

**Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, February 28, 2011
Minutes**

Members Present: Cam Cherry, Fid Fitterer, Lonnie Yingst, Thom Babinecz, Steve Vielleux

Members Absent: Fid Fitterer, Steve Vielleux

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Patty Rearden, Keith Hollenback, Wade Altschwager, Connie Cramer-Caouette

Others Present: Lisa Goff, Mike Allison, Chris Lander, John Hayes, Bill Heisler, Frank Palakovich, Jerry Kuntz, Kristy Evans, George Geise, Jim Walden, Terry Morton, Damon Heck, Cory Smith, Ron Ehnes, Kevin O'Connell, Chris Kairis, John Sullivan, Jennifer Logan

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Golf Tournaments

Staff and Board conducted the Golf Tournament Draw for the 2011 Golf Season. Most of the tournament applications had a representative at the meeting.

Director's Report

- The proposed 6% fee increase was approved and is in place for the 2011 season.
- Emerald Greens Golf Course will be open this summer which may have some impact on golf revenues.
- Cart paths at Eagle Falls: Public Works has donated the millings for cart path improvements. At an earlier meeting, it was discussed having a work day to work on the paths. Fid offered to discuss volunteer labor with the Men's Association.
- We will be working on gopher eradication again this spring.
- The budget process is beginning. It will be much easier going to the Commission this year with the current financial condition of the golf courses.

Golf Manager's Report

- On-line golf purchases: People can renew their season passes on-line now, and can also buy new memberships on-line. New members will need to set up their account and will be sent a confirmation back. Connie encouraged the Board to Google Great Falls Golf Courses and try it out. This summer, patrons will also be able to book tee times on-line, two days in advance, starting at noon daily.
- The Eagle Falls rest rooms are being renovated for handicapped accessibility through a CDBG grant. Connie stated that she hopes to have a handicapped accessible cart by fall as well. They cost approximately \$10,000 and she will be working on grant funding to purchase a cart. These carts have a lower PSI than a standard cart and can go virtually everywhere on the course including the greens and bunkers.
- Golf lessons will be conducted the first two weeks in April and are filling up fast.
- Scorecards: Connie is soliciting one sponsor for each golf course's score card. Borries will sponsor Anaconda Hills; Connie asked for additional suggestions on who she might

approach for the Eagle Falls Golf Course. They are approximately \$1,600-1,700 for 40,000 score cards (printing costs) and should last about two years. Kevin O'Connell asked Connie to let him know if she has been unable to find a sponsor by the Men's Association Meeting and he would bring it up there.

- The LPGA is holding a tournament the middle of March for LPGA Tour players. No purse money will be paid. \$.5 million dollars from the tournament will go the Girl's Golf Program and \$.5 million dollars will go to the charity of choice from the winner of the tournament. Connie encouraged participants from the Great Falls Girls Golf Program to write letters in support of the Girls Golf Program and got about a dozen girls to write letters.

Rain Checks

After staff discussions regarding accounting/cash handling practices and customer service, Connie recommended that the City offer rain checks to golfers rather than refunds; rain checks would expire October 31 of the current season. Staff and Board all concurred that in addition to reducing errors in cash handling, it is also much better customer service. Rain checks should help significantly with long lines, especially on league nights, when play is cut short due to weather. Cash refunds are time consuming through the POS system, and golfers will have the opportunity to play on another day with their rain check. It is projected that there should be little or no loss of revenue from rain checks and much better service.

Board motioned to accept staff's recommendation of issuing rain checks, with an expiration date of October 31 of the current season. The motion seconded and carried.

GREENSKEEPER

Keith Hollenback, Eagle Falls Superintendent.

- Working on getting ready for course opening.
- Will begin work on eradicating gophers and cart paths as soon as the weather permits.
- Put snow mold protection down.
- Have been doing minor work in the cart barns.

Wade Altschwager, Anaconda Hills Superintendent

- Working on getting ready for course opening.
- Working on removing branches and stumps.
- Working on the new pump station. The old pump has been removed and the new pump installed. It still needs to be hooked up (electrical and piping). It is a variable frequency drive and we will see energy savings with the new pump.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Golf Advisory Board Nomination

The Board reviewed the applications for the Golf Advisory Board.

Board motioned to recommend to the City Commission the reappointment of Steve Vielleux and the appointments of Kevin O'Connell and William David Nelson to the Golf Advisory Board. The motion seconded and carried.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cart Barns

The Board asked what the status was with the power in the cart barns. The power was not turned off. Staff opened the cart barns once a month to allow customers to check on their carts. Keith indicated he also opened the barns 4-5 times for people requesting access to their carts.

Course Opening

The courses are scheduled to open Tuesday, March 15, weather permitting. Currently, that seems highly unlikely.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting is March 28, 2011 @ 3:30 p.m.