

**Golf Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, July 22, 2013
Minutes**

Members Present: Steve Vielleux, Lonnie Yingst, Roy Aafedt

Members Absent: Cam Cherry, William Nelson

Staff Present: Marty Basta, Keith Hollenback, Connie Caouette, Patty Rearden, Wade Altschwager and Cindy Stein

Others Present: Dwight Griffin, Mark Martin, Bobby Webb, John Lynn, Will Rosanbalm, Bob Bellover and Mark Johnson.

Meeting called to order at 3:30pm

Board motioned to approve the minutes of May 28th; motion seconded and carried.

Director's Report

- Open position on the Golf Advisory Board will be advertised in the Great Falls Tribune this week, Steve Vielleux has resigned his position.
- Due to budget cuts we have eliminated 4 seasonal employees in Park Maintenance and will not be filling the Park Superintendent position.
- Golf course has been making gains, with the largest part of the debt being paid off in 2 years.
- The following changes to the golf budget are as follows
 - Deferred equipment purchases
 - Drawn down all cash in each division, leaving no cash to fall back on in case of emergency
 - Bonds will be covered by not purchasing equipment.
 - Revenue will have to offset all expenses
 - Marty working on business plan for Golf Courses
 - The commission is not focusing on the short term needs but the long term impact on the finances

Manager's Report

Connie Cramer-Caouette, Golf Pro

- This year we saw an increase in events scheduled at Anaconda Hills
- The kids programs held at Anaconda does take away tee times from golfers
- Eagle Falls clientele is getting older and Anaconda Hills clientele is getting younger

Superintendent Report

Eagle Falls Golf Club

Keith Hollenback, Golf Course Superintendent

- Trying to keep ahead of the heat
- Some equipment issues
- Regular daily maintenance during this time of year.

Anaconda Hills Golf Course

Wade Altschwager, Golf Course Superintendent

- Keeping up with regular maintenance and heat
- Working on #12 bunker
- Some equipment issues
- Keith & Wade's Challenge tournament earned about \$4000

Old Business

No old business

New Business

Suggested Lightning Policy

- Connie received information on when to make a call on lightening and will be implementing the guidelines (attached)
- Concern with a policy that says the course will take responsibility of golfers when they don't use common sense to get off the course
- There should be a national standard for recreational activities from a liability point; possible that insurance will ask if there is some guidelines or policy that was followed in case of a lightning strike
- Connie to check with the PGA on a policy for golf courses.

Military Cyber Cards Update

- 276 cybercards sold at a 50% discount; up 234 from 2012
- Discount will need to be revisited in September

Military Discount/Cyber Cards

Dwight Griffin spoke on the current Military Discount/Cyber Cards. This is the only military base that does not have their own golf course. As a retiree he feels the City is only honoring active military and retired military with their discount policy.

- The military discount came up in the last year; prior to that there was no military discount, there was interest in providing the discount.
- When the board agreed to the policy it was the most straight forward way; where do you draw the lines with reserves, retirees, etc.
- The discount was offered on a trial bases and will be reviewed again and what impact it has had on the golf course revenue.

Trail Fees

Willard Rosanbalm requested that there be a discount for trail fees at Anaconda Hills Golf Course, the yearly pass is discounted compared to Eagle Falls

- Marty explained that there will be a "fee summit" with all department heads to review all fees throughout city departments including golf fees
- Also concerned with youth golf lessons in the morning when they golf, why not move the lessons to the twilight time and/or allow pass holders to use Eagle Falls during the lesson times
- Marty to develop an updated business plan for the golf courses; Marty to do some research on the trail fees
- Connie thinks there is less than 20 who have personal carts and only golf at Anaconda Hills

- Hope to have fee discussion on the September Agenda
- Marty to let board know when the fee summit is going to be and if possible the agenda
- Steve suggested that if you reduce the fee for one you will have to do it for the other course

Miscellaneous Reports & Announcements

Public

Mark Johnson is interested in applying for the open board position

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:53pm