



Golf Division  
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## MINUTES

### GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*May 17, 2023*

*Meadow Hills Golf Course Clubhouse*

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jesse Stine, Chairperson; Dorothy Shadrick, Vice-Chairperson; Elizabeth Hamilton, Shannon Crouthers, Pete Schlickman, John Lichtner, Brendan Wild, Wes Severin, Ty Tymkovich, Bryan Lukasezck, Caroline Kim

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF ATTENDING: Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor; Cary Callihan, Aurora Hills Head Pro; Matt Vance, Aurora Hills Superintendent; Dan O’Shaughnessy, Springhill Head Pro; Chet Wilmes, Springhill Superintendent; Caine Fitzgerald, Meadow Hills Head Pro; John Magnuson, Meadow Hills Superintendent; Grant Jackson, Saddle Rock Assistant Head Pro; Kevin Kallas, Saddle Rock Superintendent; Leslie-Core-Drevecky, Murphy Creek Head Pro; Eric Strasheim, Murphy Creek Superintendent.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Jesse Stine, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:14 P.M.
- II. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Jesse Stine remarked he played Saddle Rock with the men’s league and was surprised how well the course drained after substantial amount of rainfall.
- III. PUBLIC INVITED TO SPEAK – Laurie Steenrod attended to hear golf course superintendents and head pros report on course operations.
- IV. COMMITTEE REMARKS -
  - Dorothy Shadrick remarked Springhill was in good condition and complimented staff on keeping up with maintenance after the harsh winter and heavy rainfall this spring. She noted that Murphy Creek course conditions are improving.
  - Brendan Wild remarked he played in a tournament at Meadow Hills and was pleasantly surprised with the course conditions.
  - Elizabeth Hamilton remarked she played Meadow Hills with the ladies league and noticed some irrigation improvements had been made.
  - John Lichtner remarked he played Meadow Hills with the men’s club and feels it is one of the best courses around. He reported pro shop staff has struggled with the point-of-sale system. He was unsure if it was an internet connectivity issue.
  - Shannon Crouthers remarked she played Aurora Hills, and Saddle Rock and thought both were in good shape. She played Meadow Hills and experienced a slow pace of play, taking 3 to 3 ½ hours to complete 9 holes.

- Pete Schlickman remarked he played Aurora Hills and greens were in fantastic shape. He complimented staff on a getting course ready for play after 4 hours of rain.
- Wes Severin remarked he played Murphy Creek after greens were aerated. He commented that course conditions are improving. He played Springhill on a Saturday and was impressed with the pace of play of 3 hours and 15 minutes to complete 18 holes. He thought the greens were in good shape.
- Caroline Kim remarked she played Aurora Hills and thought the greens were fast and pace of play was right on target.
- Bryan Lukasezck remarked he played Saddle Rock and Meadow Hills, and thought were in good condition prior to the heavy rains. He reported the concrete cart paths at Meadow Hills in need of replacement/repair.
- Ty Tymkovich remarked he played Saddle Rock and thought course was in great condition. He reported comments from the Men's Club members regarding conditions of Meadow Hills were favorable. He mentioned he played in Palm Springs and was impressed with the attentiveness of golf course staff by the way they greeted each customer and addressed them by name. He commented it would be good a customer service practice for all Aurora golf course staff to use.

V. STAFF UPDATES – Course Superintendents and Golf Professionals from all five courses gave an overview of their operations.

- Caine Fitzgerald, Meadow Hills Head Pro, reported season has started well with rounds close to, if not ahead of this time last year. Staff have been aggressive with league play and anticipates a considerable bump in rounds on the weekdays once deeper into the season. Staffing has been good with few turnovers. Last year the course added the Trent Wearer Golf Academy with three new instructors. Working on improving pace of play by expanding marshal shifts. Caine has seen an increase in tournament bookings over last year at this time.
- John Magnuson, Meadow Hills Superintendent, reported course conditions are about three weeks behind in recovering from winter. Greens fared well through the winter. Aeration and top-dressing was completed for spring. 80 tons of sands were added to the bunkers. Irrigation project was completed on #16. Area will be designated ground under repair with no carts for most of the summer to allow for new grass growth. Recruitment and training of seasonal staff continues.
- Leslie Core-Drevecky, Murphy Creek Head Pro, reported pro shop is fully stocked with merchandise. Course is hosting many tournaments this year. Staff are gearing up for the PGA Junior League which starts first week of June. She announced to the committee, her retirement from the city.
- Eric Strasheim, Murphy Creek Superintendent, reported the course endured a harsh winter resulting in the loss of acres of grass, especially the front nine greens. Staff reseeded with 200 pounds of Bent grass that will take months to fill in. Heavy rains helped flush the sodium caused by reuse water, out of the soil which will help with germination. Bunker work will be taking place once fully staffed. Recruitment and training of seasonal staff continues.
- Kevin Kallas, Saddle Rock Superintendent, reported staff has finished replacing irrigation clocks to allow heads to be controlled individually. Maintenance was performed on all irrigation pumps to improve efficiency. A new forward tee box was built on #17. New rock work was done by Aurora Storm Drain on #12 to prevent the creek from overflowing in heavy rainfall onto the course. Maintenance team is fully staffed for the season.
- Grant Jackson, Saddle Rock Assistant Head Pro, reported junior programs have been begun with most classes full. Junior camps are full and begin in June. There are two camps, each with 100 participants. Pro shop is fully stocked with merchandise. A new cart fleet is scheduled to arrive sometime in June.
- Cary Callihan, Aurora Hills Head Pro, reported the First Tee Junior Camp starts in June. Seeing a lot of interests from outside groups wanting to book tournaments. Registration for the Senior Amateur is now open, and he anticipates it filling up fast with about 100 players. Recruitment and training of seasonal staff continues.
- Matt Vance, Aurora Hills Superintendent, reported the course received 6 ½ inches of rain during the last week. Staff applied 2,000 pounds of rye grass seed to fairways and thin spots. Areas that have been baren for years were reseeding and are now taking hold with the moisture. For the most part, greens came out of winter well except for three of the greens which had some winter kill. Those spots on the greens were reseeded and have already germinated and filled in. Water restrictions this year will be noticed with more brown spots in the rough and on the driving range. Yardage stones have been installed on all the red tees. #7 tee box will be

leveled off and widened next week, weather dependent. Red tee on #17 will also be widened. A new shrub bed was completed on #11. Adding irrigation just short left of #16 green. A new growth regulator is being used on the greens this year and so far, it's performing well. Recruitment and training of seasonal staff continues.

- Chet Wilmes, Springhill Superintendent, reported the course received 6 ½ inches of rain in a week which drained from the course nicely. Fairways, tees, and greens are growing in well with minimal winter kill. The aging irrigation system continues to be a struggle. Staff applied 2,000 pounds of seed to the course. Replacing a couple bunkers with fresh sand. Continuing to make cart path repairs. #4 Tee was improved with railroad ties and new sod. Maintenance team is fully staffed for the season.
- Dan O'Shaughnessy, Springhill Head Pro, reported Springhill has grown in rounds over the last 4 years. Contributing factors to increased play are Premier cards not needed on weekends, offering senior weekend rates and 9-hole play anytime. Some programs held are the PGA Junior League and Camp, Operation 36, and First Tee Junior classes.
- Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf Division, reported recruitment process is underway to fill the head golf professional position at Saddle Rock and head golf professional position at Murphy Creek.

VI. FINANCIAL REVIEW – Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf, gave a Rounds/Financial Report update. Dan reported rounds and revenue have been minimally impacted by the snowstorms and heavy rains this spring when compared to last year, YTD. Expenses are up partly due to increased labor costs and increased costs of supplies such as fertilizer and equipment repair parts. As we go into the peak season, the days will get longer, which equates to more rounds. Demand for golf since the pandemic has been extraordinary and Aurora Golf continues to offer robust programs.

VII. DISCUSSION -

- Chairperson, Jesse Stine made a motion to approve proposed amendment to the committee Bylaws, Article IV, Office of the Organization, Section 2., #3, to the following: *Members cast their vote using a secret ballot system. Members vote separately for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The candidate with most votes in each election shall win the respective seat.* Vice-Chairperson, Dorothy Shadrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS –

- Elizabeth Hamilton updated committee on latest progress of re-locating the old Fitzsimons golf course shelter to Springhill.

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION –

- Members discussed why Aurora courses do not have ball washers and how to encourage golfers to use rakes in the bunkers. Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf, responded there are many new golfers that are not aware of some golf rules and etiquette. Golf etiquette is part of the curriculum in the junior golf programs. Ball washers were removed from courses during the pandemic and have not been re-installed for maintenance reasons.
- Members asked how the Aurora Golf Advisory Committee is promoted to the public. Staff responded the city advertises openings on the city's boards and commissions website and Golf Aurora promotes through social media and department newsletters.

X. ADJOURNMENT -

- Vice-Chairperson, Dorothy Shadrick moved for adjournment and John Lichtner seconded the motion.

Minutes approved by: Jesse Stine Jun 5, 2023  
Jesse Stine (Jun 5, 2023 11:13 MDT)  
Jesse Stine, Chairperson

Minutes prepared by: Suzie Jaquith  
Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

# 5-17-23 MINUTES\_final

Final Audit Report

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