



MINUTES

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WebEx Meeting

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September 16, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurie Steenrod, Jesse Stine, Jason Schneider, Adam Lyle, Matt Stephens, Omar Montgomery, Doug Webb, Perry Jowsey, George Wasyluka, Dick Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Corey Orrel

STAFF ATTENDING: Doug McNeil, Karin Rivale, Cary Callihan, Blake Larsen, Dan O'Shaughnessy, John Magnuson, Chet Wilmes, Eric Strasheim, Kevin Kallas, Suzie Jaquith

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Steenrod, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.
- II. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Laurie thanked all staff for all their hard work and efforts in keeping the courses so well maintained. She welcomed the Golf Course Superintendents and Head Golf Professionals to the meeting.
- III. PUBLIC INVITED TO SPEAK – None.
- IV. COMMITTEE REMARKS -
 - Jesse Stine played Saddle Rock golf course and thanked Kevin Kallas, Superintendent and staff for the great condition of the course. Men's Club is playing their last club tournament at Murphy Creek golf course. He remarked the course is in fantastic shape given the challenges Eric Strasheim, Superintendent, and staff have with being such a unique course.
 - George Wasyluka played Saddle Rock and enjoyed the new cut around #9. He also played Springhill and thanked staff at both courses for the nice playing conditions.
 - Doug Webb played Murphy Creek and Meadow Hills over Labor Day weekend. He enjoyed riding scooters at Meadow Hills. He mentioned the driving ranges at Springhill and Meadow don't offer much room for golfers.
 - Omar Montgomery remarked he had played Aurora Hills, Springhill and Meadow Hills and is hoping to be able to golf more before the weather turns cooler.
 - Dick Johnson welcomed the new members to the committee. He reported three Paul McMullen Golf Scholarships were awarded to Aurora Senior high school students in April.
 - Jason Schneider remarked he had not had a chance to play much this season but plans to join the Saturday afternoon league at Springhill golf course.

V. STAFF UPDATES-

- Course Superintendents and Golf Professionals from all five courses gave an overview of their operations.
- Karin Rivale, Marketing Specialist, gave a report on marketing activities. She welcomed the new committee members. Registration for the Aurora Amateur is full and has surpassed all other years with more than 120 players registered; Aurora Golf has signed up for booths at the Denver Golf Expo scheduled in February 2021; working on social media to include posting trivia about the courses and Thank a Superintendent and Staff series on Golf Aurora Facebook; assisted with the new golf website relaunch.

VI. FINANCIAL REVIEW – Doug McNeil, Manager of Golf, gave a Rounds/Financial Report update. Doug reported that August was another amazing month for golf. Rounds are up 20% and revenue is up 25% compared to last August. He reports it was a very good month and we were able to make up a lot of ground. He remarked it's a big accomplishment after being closed for 7 weeks. Doug is hopeful that people playing golf that normally do not play much continue to play more. George Wasyluka asked why vacancy savings is not listed in the financial reporting. Doug responded there is vacancy savings with several positions not filled currently, however, the savings in personnel related costs are less than what would be expected with staff working more hours to ensure COVID related procedures are being followed and the minimum wage increasing each year. He also explained the city Budget Office keeps track of vacancy savings.

VII. DISCUSSION -

- Chair and Vice-Chair Election results were announced. Laurie Steenrod was re-elected as Chair and Jesse Stine was elected as new Vice-Chair of the committee. Their terms will run through the next election in May of 2022.
- Doug updated the committee that he has decided to stay with the same booking system for the foreseeable future. Staff will continue to fine tune it over time. Doug explained to the new members there have been some failed attempts over the last 2 years to find a new system that would work well. This is mainly due to the uniqueness of our golf operation with having multiple golf courses and wanting to provide services like gift cards and credit books that can allow golfers to utilize them at any of our courses. Most of the golf software companies build products for standalone golf courses and it has become difficult to find a company that can offer a product that is a close fit for all our needs.
- Doug reported, as of right now, the plan is to purchase a new fleet of golf carts for Aurora Hills and Meadow Hills with budgeted capital funds. Cart fleets typically last around 6 years and both courses are due for new carts. Many of the old carts from Meadow Hills will be transferred to Springhill to replace their fleet. The old carts from Springhill will be traded-in at cash value. Doug Webb asked if the scooters at Meadow Hills would be made available at some of the other courses. Doug responded he would like to see the scooter program expand to other courses and will investigate it further as funds allow.
- Doug announced the Golf Course Advisory Committee Annual Report presentation will be given by himself and Laurie Steenrod at the Parks, Foundations and Quality of Life Policy committee meeting on October 22nd. The report must be completed and submitted to City Clerk's Office by October 12th. Committee members will receive a copy of the report during the second week of October for comments.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- George Wasyluka commented on how he bought range tokens at Springhill and found he couldn't use them in the machines at Meadow Hills. Pro Shop staff did exchange them for tokens compatible with their range ball machine. Laurie explained there is a token exchange program at all the courses. Tokens from any Aurora golf course can also be redeemed at Murphy Creek for a code to use their ball machine that requires a pin code, credit card or range card. Doug explained that initially the plan was for Murphy Creek to install a range card machine as a pilot program. Now that it's been proven to

work, he would like to install them at the other courses. It is one of the capital items that he will be looking at in the future. This would allow the ability to create a range membership program.

- Dick Johnson thanked Suzie Jaquith for assisting with the Paul McMullen Scholarship interview process.

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION – None.

X. ADJOURNMENT -

- Doug Webb moved for adjournment and Omar Montgomery seconded the motion.

Minutes approved by: Laurie Steenrod
Laurie Steenrod, Chairperson

Minutes prepared by: Suzie Jaquith
Suzie Jaquith, Recording Secretary

Signature: *Laurie Steenrod*
Laurie Steenrod (Oct 1, 2020 20:24 MDT)

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9-16-20 MINUTES_FINAL

Final Audit Report

2020-10-02

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