

# IRONHORSE

## Golf Club



### **GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Meeting minutes from June 24, 1999**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Board Members in attendance were Dick Fuller (chairman), Bobby Davidson, Jim Dickson, Mike O'Connell, Dave Fearis, Lou Rasmussen, Charles Lewis. Staff included Chris Claxton, Jennifer Molton, and Pete Spratlin, Matt Roberts of Ironhorse, Mike Lohner, Shane Gardner and Keith Hanley from EAGL.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

The minutes from the May 27, 1999 meeting were approved.

#### **TEE CONDITIONS**

Pete Spratlin – regarding USGA report –Tees are built out of clay; no permeability. They are built flat so are constantly wet and are sinking. Zoysia does not survive, and needs to be replaced. To fix the tees the sod needs to be stripped and a slight slope built to improve conditions. Pete said his staff can do the work but they don't have the right equipment to put the grade on it. He recommends Snyder Brothers who have a tractor with a laser on the bottom. They can do the job in a couple of weeks and not take any labor off the golf course. If the bill (\$50,000) done by Snyder Brothers can be paid over two months it won't tax the budget so much. A motion was passed to authorize contract of Snyder Brothers to do the work for \$50,000 if they will allow billing over two months time.

#### **POLICY REGARDING SEVERE WEATHER**

Matt – Currently , if it is known that there is a weather situation happening or going to happen, players on the golf course are notified by marshalls that it is in their best interest to get inside. Staff does their best to get them indoors. There is concern about liability issues. A weather siren is used to notify golfers of bad weather, and then sounded again when it's okay for them to return to the course. A suggestion was made that they might include a paragraph on the golf car rental sheet which is an agreement that they are waiving any and all responsibility if lightning strikes or weather becomes a safety issue.

Mike Lohner said to date a golf course has not been liable except in the occurrence it was said it was safe to return to the course and a party was injured. Rain checks will be set up for people who's game has been interrupted by bad weather. Chris Claxton asked "how do people know where is a safe place to go?" Matt replied that when the storm rolls in, they have to make sure that the golfers are OFF the golf course completely. Mike Lohner said for the golf course to check with EAGL to make sure they are complying with their recommendations. Policy for Ironhorse should be based on those recommendations.

## **COURSE UPDATE, U.S.G.A. VISIT**

A handout was distributed. Pete was commended on a great report. The rest of the course is doing really well although they face a constant weed battle due to flooding. The fescue grass is coming up really great this year. It was a good overall report.

The new "Super Twilight" 6 p.m. tee times are working out well. People are often still on the course at 9:30 p.m. Jim Dickson asked about the number of rounds played versus the budget: 308 rounds ahead and running at 86% of budget right now.

Regarding ball marks on par 3 – Pete said they are healing fast. Dick Fuller asked if the marshal was doing a good job of reminding golfers to repair the ball marks as they go. Mike O'Connell asked if a ball mark repair kit should be given to people in golf cars – Pete said they end up on the greens as litter.

Regarding fans – they arrived today and will be turned on this week.

Staff – losing many people in August due to school. An ad in the paper has had a positive result in a large response of older, mature, quality applicants looking for full time work to replace them.

Mike Lohner said that we will exceed budget even with the tee repair expense. However, we are right on budget overall at this time.

Matt Roberts reported that food, beverage and merchandise sales are up. The shop is currently not as full as it could be. Matt and Keith suggested bringing in new items through the tournament season as more upscale players are using the course. It was recommended to aggressively promote getting party contracts, especially over the Holidays. Private parties that other clubs can't accommodate could use Ironhorse. Chris Claxton suggested that Ironhorse could trade business with the Community Center when the Community Center could not accommodate a party. Mike O'Connell suggested contacting Kansas City Catering to get contacts/customers.

Jim Dickson wanted to know the overall level of customer satisfaction. Matt said the general consensus was that it was very good. They don't hear anything negative. Mike Lohner suggested putting together a survey for golfers. Golfers from previous years that have been away and have come back are complimentary.

## **DISCUSSION OF PUMP HOUSE SCREENING**

Mr. Simpson wrote Dick a letter to which he referenced a landscaping plan which he never heard back from. He states that it was agreed that there would be a plan that was approved by both parties. "All golf course improvements (such as pump house, bathrooms, etc.) must be designed aesthetically and not so visible." Jim Dickson suggested a reply that stated that Phil Gibbs of C.C.E., gave special regard to the design to hide pump station inside. The landscaping will be aesthetically pleasing as well. We have complied with our agreement with Mr. Simpson. Dick suggested that we are done with this issue and Mr. Simpson is just making one last attempt to raise it again.

## **BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

Pete Spratlin said access to west side of course, when finished developing, will be just as land-locked as before. Need more access to course. Need to reinforce dam.

Chris said she needs to check with Public Works about stop sign at Ironhorse Drive. Insurance rider's to be reviewed on this area.

Bobby suggested that we call Dusty Rhodes or Phil Acuff and try to work with them on fence/gate issue. Pump silt out of #11 into the silt basin. Issue of gate on #12. Jim Dickson will call Phil Accuff and set up a meeting..

Overland Park may put up fence. Bobby Davidson said we have no authority to deal with any other city.

Chris – restricted access from these homes; fences will have to be put up by home owners. We can't control Overland Park.

The issue of water on the course was raised. The area is being built up which increases the flow of water from surrounding development onto the course (on 4 fairways) to cause flooding. A lot of asphalt creates this problem.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting date was set for July 22<sup>nd</sup> .

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton  
Interim Director of Parks and Recreation