



MINUTES

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WebEx Meeting

March 17, 2021

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Stine

STAFF ATTENDING: Doug McNeil, Karin Rivale, Suzie Jaquith

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Steenrod, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:18 P.M.
- II. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Laurie remarked she was disappointed upon hearing the Mother Daughter Clinic at Murphy Creek would not be happening this year due to COVID, however she understood. She announced interviews are scheduled for committee openings. She will be volunteering at the upcoming Senior Clinic at Aurora Hills. She had the opportunity to speak with the Head Golf Professionals at Saddle Rock and Aurora Hills of which both informed her they are busy gearing up for what they anticipate will be another big season.
- III. PUBLIC INVITED TO SPEAK – None.
- IV. COMMITTEE REMARKS -
 - Jason Schneider congratulated staff on a very successful season last year and wished them good luck this year.
 - Adam Lyle remarked he was impressed with the 5-year rounds/revenue report showing Springhill had a 25% increase in rounds in 2020 and a 28% increase in revenue. He congratulated Caine Fitzgerald on his recent promotion to Head Golf Professional of Meadow Hills.
 - Matt Stephens also congratulated Caine on his promotion.
 - Doug Webb remarked he is looking forward to the golf leagues that start their new season on April 1st.
 - Perry Jowsey congratulated Laurie Steenrod for receiving Volunteer of the Year Award.
 - George Wasyluka reflected on one of the main reasons he wanted to be on the committee. He wants to share his experiences and environmental concerns to help make operational decisions that will have a positive impact on the environment. He encourages the use of solar power for our facilities and electric golf carts vs. gas. He pointed out how the automotive industry is moving more toward electric vehicles. Doug McNeil shared how the Golf Division does place a great deal of importance on being environmentally responsible in our decision making. In recent years, the amount of acreage on our courses that is maintained regularly has been reduced significantly. Newer turf maintenance equipment is more energy efficient. With regard to golf carts, Doug shared how we have a mix of electric fleets and gas fleets. The most recent purchases have been gas. Our Equipment Specialists, Course Superintendents and Head Professionals all have very extensive experience working with both types of fleets. Given how we

are an enterprise fund and tend to keep our carts much longer than the average golf course, actual experiences over the years have left no doubt that gas carts currently hold up better over a longer period of time. In the latter years of their life, electric carts are regularly having to be towed off the golf course due to batteries running down. The purchase of new batteries every few years is extremely costly. With that said, improvements in battery design are clearly a priority for golf equipment manufacturers. The Golf Division will continue striving to make decisions that balance environmental, operational and fiscal concerns.

- Omar Montgomery remarked he is looking forward to another great year for the Aurora golf courses.
- Dick Johnson remarked how much he appreciated the staff and committee members over the years he's been on the committee. This is his last meeting as he is resigning after many dedicated years of service on the committee.

V. STAFF UPDATES - Karin Rivale, Marketing Specialist, gave a report on marketing activities. The Senior Clinic will be held at Aurora Hills on May 1st and is limited to 24 people, split into 3 different groups. The Mother Daughter Clinic, the Big Person Little Person and the Couples Classic have been cancelled this year as they tend to have larger gatherings. Plans are still in place to hold the Aurora Amateur at Aurora Hills and the Aurora Senior Amateur at Meadow Hills later this summer as well as some golf camps. Working on new signage for courses and updating the website for 2021. She was recently interviewed on Aurora's Channel 8 News show, Mayor Mike Live, where she spoke about Aurora Golf.

VI. FINANCIAL REVIEW – Doug McNeil, Manager of Golf, gave a Rounds/Financial Report update. Doug reported 2020 was an amazing year for Aurora Golf and something that was not expected when the pandemic first unfolded in March. Revenues at the end of the year were up nearly \$800,000 over 2019 which helped cover capital expenditures as well as increase the fund balance. So far this year, the trend of high demand for golf has continued. It will be interesting, in the coming months, to see if that trend continues as more people get vaccinated for COVID. There has been some vacancy savings realized from not being able to fill some positions last year. Recruitment to fill those positions is currently taking place.

VII. DISCUSSION -

- Doug gave an update on Capital Spending. He shared a Capital Improvements Needs Priority List with the committee. \$600,000 was used to purchase two new fleets of golf carts for Aurora Hills and Meadow Hills. He anticipates spending another \$100,000 to \$150,000 on other needs such as building repairs that were unexpected. The debt service payments for Murphy Creek are a little over \$500,000 per year and will be retired in 2026. As we get closer to retiring that debt, we will then be in a better position to purchase some of the other capital items on the priority list. Laurie commented she would like to receive more information at some point on the Meadow Hills bunker renovation project. She also mentioned that she misses having someone like Mike Osley (Golf Operations Superintendent) attend the meetings to speak on behalf of all the superintendents. Doug explained how Mike retired last year and the city would no longer allow the same situation whereby one of the superintendents would be allowed to supervise the rest of the superintendents.
- Doug updated the committee on staff changes. Caine Fitzgerald was promoted from Assistant Pro to Head Pro at Meadow Hills; Head Pro, Dan O'Shaughnessy, moved from on Meadow Hills to become the Head Pro at Springhill; Kevin Kallas moved from Aurora Hills to Saddle Rock to fill the Superintendent position; Matt Vance, Assistant Superintendent at Springhill was promoted to Superintendent at Aurora Hills; Blake Larsen, Assistant Superintendent at Aurora Hills moved to fill the position of Assistant Superintendent at Springhill; Calvin Anthenat, Equipment Specialist at Murphy Creek moved to fill the Equipment Specialist position at Saddle Rock; Jeff Carter was recently hired to fill the Assistant Pro position at Meadow Hills; Mike Maves was recently hired as the Assistant Pro at Murphy Creek.
- Doug reported on COVID plans to start the season. Restrictions will continue into the first part of the year. Staff attended a webinar hosted by Tri-County Health Department in hopes to find out more specific guidelines for the golf business. The state does not have any specific guidelines for golf but Tri-County will be working with the local golf community to help interpret state guidelines that pertain to outdoor activities and how they translate to golf. Guidelines continue to be to maintain at least 6 ft. social distancing and to not hold events that would promote large gatherings around the clubhouse such as shotgun starts. As the CDC comes out with new guidelines in the next few months, staff will re-

evaluate operations. Doug asked the committee what their thoughts were on charging a higher fee for those wishing to rent a single-rider golf cart. The committee was in unanimous agreement to support a higher fee with prior announcement of when it would go into effect.

- Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor, gave an update on upcoming interviews for openings on the committee. There are currently 3 openings on the committee and interviews will be held on March 24 2021.
- Suzie gave an update on the Paul McMullen Scholarship Interviews. Applications are due by March 31, 2021. Interviews of applicants will be scheduled for April 14 2021, with a sub-committee to conduct the interviews. Adam Lyle will head up the interview sub-committee.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- Jesse Stine would like to know when cash will be accepted again at the golf courses. Doug responded, as of right now, Tri-County Health has recommended accepting only credit/debit cards as opposed to cash. In the next few months, that could change.
- Doug Webb asked why the snack shack at Springhill has been closed. Doug responded that pipes froze and broke, flooding the building. It will be closed until repairs can be made.

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION – None.

X. ADJOURNMENT -

- Doug Webb moved for adjournment and Adam Lyle 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 (Apr 13, 2021 10:17 MDT)

Email: llsgolf@comcast.net

3-17-21 MINUTES_FINAL_sj_dm

Final Audit Report

2021-04-13

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