

# IRONHORSE Golf Club



## **GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE October 30, – 5:30 p.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Lou Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the September 25th, 2003 meeting. Jim Dickson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **General Operations Report**

Matt Roberts reported that they are going to do a Triple Crown Club party and pre-fall sale get together at the club on 11/13/03. The members will have the first chance at the fall sale. The actual sale will be 11/14 – 11/16/03. Shane and Christine have been working with the homeowners around the golf course and are planning a holiday get together to acquaint them with the clubhouse, golf course and all that it has to offer.

Matt said the new contract that they signed starts 11/1/03. The changes will take place regarding the liquor sales.

Matt said that October was a good month. They will be \$10,000 to \$15,000 net under budget for the month. Matt said that all other golf courses are way down in revenues. Jim Dickson talked about the golf course and if we are selling the golf course at the right price. Lou Rasmussen feels that our cash flow is excellent. He felt that the course is operating fine. Lou Rasmussen said that the biggest problem as a committee is how to continue to preserve the assets.

Chris Claxton passed out some National Golf Association material from the conference that she attended.

### **Course and Project Update**

Pete said that they reshaped bunkers and they will repair areas on the practice course. Dick Fuller asked if he was still watering daily. Pete said that they were and that it was still very dry. They went in and excavated out the cart path on #13 to stop the water. Pete said that they will be cutting cart paths and laying in drainage under the path. Dick Fuller asked how the parking lot is holding up. Pete said that the ground is moving. He said that all the curbing is intact and in good shape. He felt they needed to seal the whole parking lot. Lou Rasmussen asked if the capital improvement project is ready to move forward on 1/1/04. Pete said they are putting together the information to advertise for the bid process. Dick Fuller asked what the cost would be for the perimeter irrigation process. Pete said the cost will be \$90,000 and it will be an independent system around the greens. Dick Fuller asked about the disruption and Pete said it would be very little. Lou Rasmussen wanted to know when they would be able to give the committee a list of capital improvements for the 2005 budget year.

### **Discussion of Aeration for the Irrigation Lake**

Pete passed out information pertaining to the aeration of the lake and the duck weed problem. The river pump has helped the weed problem on the lake but because the pump has been running for two months straight, it has done some damage to the pump. The neighbors have been very understanding and noticed that the pump was helping. The neighbors asked about the weeds behind their fences. One reason is because their drains are running so much water, which is flowing on to the course property, and cattails are growing. Pete said that there would be a follow-up meeting with the neighbors. Jim Dickson said that this is actually not our problem. Lou Rasmussen suggested that this issue be part of the capital improvements program for 2005. Pete said that the aerification could eliminate the algae problem but there is no solution for the duckweed problem. Jim Dickson asked if the only way to hide it is to plant. Dick Fuller felt it should be resolved before 2005. It will be a matter of coming up with \$6,000 that has not been budgeted. Jim Dickson suggested that we talk to the neighbors and let them know that there isn't any money in the budget for 2004 and that we can look at the 2005 budget. Dick Fuller said that the committee should read the information on the aerification for the irrigation lake and that it be put on the next agenda.

### **Discussion of the Simpson Fence #16**

Chris said that Mr. Simpson had four weeks to be in compliance with the covenants. On 10/29/03 he was issued a court summons. The fence that he installed does not match the covenants and he did not get a permit.

### **Update on #11 Vandalism**

The issue is set on the plea docket for Monday, 11/3/03. The City Administrator will reserve judgment till after the plea on Monday. Chris said that we are continuing to see problems. Dick Fuller feels that there should be an example set. Pete said that there was vandalism again on #10, golf clubs digging holes in the green. He said that since 8/4/03 fifteen flags and sticks have been

taken. Pete said that they are looking into having an off-duty police officer come out on certain evenings.

### **2004 Fees**

Shane said that they have put down some recommendations for fees. They listed the opportunities where they felt they could raise the fees in certain areas. Last year the fees were raised by \$2.00 for residents and \$1.00 for non-resident. They are looking at raising prime non-resident, which is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, up \$2.00. On the non prime-resident they looked at a \$2.00 increase. The prime resident they looked at a \$4.00 increase. Lou Rasmussen asked what the differential between resident and non-resident fees were in the original feasibility study. When the course opened the differential was \$2.00. Lou Rasmussen said he is reluctant to raise the fees. Chris felt that they should capitalize on supply and demand on the people that will be there anyway. Jim Dickson asked what is bringing down our revenues. Shane said that twilight fees bring the revenue down per round. The resident rate also brings it down because they have access to the tee times and their fees are the lowest. Mike O'Connell felt that they need to get them to become members. Mike O'Connell made a motion to table this issue. Lou Rasmussen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Misc.**

The committee decided that because the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday is Thanksgiving, the next meeting will be held on 11/20/03.

Shane said that they would try and have a rough draft of their business plan before the meeting.

Bob Reid reported that he hosted the women's college and university golf teams at Ironhorse. All the comments were good. Also next Wednesday 11/6/03, Charles Lewis will be inducted into the Arkansas Golf Hall of Fame.

Dick Fuller asked about our rating. Shane said that they had not gotten the final rating back.

Charles Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Ferris seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks & Recreation