

IRONHORSE
Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 31, 2008
5:30 P.M. – Main Conference Room

Members in attendance were Dick Fuller, Bob Reid, Leo Morton, Chuck Sipple, Tommy Davidson, and Council Liaison James Azeltine. Shane Gardner, of Orion Management Solutions, Inc., Pete Spratlin, Chris Claxton and Tonia Morgan were also in attendance.

Dave Fearis, previous committee member, and Todd Clark of CE Golf Design, were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. Bob Reid moved to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2008 meeting and Chuck Sipple seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Course Update

Pete Spratlin reported that he and Todd Clark went around the golf course to check out the status of the greens. According to Todd everything is growing in healthy. Considering the construction and the heavy rains recently, the greens are healthy and appear to be in good shape. Todd reported that it is unfortunate what Pete has had to deal with lately, but under the circumstances he has done a tremendous job getting the course up and running.

Todd reported that the greens are growing fast and is confident that long term they will be very healthy. Todd reported that there will always be issues with a major renovation, but things are filling in quickly, which is great and for the most part things look extremely well considering all the rain we've experienced.

Todd also reported that we are going from an extremely wet period to a drastically hot period which may cause a bit of a concern, but is really nothing to worry about.

Todd reported that while touring the course with Pete, he was really impressed with how the ball is reacting to the greens.

Chuck Sipple asked Todd Clark if the new greens drain well. Todd reported that the greens are draining as they should.

Dick Fuller also asked if the ball marks are at a level you'd expect it to be. Todd reported that they are very consistent. Dick Fuller thanked Todd for the excellent job he's done.

Todd reported that he appreciates the compliment and tried to help Pete maximize what was already being done to the greens and the course, but is impressed with the course and there isn't anything that should be of any concern to the committee or its patrons.

Todd reported that a lot of subtle things were done that will help long term and will be beneficial to the operation of the course.

Dick reported that he appreciates the bunker on 18 being removed.

Leo Morton asked if during the last rain any bunkers were lost. Pete reported that he lost a lot of bunkers but has been working diligently to get things up and running.

Todd reported that the weeds on the course are not uncommon. Everything is containable. Fall is the time to be aggressive and there is a lot of work to do in the fall. The goal is to be at another level at that time, which will set you apart from other courses but to also maintain the natural areas.

Dave Fearis reported that he went around the course two weeks ago and was very impressed with its condition. He also reported that Pete is a miracle worker considering the conditions he's had to deal with lately. Dave feels that summer is not the time to battle weeds.

Dave reported that he was a Golf Superintendant for over 30 years and understands that labor is hard to come by. Dave also reported that he has seen very few courses that if you look close will have a "new course" appearance. He understands that it is hard dealing with Mother Nature and you have to get it done as best you can in these situations. Dave reported that Pete is the best superintendant he's ever known.

Dick Fuller reported that he also understands this has been difficult for Chris and Pete.

Leo Morton asked when the course will be fully ready.

Pete reported that the course should look fantastic in September. Pete also reported that the greens are healing with the weather cooling down. By September he will have a better control of the weeds.

Pete reported that looking at the tournament schedule it is best to optimize the benefit of the course.

Todd reported that the true benefit is in the spring. He also reported that tournaments are down in general everywhere.

Shane reported that fall is the best time to take an overview of the course and by spring, the course should be ready.

Chuck Sipple reported that the temperature is supposed to be 100 degrees or higher later in the week. Is there a risk to lose grass?

Pete reported that it is not. He also reported that health-wise the greens are doing great and are softer now. He would like them drier and faster but was keeping them wet as a precaution; due to concern over issues with some failure of the pump control and potential for a missed watering cycle.

Pete reported that the water has been stacked. #14 green had a collapse on the front left collar from the flood and he tried to flush it. Pete reported that he may have to Reddi Rooter or have

another company run a camera through it to see the problem. He suspects there may be a break in the coupling.

Dick asked if with the last flood there was again water over the new tee on 13 and any damage. Pete reported that there was. Dick also asked if any trees were lost. Pete reported that there weren't any trees lost.

Pete reported that a week before opening day he sliced the greens due to the soil report from ISTRC which indicated that the roots were so dense, slicing was recommended. The health of the greens is exceptional.

Chuck Sipple asked the condition of the golf carts and if they are running o.k. He also asked if the batteries were replaced since they sat dormant for a year.

Shane reported that the batteries were not replaced and there have been a few issues but for the most part they are running fine.

Chris reported that she spoke with Kathy Rogers in regards to the reports from Crescent. The Crescent Software System is able to provide very detailed analysis reports.

Chris thanked Todd Clark and Mr. Fearis for their comments and for the reinforcement regarding the course.

Chris reported that the minutes will be posted on the website for viewing after they are accepted by council

II. Membership Update

Shane gave an overview of the operations and marketing efforts as well as operation revenue and expenses to date. Shane provided the committee with a report that outlines the rounds of golf and merchandise sales. Please see the attached reports.

III. Misc.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2008. Chris reported that this will be the Thursday before Labor Day and some people may be traveling. Chris reported that we will make a determination closer to the meeting date.

Chuck Sipple reported that once we get through this re-building period it would be nice to make a determination as to when and if it is necessary to meet on a monthly basis.

A motion was made by Tommy Davidson to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Chuck Sipple seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation