

IRONHORSE
Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 18, 2007

12:00 Noon – Main Conference Room, Leawood City Hall

Members in attendance were Dick Fuller (Chair), Chuck Sipple, Tom Davidson, Bob Reid and council liaison Lou Rasmussen. Shane Gardner of Orion Management Solutions, Inc. and Parks and Recreation Director, Chris Claxton and Pete Spratlin, Golf Superintendent were also in attendance.

Dick Fuller called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Chuck Sipple moved to approve the minutes of the May 17th, 2007 meeting and Tom Davidson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with corrections as noted.

I. Construction Progress

Pete Spratlin reported that construction on the east side of the complex (east of Mission) is nearly complete. Some areas still need restoration as they pull out of the area.

Chuck asked if the Corps of Engineers comes out and inspects the work that was done in the creeks. Pete said that they do not come out during but will come back at the end of the project.

Pete said that the east side is now being put back together with seeding of haul roads, etc. soon to begin.

The SMAC project along #13 and 12 is also going well. The north levee is nearly complete and they are still working on the south levee and installation of the gabions. The concrete pouring on paths and curb is moving along also. Spent last weekend cataloguing what was called out in the plans and what was unplanned.

We are getting prices for the fencing that is to go along #12 and 13. It is approximately 740 feet. We are going to see what our current contractor would do the work for. Problems with them getting out and someone else coming in and they are soon to finish the levee and install the fencing on top of the wall in that area.

Creek bank stabilization work is proceeding on #10 including gabions. The #17 green is done and they will soon move to #15. Should be done by the end of October. Haul roads on the west complex (west of Mission) will take to mid/end of December. The work on number eight in the creek for the homeowners who helped pay for it is also complete.

Chris described the situation with the fence along the #12 green and the #13 fairway. This is where the majority of access is gained and thus a good portion of the vandalism results. There has been money planned in the budget to place a fence in this area, on the property line, as a part of a phasing plan to fence the course in it's entirety.

Chuck asked if the residents are aware of the proposed changes/fencing, etc.

Chris said that this was not part of the construction project as it was planned or bid so no, they have not been notified of the plans to close this area off.

Pete stated that the Mayor, City Administrator (Scott Lambers) and Council member and committee liaison Gary Bussing were out recently to go around the course and see the construction.

Dick asked when the work on the #13 white tee will be completed. Pete said some tees will be larger and some will be raised. This one will be raised. We will keep the black tees as well.

Lou asked about current staffing levels.

Pete said that we are currently at full staff for full-time personnel at eight. Still some room for seasonals with the money that is available. Last year he had ten full-time staff.

Shane asked if he plans to have 10 full-time again in 2008.

Pete said he is working towards that.

Dick asked about the range-what is the status of the work there?

Pete said that nothing has been done yet but he is getting final numbers for the safety netting.

Dick asked how the issue of trespassing is lately.

Pete said that it is mostly in the evening-lots of people walking running and biking the course. He is still calling the police when they see them on the course. Someone was backed-into by a uni-loader who was standing and watching construction one day. Fortunately they were not hurt. Early August was the last time we experienced vandalism. It was on #15. They took a board out and stuck it in the green and drug for several feet. It has been repaired.

We still have quite a few people sneaking onto the greens by their homes, putting, etc.

Chuck asked if the drain pipe was installed behind #5.

Pete said that it was one of the first things to get done and it works great- doing the job!

Chuck asked about the sprinkler system. Is it operational and how heavily was it damaged.

Pete said that it is working fine but it did receive a lot of damage during course reconstruction. It was repaired by the contractor as called for in the contract but these types of repairs tend to weaken the system over time. We will need to phase in irrigation system upgrades in future CIP's.

Lou asked if the contract allowed for "diminished value".

Chris said she did not know for sure and would check with Patty.

II. Golf Course Tour Date

Shane said that the tentative date was set for Saturday, October 6 but, with Kansas playing Kansas State and Missouri playing Nebraska he thinks a date change would be in order. Orion is now considering Saturday, October 20, same time. It would be a guided tour with an escort. We may have some information for them by then and also tell them about the Business to Business golf expo coming up on October 30th.

Chuck asked how Orion intends to get the word out to Triple Crown members.

Shane said that there will be a paid ad in the local paper and it will be open to everyone, not just triple crown. Shane went on to say that those golfers who have been playing other courses due to our closure have played at those locations with other golfers who may want to join Ironhorse.

Chuck asked who the tour guides will be.

Shane said it will be Marshals, Orion staff, and committee members who would like to help out.

III. Event Pricing

Orion has been calling other courses as a client (both public and private). The recommended event prices were presented and discussed by the group. (See attachment)

Lou asked why the spread (\$40-\$70) is so wide.

Shane discussed the strategy of Orion of the importance of being able to negotiate.

Dick said that the price range is fair and should give Orion the flexibility they need to negotiate with groups for events.

Lou asked what we are going to have for a fee schedule- a range of something like \$45 to \$80.

Shane passed out the spreadsheet on 2006 event fees for Ironhorse along with ten other courses.

Chuck said that he would recommend a meeting between now and October 20th with a few of the Triple Crown members to ask them what makes it beneficial for them to be a member of Ironhorse. Ask them what it will take to get them back. Ask them how we can be competitive.

Shane asked if we could wait until the first part of November to bring the membership program fees to the council. This would give Orion more time to check with other courses about their 2008 membership plans.

Tom Davidson made a motion to approve the event fees for 2008. Chuck Sipple seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bob Reid made a motion to table the presentation of the remainder of the 2008 fees until the November 1 committee meeting. Tom seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tom to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. The motion was seconded by Bob Reid. Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation