

IRONHORSE Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE August 28, 2003 – 5:30 p.m.

Draft

Committee members in attendance were Dick Fuller (chairman), Councilman Lou Rasmussen, Councilman Scott Gullledge, Jim Dickson, Dave Ferris, Bobby Davidson, Charles Lewis, Mike O'Connell, and Bob Reid. Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director, Pete Spratlin, Shane Gardner and Matt Roberts of IRONHORSE.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Charles Lewis to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2003 meeting. Dave Ferris seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Discussion of Lake – Hole #6

The Reserve HOA group met on Sunday with Pete Spratlin to discuss the condition of the pond and surrounding area. Rick Thompson, representative from The Reserves HOA came to discuss their concerns and to show some pictures. The HOA has two concerns; one is the duckweed and algae on the pond and how it affects the property values, and mosquitoes are a concern because of the West Nile Virus. The second concern is the weeds that are growing around there and what is the policy and procedure for cutting the weeds.

Jim Dickson discussed the problems regarding the duckweed and how difficult it is to get rid of. Treating the pond with chemicals is not a solution because the pond is the course's only source for watering.

Scott Gullledge said that the weed situation would be taken care of by maintenance. In the future there are still two issues, the duckweed and the algae. Scott Gullledge said that the solution is an aeration system that would prevent the algae from forming and would assist in the control of the duckweed. The system would be three pumps, one at each end and one in the middle that would keep everything at the outside of the pond, in which Pete would be able to control. The cost of

the pumps is \$6,000.00 without labor or the ongoing cost of electricity. Scott Gullledge emailed a proposal to Mayor Dunn, Scott Lambers, Lou Rasmussen, Gary Bussig and Mike Gill.

Pete Spratlin said that with the extreme heat the algae are still blooming. Pete felt that aerification would make the pond healthier. Pete said that one duckweed plant could grow and cover an acre in five days. Pete said that they might have to upgrade the power for the pumps. Dick Fuller asked if it would be a fountain. Pete said that it would be a big bubbler. Scott Gullledge asked if there were any complaints from the golfers. Pete said that there have been complaints from neighbors and golfers both.

Lou Rasmussen said that he feels it is not controllable because of migratory geese, ducks and nature. He feels that we have priorities other than aesthetics. He would like to hear from the homeowners association whether they are interested in making a financial contribution to solving this problem.

Scott Gullledge agreed that we would not be able to eradicate the problem, but that we can control it. Scott Gullledge met with the association and felt that he would not go to the homeowners with this problem. He felt that it is the City's responsibility to correct the problem.

Bobby Davidson wanted to know if the duckweed could get into the intake valve. Pete said that if it were to die and sink it would go right into the pump system. Mike O'Connell wanted to know if we do nothing would it come back. Pete said it would come back when the weather gets warm. Mike O'Connell asked if there is a threat to the physical part of the golf course. Pete said no.

Lou Rasmussen made a motion that Pete Spratlin prepare a memorandum that says this is what the problem is, these are the methods that can be used to solve the problem and this is what the cost would be. Mike O'Connell seconded the motion.

Lou Rasmussen also suggested that the homes association look at the issues and if it is that significant to them, how much are they willing to contribute to the capital.

Mike O'Connell would like the cause to be identified and to find out who else has the problem.

Dick Fuller asked if the original plans for the pond included an aeration system. Scott Gullledge said that he thought it was in the original plans but was a budget cut. Lou Rasmussen asked that the history be checked.

Motion carried.

General Operations Report

Orion handed out books to the committee that were a project by Hurdzan and Fry titled, "Selected Golf Courses", which Ironhorse was a participant. Shane said that the golf course was voted in the top three of Ingram's Magazine for 2003 for best Kansas City golf courses. Shane said that our rating is 4 out of 5.

Matt Roberts reported that they are \$2500 under budget in revenues for August and about even in expenses. He said that YTD they are under budget by \$30,000 for total net. They have good outings and bookings for September. Matt said that they are preparing a comparison report of this year's YTD compared to last year's YTD. They had the Missouri Golf Association Tournament this past week. It went very well and there were many compliments. It was a very positive event. Bob Reid said that he was very pleased with the course, clubhouse and staff. Dick Fuller said that we as a committee should do more to get publicity. Scott Gullede asked that Orion prepare a list of their accomplishments since they have taken over the golf course and distribute it to the committee. Mike O'Connell wanted the minutes to reflect a public apology to Orion for the tenor of the contract negotiations and hoped that staff, council, and residents understand we are fortunate to have as capable a group as Orion management. Dave Ferris talked about having a media day. Lou Rasmussen said that we should incorporate a media day into the business plan. Scott Gullede will forward Orion's accomplishments to the Council. Matt discussed the "Driving for Bruce" fundraiser for ALS. They will be driving a golf cart from Ironhorse to Pebble Beach. Bruce Edwards is Tom Watson's caddy who has ALS. This group wants to have the fundraiser out at Ironwoods. There will be media and 16 major sponsors that are financing this event. Scott Gullede wanted to know if we could have our own media day after that event.

Course and Project Update

Pete said he has spent a lot of time researching the duckweed. The course has had two vandalisms. #10 and #11 greens were hacked up by golf clubs. The teens were caught when they were vandalizing #11. Chris Claxton said that they are waiting for the police report. She said the City Administrator wants to prosecute. Lou Rasmussen asked if we got it into the press. Lou Rasmussen asked if the City Administrator and Chief of Police were clear on what should happen when there is trespassing on the golf course. The advisory board is disappointed that the communications has broken down between Police Department and the City in terms of trespassing on the golf course.

Chris Claxton discussed the railroad bridge. They will have had a stonemason out and will move the bridge and try to reassemble it sometime in mid-October.

USGA Visit Summary

The USGA came to visit on August 12th. They had a 3- page report and were very pleased with the visit. The course looked great. They suggested that they fill in where the tree is on #13. Jim Dickson said that everything was looking great and that Pete has done a fantastic job.

Update on PES – Hole #13

Chris said that they went back to the storm water committee for a recommendation. Pete said that they were sticking with the original plan from Continental.

Perimeter Fencing

Pete is taking bids and they are coming out very consistent. The welded fence is \$35/ft. We have \$30,000 for fencing. Lou Rasmussen asked how we deviated from the original fencing and how did it get pass the City. The fencing belongs to Mark Simpson. The panel fencing is what is installed along Mission Road. It is less expensive. Pete said they could install a lot of the fence themselves. Dick Fuller asked about #13. Pete said that he would get pictures on the cart path at #13.

Misc.

Dick Fuller wanted it stated in the minutes how much Orion has done and the committee is very pleased that they have executed a new 3-year contract with the City.

Dick Fuller also wanted to address and recommend that Ironhorse and their food staff have the capability of offering catering services for Ironwoods Lodge and also handle the liquor sales and that this be put in the program guide.

Dave Ferris said that Ironhorse is officially a First Tee Facility that is funded by the PGA for kids to learn how to play golf. Dave Ferris said that the Kansas City First Tee reaches over 2,000 kids.

Jim Dickson and Pete are working on a project and have contacted USGA to do further improvement to the 3-hole course. They will ask for \$50,000 for the improvement.

Dave Ferris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Lewis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks & Recreation