

**Golf Advisory Board Meeting  
Monday, September 28, 2020  
Minutes**

Members Present: Dennis Heppner, Rick Gartzka, Jackie Lohman  
Members Absent: Greg Bushman and Jayce Blood  
City of Great Falls Staff Present: Patty Rearden, Steve Herrig and Sarah Griffin  
Great Falls Golf Staff: Jeff Stange and Keith Hollenbeck  
Guests: Brian Barts, Chris Fleck

Meeting called to order at 3:31 p.m.

*Board motioned to approve July 27, 2020 minutes as written. Motion was seconded and carried, 3-0.*

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Steve Herrig, Director

- Update on Park District:
  - Elks and Gibson trail and courts are completed with the exception of a few punch list items.
  - Jaycee Park completed with the exception of some sodding and tables in pavilion.
  - Oddfellows Restroom has been moved to a spring install. The restroom has been purchased.
  - Irrigation projects will go out to bid again this fall. The parks that will be bid for automated irrigation include Jaycee, Roosevelt, and Valleyview. There is a possibility of an additional park being bid.
- The DCIP grant was approved at both the Federal and City level. A selection committee of 8 including City staff and the mayor will review the proposals.
  - 6 parcels of Kranz Park was traded with the GFPS for 10 acres of land adjacent to the Seibel Soccer Complex for the Recreation Center.

**GOLF MANGER'S REPORT**

Jeff Stange, Great Falls LLC.

- Winding down for the year.
- Daily rounds are starting to decrease. Daylight is shorter. We will start to decrease staff size in conjunction with the decrease in play.
- For the industry around the nation, it has been an amazing year for golf. Some places have seen as high as a 50% increase. Our rounds have been up roughly 30%. Had a successful season of new players.
- October 24-25 could be the last day of the season at Anaconda Hills. We will continue to watch the weather, it may stay open longer. Season passes will be honored at Eagle Falls.
- Eagle Falls will remain open year round. The pro shop will move into the Tap House during the winter; that way 1 staff member can cover both the check in and food service.
- Working on the details of an operating lease for a new spray rig. Currently we have 1 spray rig for both courses, which can cause issues for getting both courses covered. We budgeted for a new spray unit so that both courses could have one.
- Herbicide has been purchased. We will try to use it this fall, if not will be applied in the spring.

- The bunkers on the course are well below the standards that we are happy with; Jeff would currently rate the courses at a B overall, mid C range because of bunkers. Greens were excellent this year.
  - Current staff did a good job maintaining turf, however we did not have the staff this season to work on bunkers; we have established a plan to hire a staff of college and high school students to really focus on bunkers in the spring.
- Anaconda Hills was named best course in the City (2020).
- Overall, both courses were really good this year!
  - Staffing was the biggest challenge.
  - Tap Room was well received, even without promoting. Will host some events including trivia nights, NFL package and one Chamber event this year. Made tweaks to the menu and will continue to expand.
- Will be replacing all the carpet at Anaconda Hills and the remaining old carpet at Eagle Falls.
- Removing the half wall at Anaconda Hills and replacing with a full wall.
- Waiting to the spring of 2021 to bring in a fleet of the robot caddies. Will promote them when we bring them in.
- Hosted several tournaments this season. Picked up 3 new tournaments this year that the courses have never had. Even with Covid restrictions we were able to continue events through the season, under regulations from the CCHD.
- While staying within our commitments to the City, we will be able to continue to move forward with our achieving our capital plan with 5-8 years.
- Jeff mentioned that he'll be interested in seeing what the industry does moving forward with the rakes in the bunkers. This season without them has been a time saver for maintenance and worked very well.

## **GOLF SUPERINDENT REPORT**

Keith Hollenback, Great Falls Golf LLC.

- Been a busy season and now we are starting to get the courses ready for end of season. Have to make sure irrigation repairs are completed before we start blowing out the lines for the winter.
- Waiting for a day without wind and frost to spray for weeds.
- Both courses are aerated.
- Netting project will be a winter project when we can borrow trucks from the City (Forestry).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Rick Gartzka asked if we could remove the lightning shelter between holes 4 and 7 at Eagle Falls. It no longer serves a purpose. Jeff Stange explained that it was on the projects list, but wouldn't be able to provide a timeframe of when it would be removed at this time.
- Dennis Heppner commented that the staff at Anaconda Hills have been a first rate group this season. They are on top of their game.

- Rick Gartzka asked if they are going to consider bringing food back at Anaconda Hills. Jeff Stange said the biggest challenge that Anaconda Hills faced was getting a hood/suppression systems. They have a very large price tag. Without that food options would be limited.
- Jackie Lohman suggested that the foam in the hole needs to be equal depths in all holes. Jeff Stange and Keith Hollenbeck said that they would look into resolving that.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Chris Fleck – Dennis is correct, the staff at Anaconda Hills is great! Chris attended the meeting to bring some items to the board's attention. He mentioned that Anaconda Hills doesn't announce tee times; there can be 6 people on the tee box with only 3 sets of clubs; making the turn on 9, there is someone coming over the top; that it took him 3 hours and 15 minutes to play 9 holes. Jeff Stange said that we did have money budgeted for a marshal, but what we need is a starter on the first tee. It is a very hard to fill the ranger positions. Jeff noted that most days the pace of play has been good at both course. Jeff addressed the other items and mentioned that all Chris concerns were also concerns that he had. He is working to resolve these issues moving forward.
- Brian Barts – Mentioned that he missed the red white and blue flags. Keith Hollenbeck explained that there are charts you can pick up at the pro shop that will show you the quadrants for the day.

With no further business, motion was made and seconded; meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:  
October 26, 2020**