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**VGCSA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Hermitage Country Club, Manakin-Sabot, VA**

**February 2, 2016**

In attendance: D. Norman, T. Eastham, J. Holliday, M. Cote, B. Keene, S. Cornwell, S. Baskette, B. McCurry, S. Mauldin, M. Rodriguez, P. Stephens, D. McCall, M. Boyce

# Call to Order- 10:07

# Welcome Mark Rodriguez, new Vendor rep & Brad McCurry, new assistants rep

1. Approval of Minutes – Motion Baskette, Second Mauldin– minutes approved
2. Treasurer’s Report (Keene) – Finances in good standings. Final report shows dues low, timing of renewals a factor. Investment also down. Baskette Motion, Stephens Second – report approved
3. External VP report

SVTA - Meeting soon to finalize dates of meetings. Need more involvement from members, including a new Pres. Will update after returning from GCSAA show

VTA - Have dates of meetings set, working of dates. Moving away from golf. Still working on vendor program.

ODGCSA - Have meetings set. Changing Tollie Quinn to scholarship tourney. Donating $1000 to VT turf club.

TTA - All meetings and dates set. All meetings will be free.

1. Govt. Relations

Derik Cataldi updated NMP funding. Currently $149K in grant with $100k in the new budget. This is for the state to use. Need to recruit more courses to finish plan. At that point DCR will decide to add contractors. DCR asked for our help with courses without plans. Many courses are waiting till last minute to push off recertification. DCR looking into cost of recertification. On 7/1/17 $250 penalty, but DCR has no enforcement division. VGCSA given the OK to solicit non-conforming courses.

Legislative Visit - 2/18/16, Cote, Gill, Baskette, and Holliday plan to attend session in Richmond and meet with legislators.

Water reporting - Every course needs to be reporting what your water use is. Courses east of I-95 need a permit of withdrawal.

Grass Roots Ambassadors - There are still some spots open that need to be filled.

1. Survey Update (Stephens)

Looking to improve participation. Thoughts of offering an incentive to complete, free fall conf. Good response to write in section at the end. Perhaps a few less questions would be better?

1. Partner Program - Renewals are steady. Group recognizes vendor funds are limited. Hopeful with some of the projects around the state that the golf business is experiencing an uptick. Helena looking to sponsor Environmental Cup.
2. Recap of Recent Events - MATE was attended by Baskette, Cote, McCall and Rodriguez. Numbers were down, weather an issue. All noted trade show was smaller, less equipment was on the floor. Cote stated education is something he can hear at a number of other events throughout the year. Rodriguez noted trade show is a social, no one is purchasing. McCall said education was better than in years past. Stated that 2 shows spreads VT team thin with an extra event to travel to, wishes it could be in one place. Many say VGCSA is doing what is best for our members. We are offering education and people can choose where to go.
3. 2016 Annual Conference (Norman) - This year’s event will be on December 5-6 in Colonial Williamsburg. The schedule will be, class Monday from 1-4. Social and annual meeting from 6:00 pm til. The conference the next day will start at 7-8:00 a.m. and run till 3:30 p.m. Cost will be in the $230 range for the whole package.
4. Other Events

GCSAA Social - Same sponsors and Associations as last year.

GCSAA Chapter Leader - In Kansas, Cote will be attending

Environmental Cup - 6/13/16 at Keswick

VGCSA Championship - Boonsboro. More divisions to get more participation

Joint meeting- 3/14 at Salisbury

Virlina Cup - No date or location as of yet

Saylor - Will set date once Virlina cup is set

1. Education Report (McCall) - Research project was not funded this year by the GCSAA. They said that it lacked methodology. VTF is funding $40k over 2 years. Still need $30K a year to fund a graduate student. Need to increase enrollment. Look at community college route and internal transfers with the university. UT Knoxville’s enrollment are separate for the ag, possibly causing surge in enrollment there.

Rounds 4 Research - Need to promote this. Look into competition between associations to get more courses signed up.

BMP - McCall can serve on committee to find updates

Economic impact study of turf industry by VTC - Cost of $100k from UVA, $25-30k from VCU. May need to extend to entire green industry. VGCSA will fully support. Need to fully research to ensure study will be used.

1. 2016 Committee Assignments - Assignments for 2016 stayed the same with new members, Rodriguez and McCurry assuming duties of their predecessors.
2. Old/New Business - None at this time
3. Executive session - None at this time
4. Adjourn 1:51 pm