

IRONHORSE
Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 19, 2006
5:30 – Leawood City Hall

Members in attendance were Dick Fuller, Bob Reid, Council Member Gary Bussing, Council Member Lou Rasmussen, Council Member James Taylor, Chuck Sipple, John Campbell and Bobby Davidson. Shane Gardner, Matt Roberts, and Pete Spratlin of Orion and Parks and Recreation Director, Chris Claxton and Sara Dinkel were also in attendance.

Dick Fuller called the meeting to order at 5:55. John Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting. James Taylor asked that page three be revised because he does feel it is appropriate for Pete Spratlin be involved with the construction project. Change to the minutes was noted and then Bobby Davidson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

I. General Operations Report

Matt reported that the Cresnet software is installed and fully operational and he should be able to prepare December's financial by week's end. Chuck Sipple asked if you can wait on customers more quickly with the new system and Matt answered yes. Matt said not only can we wait on customers more quickly but also with less errors and now they can make credit card sales at all the registers.

Matt reported 578 rounds of golf sold, and \$30,000 in revenues generated, already in 2006. This is well above the expected because of the mild weather we've been experiencing. Matt also reported that the course is holding up well with all this additional play. Tournament bookings are going well and we have signed up four new shotguns tournaments so far this year and are retaining many of our other groups.

Matt reported that Todd Fields was recognized as the "National Fitter of the Year" by Callaway. Chuck Sipple asked what does this recognition entail and Matt said was significant because Ironhorse Golf Course was the number one "Green Grass" account for Callaway last year. Matt said he was hoping to use these recognitions in the marketing of Ironhorse this coming year.

Matt reported that Food & Beverage had a party last week at the Lodge. Chuck asked if they cook at the Lodge or do they carry the food over from the golf course, and Matt said they did both. Dick added that the Lodge has a full commercial kitchen.

Lou then presented Matt with the question as to whether or not Ironhorse was successful in getting done what was planned to do in the year 2005 or are there issues/items that are being carried over into 2006. Matt said he did not think so. Then Lou asked Matt from a business plan point of view did you meet the goals? and Matt responded that he thought they did.

Pete reported that he had big news because they finally identified the problem with the communications cable associated with the irrigation system. Pete went on to say the system had been broken since July 19 but the TORO people finally got it figured out. Pete did go on to report that there is still 1800 feet of bad cable that leads to the controllers, located by the pro shop on to the hillside on #2 that still needs to be replaced but Pete did not think it would be expensive to replace, maybe \$1500. Pete said it was a big relief to have the irrigation control system issue resolved.

Pete said the course is handling the traffic pretty well. He is hoping for some rain and because of the warm weather the zoysia grass thinks its April (springtime) and wants to green up. Dick asked Pete how the greens were holding up and Pete said pretty good.

Lou Rasmussen asked if the gutters were done and Pete said yes.

Chuck asked if the bathrooms are done and Pete said yes.

Pete went on to say that from what he sees the only items held over from 2005 into 2006 is the equipment.

II. Course Maintenance/Project Report

Pete reported that he had received the results from the first \$6,000 spent on testing and they were “interesting”.

Lou asked “Bottom line do we need new greens?”

Pete said the report says the greens won’t dry out and other statements were made such as the greens needing aerification. However, some of the report was contradictory and some parts did not provide enough explanation for a lay person to read it.

Pete said numerous profiles were made.

James asked “So then we have profiles for 4 or 5 greens ranging from 8” to 31” deep.

Chuck asked about the “dead zones” at the bottom of the greens and Pete said the bottoms have not dried out and were rotten.

Pete went on to say the drains are being vented at the ends of each green but the drains are still holding water. Even when the drains are flushed out they still hold the fresh water in them. The report mentioned an aeration schedule but Pete added he already has a more aggressive schedule than what was outlined in the report.

James questioned if the report we have now is satisfactory in drawing a conclusion. James also asked if Scott had the report and Chris said because some of the information in the report is conflicting, Scott has not seen it yet and; that we have asked the company to address the contradictory items and expand clarification on others.

Pete said the owner of the testing company ISTREK, would not make a \$1 million recommendation to rebuild the greens. Chris said she believes they are in the business of providing the facts and that we will have to devise the recommendation based on the information as a base.

James then asked “Who does make the decision?”

Lou said “So we now have more data with no conclusion?”

Chuck Sipple said someone needs to come forward and make that suggestion.

James Taylor said Scott will need something solid to take to the Council.

Pete then asked Chris if she wanted to call ISTREK and ask them to make the recommendation.

Dick said Pete and Chris are just to get the data together.

Dick said someone like Paul Vermeulen of the PGA should interpret the report and make a recommendation.

Chris then asked Gary Bussing who made the decision to do the work out at Leawood South? Pete said Paul Vermeulen, along with the superintendent, made those decisions.

Gary Bussing then commented that there are probably lots of things we could do and alternative solutions other than just reconstructing the greens should be considered.

Dick commented that we are getting a report and that should provide us with the results from the testing and then there are people who are available to make that determination – someone independent of the staff.

Chuck asked when can we expect to see the report? Pete said next week.

Chris asked Pete to call ISTREK and see when we can expect the report?

Lou then asked Pete about the condition of the pumps on the river and the lake. Pete said the pumps are doing great but at times they experience problems with the controls system. Pete feels the controls are slowly dying out but there is no need to act on it now. Mike asked Pete if the controls go bad will the pumps go bad. Pete said he feels it is something that can be fixed.

Gary asked Pete what is the age of these systems that are failing? Pete said they are about 10 years old. Pete asked the group if the pumps were new when they were put in and Lou and Dick both said they were new at the time of installation

Chuck asked if Paul was prepared to go out on a limb and make the recommendation to rebuild the greens?

Bobby had a question concerning the 8-10 decision about the creek and the flooding and postponing the work for the SMAC project on #13. Bobby said he was of the understanding that the recommendations were going to be made at a later meeting and instead it was made at the very next council meeting. Bobby said the folks in his neighborhood were questioning the council’s decision to delay the creek work.

Lou then asked who is going to be responsible for the construction, for hole 5, for the SMAC project, for hole 8 etc. Who's going to be responsible for defining the scope of these projects? Park & Recreation? Public Works? Who?

Gary said Continental Engineering has gone out and identified the areas to be addressed, 25 items, and are proceeding with the Corps and will propose what to do.

Lou went on to say that the Corps has some issues with #8 and so the engineering couldn't be complete, which led to the postponement.

III. Vendor-Golf Car Fleet Replacement Recommendation

Chris went over the recommendation and spreadsheet she prepared. Both companies EZ Go and Club Car gave 2 proposals each. Orion is recommending we go with Club Car even though up-front they are more expensive. In the long run because of battery warranty and maintenance, (the major expense associated with golf cars), along with concerns about speed control features, Club Cars proved to be the better choice financially for the long term.

Bobby motioned that the group support the recommendation of Orion on the bid as provided by Club Car for Ironhorse's Golf Car Fleet replacement. Chuck Sipple seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Discuss Capital Equipment and Projects for 2007

Chris informed the group that she will get the spreadsheet for Capital Repairs and Equipment prepared by Kathy Byard and Shane and will share it with the group. Lou then shared with the group that he will be attending a CIP meeting on February 6. Dick then asked about the status of #8 and Lou said it had been approved and we were waiting on the engineering from Continental Engineering before moving forward.

V. Miscellaneous

Bob Reid moved to adjourn the meeting and Chuck Sipple seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation