

IRONHORSE
Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of April 28, 2005
5:30 pm - Leawood City Hall
Main Conference Room**

I. Welcome

Dick Fuller called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Members in attendance were Councilman Lou Rasmussen, Dick Fuller, Councilman Gary Bussing, John Campbell, Mike O'Connell, Bob Reid, Bobby Davidson, Chuck Sipple, Shane Gardner, Matt Roberts, Pete Spratlin, Chris Claxton and Angie Askren

II. Approval of Minutes

John Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the February 23rd meeting. Mike O'Connell seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Discussion of Quorum

Dick wanted to stress the importance of having a quorum and how it is affecting our meetings. If you know that you will be unable to attend, please give notice so that we can cancel the meeting if the quorum is not met, prior to the meeting time. Individuals have met twice where quorum was not met, and official business was not able to be held.

IV. Discuss Mayoral Committee Appointments

Chris explained that the Mayor reviews all committees and typically makes appointment the first meeting of May. Scott Gullede and Mike Gill have been reassigned to other committees and are no longer on the Golf committee. Charles Lewis and Dave Fearis were not reappointed. Council liaisons do not count towards quorum. For future reference – four of the appointed committee members are needed for a quorum.

V. Status of Flood Plain Stabilization Project

The contract with Continental Engineers was approved at council and they will begin work soon on the design. There are erosion problems on #8 north of the fairway and the first house north of the green has the most potential for problems during large events. CCE believes that the only potential solution would be to build a wall. Most of the water accumulates from water that backs up from the Little Blue River. Scott Lambers went out to look at the properties and is considering presenting an idea that would straighten the channel. Gary mentioned that the erosion on the creek bank is inevitable and they will have to come across the golf course to fix it when it gets worse in the future. So, long term, at a reasonable cost, solve it now and get the channel away from the property line. Pete said that bringing the creek closer to the fairway could affect play (change difficulty of the hole). This is similar to

13 where the creek is on the left side. If the creek has to be filled in there will be plenty of dirt to work with. Bobby said when this first started and those homes were being built, the developer went back and forth, but decided to put in the houses anyway. Scott talked about adding an addendum to the bid to address this and the council would decide. Gary said to have the homeowners pay for a portion of it, and then do it with the project so we don't have to close down again when the homeowners decide to fix the problem. Scott wanted the committee aware that it is being discussed, and it does not qualify for SMAC. Chris said she would have Phil Gibbs get some information to her about the specifics and she can pass it on to committee members at a future meeting.

VI. Orion Management Agreement Extension

Scott advised Chris that if the City is considering doing an RFP at the conclusion of the current agreement (for the management of the golf course), the construction period would make the most sense for a seamless transition. He would entertain input from the committee and said that this would be discussed at a future work session with council. Orion's agreement expires in the middle of construction (December 31, 2006) and if an RFP were let, it would most likely take place in July of 2006. Bobby suggested having a meeting without Orion's presence so that committee members could be frank about their feelings. Dick said that he is a strong supporter of continuing Orion's contract for two reasons; One, with the construction, it makes sense to stay with them, and two, he has always been happy with Orion's performance. Dick suggests doing a RFP one year after the construction period. Mike agrees, to have one superintendent for one half of a project and another for the second half does not make sense. Bobby wants to see Orion's contract for review. Discussion is tabled until next meeting and will be last on the agenda so Orion can leave for that discussion. A copy of the contract will be sent to all the committee members.

VII. 10 Year Celebration

Shane discussed the 10th anniversary and potential celebration for Ironhorse. He wants to have a themed celebration on a couple of summer days. One idea is a VIP event for the chance to reward people on committees, board members, vendors, staff, etc. and on the second day, open to the public. Have a couple of different events and staggered tee times to try and get as many involved as possible. Shane also mentioned logo items to give away. At the Business to Business Expo, they gave away 125 hats and Matt has booked 5 outings because of it. Another option is to have both days open to the public and have no city involvement. Lou suggests having it more for the old committee members and community supporters. Who has supported us from day one and have been there through thick and thin. Don't go with "freebies", but make it a "thank you" for supporting us.

Dick thinks it should be for the public, men's clubs, women's clubs, maybe even a "Leawood Resident" day.

Gary says that we are soon going into a construction period. He does not support spending more money than we are making on give aways and is concerned how that will appear to the general public.

The committee wants to get more information on how much it will cost. If it is relatively inexpensive and it will promote the course positively, we should look into it. Pete suggested another concept of not just a two day event, but a year long event. Like 2 for 1 coupons on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesdays all season long. Mike suggested putting numbers together for

discussion at the next meeting. Bobby suggested a City Championship and Matt said it is hard with two private clubs here.

VIII. General Operations Report

Matt reported that the April forecast is close to budget for the month. May is the biggest event month – there is a couple’s event next Sunday. There is also a Stag night coming up for members and a guest. The course is in great condition right now.

Range ball dispenser is being delivered next week, along with another vending machine from Coke. You can use tokens, cards, keys, and cash with the new range ball dispenser, but not debit or credit cards. August 22 and 23rd Leawood South is closed to do their greens. Shane talked with Paul from LS to see about letting his members use Ironhorse. We could do something similar as when Hallbrook closed for renovation.

Memberships are the same as last year for this time. The tournament mailbox has 6-10 messages per day coming in about possible events. Matt attributes the increase in outings to having the pricing better and more aggressive. August is still open and we are trying to steer some outings from July and September into August. We are starting a weekly golf league with the Church of Resurrection. It will be on Wednesday nights for an 8 week period. They have prepaid up front for certain blocks of tee times. Shane is talking to other churches and venues along the same line.

Lou asked about the audit report and it is still not complete yet. Chris said that it should be coming out in the council packet.

Lou said we need to look up the policy that the City Council approved when Hallbrook closed for the same deal. We need to look up what we said about taking in people – case in point with Leawood South. Chuck said when Blue Hills was closed, they had tee times twice a day for foursomes. It was complimentary if all four were Blue Hills members.

Gary asked Matt if the triple crown members this year are the same people or new. About ¼ are new, lost 31, but picked up 28 new ones. Some joined other clubs and others decided they didn’t play enough golf to justify the cost..

IX. Course Maintenance/Project Report

Pete reported that they are mowing every day and the course is looking really good. We did experience some winter kill with the colder weather. Everything is greening back up now with the irrigation. On the project side, replacing the zoysia on the tee/greens took a dive. No place to farm and it is expensive to do and a lot of work. There are still fish in the irrigation lake on #6. Pete is still working on the fountain on #6 to keep it going as it seems to have an electric problem.

X. Misc.

Shane reported the golf crew was trained on the new AED machines. They had two AED machines delivered, one on the front nine and one on the back nine. They were also trained for CPR as well.

Chris thanked the Leawood Fire Department, especially Tim Stamms, for their help and professionalism in providing the training.

XI. Adjourn

John moved to adjourn and Mike O'Connell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation