

Golf Committee Meeting
July 5, 2016

Present: Greg Ferris, At-Large, Blaine Knott, District II, Leon Lungwitz, District IV, Richard Schodorf, District V, Debbie Burch, District VI, Ron Mosher, Troy Hendricks, Michelle Haun, Ron Reese, Troy Houtman

Absent: Troy Palmer, President, Chair, Cindy Renard, District III, Dr. Michael Williams, District 1

Meeting was called to order at 4:08pm.

Approval of Minutes from 5/24/2016

Ferris made a motion to approve.

Schodorf second.

Hendricks stated that the bridge at Clapp is now open. He stated that Dondlinger completed the job with minimal damages to the course.

Rounds/Expenditures

Hendricks stated that rounds are down 1% and revenue is about the same. There were 7 ½ inches of rain reported in June. He stated that the weekend was very wet and that there were only 9 holes open at a couple of courses. Lightening had hit at Tex Consolver and set off the sprinklers and the ponds at MacDonald flooded. He stated that we will be running some specials through the app for MacDonald and LW Clapp to try to boost rounds. We recently did a Facebook message asking what could be done to improve rounds at Clapp. Only seven responses were received, which included lowering rates, lowering cart rates and improved maintenance.

Lungwitz stated that he played today and that he noticed the tee boxes were not in good shape.

Hendricks stated that expenditures should be similar to last year and that Footgolf is up YTD.

MacDonald Course Conditions

Hendricks stated that we hosted the meeting at MacDonald today so that we could address the conditions of the course. He stated that Reese has been working on improvements.

Ferris stated that he played today and that the course looks 200% better. He asked if there are there any plans for the bunkers.

Reese stated that there are no plans at this time, but that it is a project that would help.

Ferris stated that the sand traps at Sim are amazing.

Hendricks stated that Reese is going to start looking for the drains in the bunkers and will start working a few at a time to improve drainage.

Open Discussion

Hendricks stated over 4,000 people are using the mobile app. All of the rain really hurt rounds at Auburn Hills over the weekend. He stated that all together we are about 500 rounds short from last year.

Schodorf stated that over the years there have been some really good ideas and amazing plans brought before the committee, such as with LW Clapp. But, he stated, that nothing has come of any of them. He stated that the City does not appear to support anything that is in the better interest of the courses and that it seems Public Works is the department that is standing in our way. He also stated that since Quik Trip is moving in at a different corner, maybe we could look at selling the corner of the golf course again and use the money to make huge improvements.

Houtman stated that the Golf Advisory Committee is encouraged to communicate with the Council anytime. He stated that debt service is still the biggest hindrance and that we are not getting any better ways to get it paid or forgiven. He also stated that if we can get Council and the Mayor's support, we could get some doors open.

Ferris stated that Clapp is controlled by the Park Board. MacDonald is an issue that Council needs to support. Other items influenced by Council are the \$2 million owed to the golf division from the construction of Auburn Hills and requiring carts to be paid from cash flow rather than letting it be bonded. Golf carts are the biggest complaint by golfers that also play at country clubs.

Schodorf stated that Clapp is going to become a bigger burden if we can't draw in more players.

Houtman stated that there are some new faces on the Park Board.

Schodorf stated that he will set up a 15 minute meeting with four of the council members.

Ferris stated that the problem with Clapp now is that previously we had a bona fide offer and now there are no guarantees that there will be another similar, good offer.

Schodorf stated that we should talk to developers to see if there is any interest.

Ferris asked how long is left on debt service.

Hendricks stated 20 years. \$286k budgeted each year.

Schodorf asked if Hendricks could provide numbers for lost rounds and revenue at Clapp since 1993 for him to take to council members.

Houtman stated that good information to share with Council is about golf carts, because they are revenue generating.

Ferris asked what amount we want from flood control.

Hendricks stated \$200k.

Reese stated that the flow rates are higher now.

Lungwitz asked what entity operates each of the courses.

Hendricks stated that Auburn Hills is the only course owned by the City. The others are controlled by the Park Board.

Ferris stated that the City took back all park property that was not deeded to the Park Board after 1992.

Lungwitz stated that when we started the committee, customer service was a big deal, and that seems to have improved. The plan we had for Clapp was a good one. Somehow, our voice needs to be heard more.

Hendricks stated that the information at the workshop was well received.

Houtman stated that we could set up a meeting with the Park Board to address issues.

Schodorf asked which should come first, contact with the Park Board or with Council.

Houtman stated that the meeting with Council members should be first.

Ferris stated that we have already been raising rates at all the courses except Clapp.

Lungwitz asked if we have a plan to replace any golf carts.

Hendricks stated yes, that we have a proposal to replace carts at Tex and Sim and increase those fleets by 10. One option to finance was to add the cost to debt service, but we were told no. We are looking at borrowing from another fund. He stated it would be \$1.2 million to replace the whole fleet.

Ferris asked if revenue would increase if we had more carts. He asked Hendricks to look at how many sales were lost due to shortages and asked for a spreadsheet of a 10 year period showing lost revenue and savings of electric cart usage.

Lungwitz stated that he will encourage complainers to call council members going forward.

Next Meeting August 16, 2016

Tentatively scheduled at Tex.