

IRONHORSE

Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE

May 25, 2000 Meeting –5:30 p.m.

Committee members in attendance were Dick Fuller, Jim Dickson, Mike O'Connell, Charles Lewis III, Mike Gill, Bobby Davidson, Bob Reid and Dave Fearis. Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director, as well as Pete Spratlin and Matt Roberts of IRONHORSE were in attendance as was Keith Hanley from E.A.G.L. and Ann Field.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Charles Lewis III to approve the minutes from the April 27th meeting. Jim Dickson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

I. General Operations Report

Matt Roberts reported that the first two weeks in May were very good with the exception of the wind, which proved bad for rounds. However, he said that we are at 90% for rounds for the month. Corporate events such as shotgun tournaments are in full swing. Tuesdays and Thursdays are like weekends as far as revenue. Conditions at the golf course, especially the greens, are favorable. Matt went on to report about the bunker renovation. He said it is underway and he had not heard of any complaints. Work is going well, with new sand in the bunkers tomorrow. It will be about three weeks until the closing of this project. We will focus on tees and bad spots on cart paths. The grass on the practice tee is thin so mats will be used to prevent further damage.

Bobby Davidson asked about the proper procedure for hitting range ball.

Matt said to keep within the roped area. Dave Fearis added that golfers should work the divot.

Jim Dickson asked Matt about the budget. Matt said that he would move rounds around to disperse them out among the months in order to keep on budget.

Dick Fuller asked about Falcon Ridge and how we compared to them as far as price increase. Matt reported that we are still under Falcon Ridge and that we are providing an equal to superior facility.

Dave Fearis stated that at the end of the year we should inform the golfers of what their green fees have provided.

Mike O'Connell asked if we are missing revenue and if we have complete range coverage? Jim Dickson replied that Pete said that range fees are set up and if you are putting golfers on mats all

of the time, then that is where the problem lies. So maybe there should be a program set up where you must pay green fees or be in the range program to hit balls. Dick Fuller said that if we keep people informed of what their money is going toward they would be more likely to understand when things are going on at the golf course.

Matt Roberts brought to attention that Ironhorse was the featured golf course in Kansas City Golf Magazine. Nicholas Flick Golf School was at our facility and they really enjoyed coming out.

II. Course Update

Pete reported that the cart path measuring about 2' x 25' encroaches upon the property line on #9. He reported that Planning is concerned about the small drainage swell that comes down in front of the blue tee box. Planning is trying to figure out how to keep all drainage away from the bridge swell. He said that there seems to be a bit of confusion here as to where silt flow is occurring.

Bobby Davidson asked if this has gone to the planning commission with our recommendation?

Pete continued to state that they were at one time considering using the silt as fill on the golf course. Now that we don't need fill we could just run the silt through the fence and take it elsewhere to save as fill for other projects.

Bobby Davidson stated that the reason he asked if this had gone to planning was because they include in the contract that developers and the owners of the land will remain responsible for any damage to the golf course due to silting or erosion. We should have included and heirs or successors, so we should make a continuation to go with the land.

Pete then stated that silt on the golf course has been a huge issue and very time consuming. However, he feels progress has been made due to Sunday's storm. The house on #4 removed all of their silt retention about three weeks ago and installed their irrigation system. When the rain came about five to six yards of soil washed over the cart path. The next day a stop-work order was issued and silt retention was installed. All silt was cleaned up.

Chris Claxton added that the re-involvement of the city attorney has been a big help.

Pete said he asked Sam to send him a map of the property with all of the lots on it including addresses, phone numbers and names. This will help with communication about locations on the golf course.

Bobby Davidson commented that on the 13th tee there was a no build zone and a no disturb zone. We put these zones there because once you begin disturbing the rock and trees of the 13th green, there is no doubt there will be an erosion problem.

Jim Dickson mentioned that he didn't think that the ordinance specifically stated not to take trees out.

Bobby Davidson said that the wording was such that this area was to be left in a natural state, meaning that if there were changes to be made, they must be made by the golf course committee. This way, if there is anything likely to be injurious to the golf course, we could say, "no, this area is in the no build zone."

Pete then asked how close the house next to the 13th tee was to the property line?

Jim Dickson suggested that we should go out and measure the actual distance if there seems to be a discrepancy. He then asked if we are going to raise the tee on the 13th?

Pete said that he intended to raise it a bit. He talked to Matt about it, and he was in favor of it.

Chris Claxton stated that we could do this. The plan is that we would say that the cost to the property owner would be the cost for us to replace it, as it was prior to the silting. Then, the City could pay the difference of the amount to raise the tee.

Pete said that a nice side effect of the raising of the tee is that the tee box will expand by 1/3, which it really needs.

Dick Fuller mentioned that getting dirt to the tee box would be a challenge. Pete concurred. He stated that it will be hard, but that there shouldn't be a problem.

Jim Dickson asked about the addition on the 12th tee.

Pete said that they ran the idea past Paul Vermilion. They could take the two walnuts out and bring in the gold tee to make an "L" shape. Paul thought that would be great. Pete also reported that Paul's visit went well. He commented that the greens looked healthy and he liked the bunkers. However, he felt the shape of some of the bunkers could be changed.

Matt Roberts mentioned the clumpiness of the roughs to Paul and asked him what we could do to remedy that. Matt said that he recommended bringing in topsoil over the grass and seeding it this fall. By next spring those affected areas would be fine.

Jim Dickson asked if Paul recommended having another engineer look at it? Matt said yes. Jim then went on to say that there has been no proposal from Toro saying this option wouldn't work unless we run water from two different directions.

Matt Roberts asked when we could expect Paul's report? Pete said within a week. Dick Fuller mentioned that he gave a very favorable report.

Jim Dickson asked what he said about the short course?

Pete reported that he said it was a great area. Pete went on to report that Snyder Brothers are helping with the tee reconstruction. The right hand bunker on the 6th tee was part of a traffic problem. Things have not been growing there so we took the front half of the bunker off. Now you can see the whole bunker and he said it looks great. He also reported that he put drainage in five bunkers today and they will finish tomorrow or Monday.

Jim Dickson asked when the irrigation would be put in? Pete said they are waiting on a bid. Chris Claxton gave an update on the access road. She said that in Doug Smith's letter it stated they were going to have us put in a chain link fence, but now they want to do it and the cost has risen. They want to have a copy of the easement on Mr. Large's property that includes language saying that they have access along with the City. So, Chris stated that she has gone back to Continental and they are going to change the easement so that the language is in it.

Pete mentioned that we should have them add to the easement that they will have access to the property, but not to the golf course.

Chris Claxton then reported that the purchaser of the home on #11, the first house past the trees, called Matt and requested one of the fairways be shut down because balls are landing in his yard. Chris explained that this is a signature hole and they cannot shut this fairway down. She recommended that he talk with his builder because the City really has nothing to do with his issue.

At 7:45 p.m. Dick Fuller motioned to adjourn. Dave Fearis seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Field
Community Information Coordinator