaments. That was only \$5,000 of the CD money. Greg said that we had talked at the last meeting insurance policy. It's about \$3600 dollars each year. Carl Lazar had his son look over the policy and he did not feel that we were being overcharged. We have had this policy since the 70's and the only purpose is to protect the Board members.

Division Director's Reports

Division I – Malcolm Peterson said that two of their very best courses, Bear Trap Dunes and Cripple Creek both opted out of MISGA. Rookery North which had one mixer in 2016 and one in 2017 closed. There is a Peninsula Golf Association. The clubs charge \$35 for golf and cart fees and provide nothing else. Prize pools are not handled by the club. MISGA then is not a very attractive in comparison. Bear trap Dunes is run by a corporate group and they looked at giving up the course for a MISGA event vs, what they would make with normal golf and they decided against MISGA. Malcolm discussed the situation at Choptank and River Marsh. Another issue is associates, at Rookery North, wanting to play in MISGA without being part of a member club. Rookery is part of a consortium of three clubs, one of which is a member of MISGA. Can associates pay a handicap fee and be a member of a club for MISGA purposes? A question was asked as to why people at these clubs don't just pay the \$50 to join Hog Neck. The answer was that they don't want to pay the \$50. Harbournetowne has opened but they probably will not be in MISGA.

Division II – Tom Taylor said that they scheduled their division meeting for March 12th. At the same time we are going to do a training seminar for all of their reps and assistant reps. The tournament schedules, the ABCD and the Two-man, are on the website. To increase interest in the Division tournaments, the division is going to supplement the prize pool, about \$300 per tournament. The money would be used to pay the entry fee into the State tournament for the gross and net winners.

Division III – Inactive.

Division IV – Wayne Rowland said that he is still looking for an assistant director. At Montgomery C.C., the management company decided that they are a worthwhile enterprise and if you come to our club you will see a large board that says proposed new practice facility. They are going to move the driving range tee area back, put in a new putting green and a bunker area.

Division V – Inactive.

Division VI – Greg Morris said that his division is following in Tom Taylor's foot steps as far as the division qualifiers. He is going to call his division championships/qualifiers. Jack wants them to pay for the winners to enter the State tournaments. Tom Taylor said that they tried this in the past, giving entry fees into the State tournaments in lieu of prize money for winning. It turns out that some winners did not want to go to the State tournaments. If you make the entry fee in addition to the first place prize money you should be O.K. Tom said that everyone in Div II thinks that the tournaments are too expensive. Also in Div VI, we are losing Bowie as a MISGA club. The reason is that the long-time rep at that club said that he could no longer do it and no one wanted to step in. Patuxent Greens was sold last year and the new owner, a real estate developer, wanted to develop the property into a commercial/residential property. He has maintained the property as a golf course so associates will stay at that course. If the course closes, those associates could go to another course.

Committee Chairmen Reports

Associates – Jim Wilcox distributed a report. Nothing has changed. The club dues is still \$50. The associates dues is \$5. Jim said that previously the associates dues was \$10 but MISGA had a lot of money so they wanted to reduce the dues. Someone said that if we lowered the dues to \$5 we would never be able to raise it again. So we lowered the dues.

Audit – Gary Manion said that he sent out three audits that have been completed. He mentioned that we are being inconsistent with reporting. He will send out an email to those involved in the various functions to use the form that is on the website. Someone said that he tried that form and he found it extremely confusing breaking everything apart. Gary said that he will redesign the form. Greg said that we have people running the events now and the instructions on the web for those running the events are good but he would like Pete to form a committee to update those instructions. Some discussion about comps and extra money followed.

Counsel – Jim Ewalt said that we have no legal actions against us and we are taking no legal actions.

Events – Pete Sorge said for 2018 he is looking at Seabrook or Jekyl Island. In answer to a question, he said that the dates are usually the last week of October.

Historian – We do not have a Historian.

Membership – Carl Lazar was not at the meeting.

MISGAGRAM – Bob Hodges said The due date for information in the MISGAGram is March 10th. Someone said that two of the members of Prospect Bay died right after publication of a MISGAGram. He said that it was inconceivable that no one was listed as having died when that MISGAGram came out. He thinks that what we need is for the club reps, when they have information, to get it to the MISGAGram.

PP Ad Hoc –Tom Tarpley had no report.

Rules & Handicap – Wayne Rowland said that the USGA did send out change, effective January 1 for the 2018-2019 season. They are small changes, the biggest one is in section V, it is recommended that the committee in charge of the competition or the handicap committee should post all tournament scores. For our qualifiers and tournaments, the committee is going to have to work with the pro shops to make sure that the scores get posted that day. This is a recommendation only. The Maryland Golf Association is going to change handicap postings. Currently handicaps are changed every two weeks. They are going to change them daily, starting in 2020. The USGA is putting changes into the algorithms to take conditions of the course into account when posting scores. If you play a wet or dried out course, it will change the slope or rating of the course. Discussion about the proposed changes followed.

Tournament Chairman – Lloyd Stimson was not at the meeting. He submitted his report to the Board prior to the meeting.

Web Master – Errol Myers said that everything is up-to-date. Errol set a record today, he posted a change two hours before he was told about it. Some discussion about the website followed.

Old Business

Policy & Planning Action Items - Jeff Hild distributed a report dealing with proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. The first was a change to the constitution to remove the word "voting" from Article V referring to changes being sent to members of the Board. A motion was made, seconded and approved by five voting members. The reason for the change is that a proposed change can only be approved by the voting members but all members of the Board can propose amendments so they also should have the information about proposed changes. A discussion about wording followed. A motion was made, seconded and approved by five voting members. The second change was the same as the first but referred to the MISGA by-laws. A motion was made, seconded and approved by five voting members. The third, as requested by the Treasurer, was to add two paragraphs to Section IV of the by-laws referring to preparation of Form 990N-EZ and preparation of the Maryland Personal Property Return. A proposed change was made to read "...prepare and file all forms required by the IRS, for example Form 990,..." A motion was made to approve the amended changes, seconded and approved by four voting members. The fourth change was withdrawn.

New Business

Policy & Planning Action Items – Jeff continued with the proposed changes. The fifth change, to the by-laws, was a wording change relative to Directors and Assistant Directors to bring the language of the Constitution and By-laws into agreement. A motion was made, seconded and approved by five voting members. The sixth change was to Section IX of the By-laws to reflect the fact that we now only have four active divisions. A motion was made, seconded and approved by five voting members. Wayne Rowland made a proposal to go from six divisions to three. He had a chart to show the proposed changes. These changes were proposed to start a conversation about the alignment of the divisions. A lot of discussion followed. Wayne referred to Tom Rowlett's master sign-up roster. It now has 17 clubs signed up. Wayne proposed that we adopt Tom's system for all clubs. Tom can make it not only to the individual clubs but make it to the MISGA level. Wayne said that the one thing that he hates most about being a club rep is sending out 29 letters, if he wants to play 29 clubs, waiting for response. He did the master schedule this year. Some clubs have changed their schedules because of conflicts they found thru the master schedule. You can put up your club schedule and anyone in MISGA can go to your site and sign-up to play. Some clubs want to restrict their mixers to certain groups and they can do that. This system is to make the club reps and club pro's job easier. You just go to one place to sign-up. Your club does not need to know who signed up. Tom charges about \$350 a year to maintain this system. His proposal is that if we adopt this system that MISGA pays for it. What Wayne does not want is that if he has 7 mixers in a year, he doesn't want the same 30 associates to play every event. There is a way in the system to restrict that if you have played a club once, you can get on a waiting list to play again. In response to a question, Wayne said that the associates could sign up on a sheet at the club and then the club rep could enter the names into the system. Someone said that they were opposed to reps signing up directly without going through the club rep. A question was raised, what happens if something happens to Tom? Somebody would have to take over for him. It was suggested that we table the proposal. There was a lot of discussion. Greg proposed that we demo this system at the Annual Reps meeting. The last issue had to do with can social member with "golf privileges" at a club join MISGA? Thankfully Tom Taylor suggested that we make no changes to the MISGA requirements.

Wrap-up – The meeting was adjourned.