



MINUTES

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 19, 2023

Saddle Rock Golf Course Maintenance Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jesse Stine, Chairperson; Dorothy Shadrick, Vice-Chairperson; Elizabeth Hamilton, Ty Tymkovich, Brendan Wild, Caroline Kim

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Lichtner, Shannon Crouthers, Bryan Lukasezck, Pete Schlickman, Wes Severin

STAFF ATTENDING: Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf; Karin Rivale, Marketing Specialist; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor; Patrick Kilbride, Saddle Rock Head Golf Professional; Kevin Kallas, Saddle Rock Superintendent

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Jesse Stine, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:25 P.M.
- II. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Jesse Stine remarked he played Saddle Rock with the men's league and reported course was in great shape. He appreciated the trimming along path coming down #9 fairway to provide good definition from the rough. He noticed two different types of grass on the greens, especially on #1, #2 and #7. Kevin Kallas, Saddle Rock Superintendent, responded the two different grasses are poa and bent. The greens suffered some winter desiccation and the poa is struggling to come back. Staff is seeding bent and topdressing the areas along with treating the greens to try and keep the poa out. Some off the greens have 30%-80% poa and he is working on slowing trying to cut back on the amount of poa to establish more bent grass. It will be a slow process. Jesse also played Murphy Creek and commented the rough is very thick, but the greens are phenomenal.
- III. PUBLIC INVITED TO SPEAK – Marc Pereria, President of Meadow Hills Men's Club, introduced himself to the committee. He gave an overview of the men's club and expressed concerns of not having enough capacity to accommodate more men's club players at Meadow Hills. He expressed frustration when met with challenges from golf course staff when he has suggested course improvements. His priority is to ensure a memorable and enjoyable golfing experience for men's club members and for the future of Aurora Golf. Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf, thanked Marc for attending the meeting and appreciated his concerns. Dan will reach out to Marc to discuss further along with Meadow Hills Head Golf Professional and Superintendent.
- IV. COMMITTEE REMARKS -
 - Elizabeth Hamilton remarked she played Meadow Hills, Springhill and Aurora Hills. She reported the ladies 9-hole league had 60 members last year and has grown to 80 members this year. She reported a cable was ran along the fence line at Meadow Hills and is concerned that it has not been buried yet by CenturyLink. She noticed several Austrian Pines that are dying at Springhill. Kevin Kallas replied it is likely due to the re-use water that is high in sodium. De-icing products used on streets also have an impact on pines.

- Dorothy Shadrick remarked she played Murphy Creek, Meadow Hills, and Aurora Hills. Hole #13 at Meadow Hills has a large brown spot but is in otherwise in great shape. Her league often fixes divots at Murphy Creek but noticed there are no places to pick up the buckets at Meadow Hills. Marc replied it is located just to the left side of the women's restroom. She expressed concerns about golfers not raking the bunkers. Karin Rivale, Marketing Specialist, responded there are many new golfers that may not know golf etiquette. Karin will post a reminder to rake bunkers and record a how-to video to feature on social media.
- Ty Tymkovich has played Aurora Hills and Meadow Hills and is amazed at the great conditions of the courses this year.

V. STAFF UPDATES –

- Kevin Kallas, Saddle Rock Superintendent, reported the course is in outstanding condition. To date, the course has received just over 13 inches of rain. Irrigation has been in full operation with Aurora Water removing water restrictions. Staff do their part to conserve water as much as possible. New electrical upgrades to the irrigation system were completed over the winter. Improvements made to the course included flowers and bushes planted near the clubhouse next to the patio; created a mini short game chipping area; removed a couple trees just left on #11 to give a better view of the fairway. Aeration will soon be scheduled. Jesse Stine asked if staff plan to spray paint the ground under repair areas for the men's club championship. Kevin Kallas replied there may be one area that would need to be designated ground under repair.
- Patrick Kilbride, Saddle Rock Head Golf Professional, reported, having just started as the new head pro for Saddle Rock, he is focusing his efforts on getting to know the staff and pro shop operations and is looking forward to meeting the challenges in his new position. An emphasis on customer service will be his top priority. Jesse commented he has heard positive comments from the men's club on the service they have received from the cart staff.
- Karin Rivale, Marketing Specialist, gave an update on marketing activities. Registration for the Aurora Senior Amateur at Aurora Hills has around 75 registrants so far and will likely fill up the week leading up to the event; Registration is open for the Couples Classic and the Aurora Amateur; Meeting with IT at Meadow Hills to make sure there is the required internet connection to host 104.3 The Fan Radio Station live remote broadcast. Live remote broadcasts at Saddle Rock, Murphy Creek and Aurora Hills are scheduled for August and September; The latest Aurora Golf email newsletter featured an impressive open rate of 78% considering the average open rate is 38 to 44%. The course aeration schedule has been posted online.

VI. FINANCIAL REVIEW – Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf, gave a Rounds/Financial Report update. Dan reported there has been loss in green fee revenue this past month with the rain. Revenues are still up compared to YTD last year. This seems to be the regional trend. He thinks the biggest management issue over the next few years will be figuring out different ways to accommodate the demand for golf. Dan summarized by saying the golf fund remains healthy.

VII. DISCUSSION -

- None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS –

- Elizabeth Hamilton updated the committee on latest progress of re-locating the old Fitzsimons golf course shelter to Springhill golf course. A new historic preservationist specialist has been hired by the Aurora History Museum and will now head up this effort.

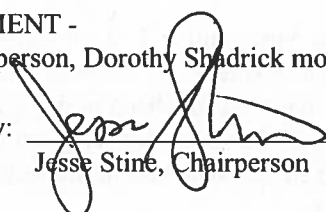
IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION –

- None.

X. ADJOURNMENT -

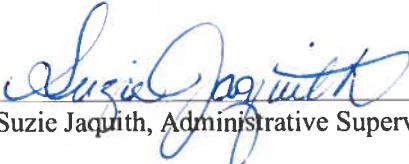
- Vice-Chairperson, Dorothy Shadrick moved for adjournment and Ty Tymkovich seconded the motion.

Minutes approved by:



 Jesse Stine, Chairperson

Minutes prepared by:



Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor