

**Golf Advisory Board
Monday, March 26, 2012
Minutes**

Members Present: Cam Cherry, Lonnie Yingst, David Nelson, Kevin O'Connell

Members Absent: Steve Vielleux

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Wade Altschwager, Patty Rearden, Sherri Floerchinger

Others Present: O'Dell Jacobsen

Meeting called to order at 3:45pm

Director's Report

- Marty will be attending a retreat with the City Commission, City Manager and other City Department Directors on Thursday
 - Will discuss golf fund and what direction we are going

Manager's Report

- New software update for our POS system. Having problems that we are working through
- Joined the National Golf Foundation, rounds report good when going against the national trend
- Spring golf lessons will run for the next 2 weeks
- Grant request submitted to LPGA for girl's golf program
- Will attend a NGA workshop in Helena, there is a change in the 2012 rules

Superintendent Report

Eagle Falls – Keith Hollenback (absent)

- Cleaning up course for opening
- Trees are being trimmed from power lines by Northwest Energy
- Fixing irrigation
- Will start on paths

Anaconda Hills - Wade Altschwager

- attended a conference that provided good information on golf course maintenance
- Cleaning up course
- Snow removal yet
- Working on the driving range fence – poles, wires and raising the height of the fence
- Course is brown from lack of **moisture**; did do watering over the winter months to help

Old Business

Capital Improvement Fund

▶ *Capital Improvement Surcharge*

- There is a concern with the \$1 per round surcharge proposed and there needs to be more discussion
- People are playing more rounds of golf, so they will have to pay more in surcharge
- What will the fee be used for, need to have specific usage
- It has to be "sold" to the public in a way that they would see the benefit and not try to prevent implementation

▶ Capital Improvement golf tournament

- Wade & Keith's Revenge Tournament
 - Saturday, June 2nd scheduled date
 - \$150/team, fivesomes; includes range balls and one cart
 - If there are 100 players or more we will have a shotgun start
 - There will be a meeting on April 3rd to discuss the specific for the tournament

Corporate Memberships

Discussion on offering a corporate memberships for businesses. Staff has been asked each year if businesses could purchase one membership for employees/customers, etc. Connie has done some research on them; they range from \$2,500 - \$60,000 year at other courses. (Meadowlark Country Club does not offer one.) Various courses offer a wide range of benefits including:

- Privileges to employees and guests, no relatives
- Preferred tee times
- Range balls and golf carts
- Concierge package
- One primary, 3-5 other designees that would be able to use it
- Some unlimited, some can be used 1 - 2 times a week

After discussion, it was suggested that we look at a levels and what we could offer and what a business could expect at each level; \$2,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 were discussed. For example, might consider if they purchase \$5,000 in credit (to be applied to whatever – greens fees, carts, etc.) that a discount of perhaps 20% could be offered. Connie was to put together recommended levels/benefits and bring back to another meeting.

New Business

Rain Check Policy

- There have been problems in the past on rainout days especially on league nights;
- We established a rain check policy where we will stamp their receipt to be honored at golf course it was purchased at;
- Swing Time is refunded based on number of holes played

County Sanitation Fee

Marty talked to the Department of Revenue regarding Anaconda Hills Golf Course. We do not have to pay property taxes or fire suppression fees to the County (we have an agreement with the City for fire suppression), but we will be responsible for County Road and Sanitation fees.

Fire Code Violations

Great Falls Fire Department inspected Anaconda Hills Golf Course and found the following violations:

- Carts stored in the basement with gas in them
- Equipment in the maintenance building

These items have not been cited in past inspections (last year's inspection said there were no violations). Staff is working on resolving these issues.

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Staff

?????

Board

- Thanks to Patty and Marty for opening the courses early
 - Most play was by pass holders
 - Keith was very concerned about the condition of the course
- Driving range at Eagle Falls does not have significant number of targets
 - David suggested using pvc pipe with reflective tape on it
- **David is working on the possibility of hosting a golf tournament for Wounded Warrior Foundation – either Anaconda or Eagle Falls**
 - Honor Guard presentation with 21 gun salute
 - Raffle
- **David proposed** some type of Military Membership
 - “Falcon Card”
 - Pay for 9 rounds – 10th round free
 - Just for active duty military
 - Military Affairs Committee would be interested
 - MAFB – one in ten – any day/any course
 - Consider a Military Season Pass in the future
 - Discussion to continue at next meeting

Public

Odell Jacobson was present to discuss his concerns with the on-line tee times

- He has called Connie to walk him through on-line tee-times
- Issues with being blocked on Friday for a Sunday tee-time
- Should restore tee time reservations with same hours (posted on web)
- Train golfers to go on-line
- Publish starting times on web page – no blocking
- Promote with handouts as a management tool “hidden access times”
- Look at what other courses do
- **15 minutes buffer (rather than noon restriction) – board concerned and recommend that we pursue**
- “Contact me” – never hear from any body