



Golf Division  
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## MINUTES

### GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*AUGUST 16, 2023*

*Murphy Creek Golf Course Maintenance Building*

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bryan Lukasezck, Elizabeth Hamilton

STAFF ATTENDING: Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf; Karin Rivale, Marketing Specialist; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor; Grant Jackson, Murphy Creek Head Golf Professional; Eric Strasheim, Murphy Creek Superintendent

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Jesse Stine, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.
- II. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS – Jesse Stine reported favorable comments from Men's Club members who played in the Men's Club Championship Tournament. Pin positioning was fair, and greens were fast at Saddle Rock. They were impressed with the conditions of the greens and how well the rough is being managed at Murphy Creek.
- III. PUBLIC INVITED TO SPEAK – None.
- IV. COMMITTEE REMARKS -
  - John Lichtner remarked that Murphy Creek was in great condition. He suggested adding a GPS system to the golf carts. Dan Wickman, manager of Golf, responded he has received bids from contractors and is looking into finding funds in the budget to pay for the \$60,000 per year, per course, expense. The two courses being considered to be outfitted with GPS are Murphy Creek and Saddle Rock.
  - Caroline asked if a system is in place to verify golfers are at least 21 years old when alcohol is purchased at golf courses. Dan responded, yes, the contracted concessionaire staff ask for identification from anyone who appears under 30. Carolina asked if improvements could be made to the entrance/exit of Meadow Hills parking lot to make it safer for turning vehicles. She suggested a yield sign be installed on Dawson Street. Dan responded he will follow up with more information.
  - Pete Schlickman inquired why mats are being used at the driving range at Aurora Hills. Dan responded mats are used two days out of the week to save the turf and with high school fall golf starting soon, it will further help preserve the turf. As the days get shorter and frost starts, mats will be used more frequently.
  - Shannon Crouthers remarked she had played at Aurora Hills with Couples League, at Meadow Hills with Couples League and at Saddle Rock with the Ladies league. All courses were in great condition.

- Wes Severin remarked Murphy Creek is in spectacular shape and was pleased to learn there's a good plan for the bunkers. Saddle Rock is also in great shape.
- Dorothy Shadrick remarked she played at Murphy Creek and Meadow Hills are both courses in good shape and appreciates the challenges of Murphy Creek. She thanked the staff at Murphy Creek for their good customer service.
- Brendan remarked how impressive the course conditions are at Murphy Creek and likes the updated menu and food options at Murphy Creek Tavern.

#### V. STAFF UPDATES –

- Grant Jackson, Murphy Creek Head Golf Professional, reported he has been in his new role at Murphy Creek for a month and half and is excited to bring a fresh outlook to the course. His current focus is getting to know staff and organizing tournaments. Staff have received positive feedback on how well the tournaments are run and the condition of the golf course overall. Recruitment of pro shop help will soon resume as some seasonal staff head back to college. Murphy Creek is hosting a Drive, Pitch and Putt Qualifier event and needs volunteers. Grant is hopeful to grow the junior golf camps at Murphy Creek next year as he's had much success at Saddle Rock with the junior golf program.
- Eric Strasheim, Murphy Creek Superintendent, reported with the unprecedented rain, staff were unable to mow the rough and fescues for two or three weeks at a time this season. Recently, staff were able to catch up on mowing the thick rough and it's coming along nicely. Recruitment of part-time staff was a challenge early in the season. Once fully staffed, bunkers were finally able to be line trimmed. Aging maintenance equipment continues to plague all of the Aurora golf courses, coupled with the difficulty of finding repair parts. Course conditions have greatly improved from the beginning of the season and Eric expressed gratitude to the dedicated staff, all who work many hours to keep the course an enjoyable place to play golf. Upcoming projects: The ditch to the left of #7 green will be re-routed to the right side of #8 along the cart path due to the storm water runoff not being allowed to feed into irrigation ponds, per state law. Bunker work will continue through winter. Staff are looking into purchasing a new piece of equipment called a sand mover that allows large amounts of sand to be moved at one time. Filling bunkers with sand is a large job. Without this equipment, to fill one bunker with sand would take four days with a staff of five. Also, there is no place on course property to store bunker sand.
- Karin Rivale, Marketing Specialist, gave an update on marketing activities. The Aurora Golf Newsletter has had an open rate of 76% over the last two months, which is very impressive. Radio sports station, 104.3 The Fan will be doing a live remote broadcast from Murphy Creek and the following week will be at Saddle Rock. The last live remote broadcast will take place in September at Aurora Hills. Working on updating the Golf Aurora website with new images and ordering new marketing collateral for 2024. Golf Aurora will have a booth again at the Golf Expo at the Colorado Convention Center next year.

VI. FINANCIAL REVIEW – Dan Wickman, Manager of Golf, gave a Rounds/Financial Report update. Dan reported the Golf Division is \$300 thousand over in budget and rounds are down at Murphy Creek and Saddle Rock. Aurora Hills, Springhill, and Meadow Hills are ahead in rounds so far this year. A replacement filter for the irrigation system at Springhill was purchased for \$50 thousand. The Golf Division was able to save \$600 thousand in water this year and will use the savings to purchase much needed maintenance equipment for the courses such as a rough mower for Aurora Hills; To finish the cart paths at Saddle Rock on #6 and #7; and purchase utility vehicles and a spreader for Murphy Creek. Approval was given to spend \$2 million to lease maintenance equipment for 5 years starting in 2024.

#### VII. DISCUSSION -

- None.

#### VIII. OLD BUSINESS –

- None.

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION –

- None.

X. ADJOURNMENT -

- John Lichtner moved for adjournment and Wes Severin seconded the motion.

Minutes approved by: *jesse stine* Sep 25, 2023  
[jesse stine \(Sep 25, 2023 09:56 MDT\)](#)  
Jesse Stine, Chairperson

Minutes prepared by: *Suzie Jaquith*  
Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor






# 8-16-23 MINUTES\_final\_sj

Final Audit Report

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