

IRONHORSE
Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 23, 2009
5:30 P.M. – Ironhorse Golf Course - Clubhouse

Members in attendance were Dick Fuller (Chair), Bob Reid, Chuck Sipple, Leo Morton and Council Liaison James Azeltine. Also present were Shane Gardner of Orion Management Solutions, Inc., and staff members Pete Spratlin, Chris Claxton, and Tonia Morgan.

Dick Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chuck Sipple moved to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting and Leo Morton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Discuss Maintenance Plan Progress Report (Pete)

Pete reviewed the aggressive maintenance plan (number 8). Committee members followed along with a handout.

Pete reported that the eight items listed are still in progress. He has been busy with seasonal work.

Pete reported that the ladies tee has been resodded because of shade and flooding. The shade has been remedied but the flooding will re-occur.

Pete also reported that there is a spring above #13 ladies and seniors tee. The drain has been installed above the senior tee. A drain will be installed above the ladies tee soon.

Chuck Sipple asked if anything got washed out with the heavy rains we experienced last month.

Pete reported that it has not. It is mainly ground water. The only wash out issue is on #18 but there is a plan in place to take care of it. The significant amount of steady rain caused mud to wash all the way across the full approach. The damage is still visible and needs to be taken care of soon. There is a plan in place to take care of the problem but if it doesn't work he will secure a Capital Improvement Plan to fix it.

Chuck asked how much money is in Phase I.

Pete reported that it is all in-house labor.

Councilman Azeltine reported that this is obviously something that wasn't accounted for. He asked if Pete and Chris are communicating in regard to the cost.

Pete reported that it is all operating costs. It will be incorporated in the normal drainage cost.

Chuck asked if this was seen by the consultants when #18 was re-done.

Pete reported that this is an example of areas that weren't put together the way they probably should have been when the contractors pulled out. It isn't an area normally played or visible. It is on the side of the hill. The correct seed wasn't put down; it was never protected nor established.

Chairman Fuller asked if there has been movement on the hillside.

Pete reported that it has stabilized and is holding well. Although it has been wet, his crew has been able to mow. This is really good.

Chairman Fuller asked about the hillside that was redone on Hole #13.

Pete reported that it is doing fantastic and is holding really well. The hillside was treated last week to kill the clover that is growing in with the grass. The grass underneath is doing great.

Chairman Fuller asked if the fencing has been installed behind #5.

Pete reported that it has not. He is in the process of accepting bids. The deadline is May 1. He is currently working on the contract.

Chairman Fuller asked if the bids are coming in lower than anticipated.

Pete reported that he hasn't received any actual bids but some contractors have complained that the price for materials haven't come down as much as they thought they would.

Chuck Sipple reported that he heard steel was a lot cheaper now than before.

Pete reported that it will be interesting to receive the actual bids. He heard the same thing in relation to the price of steel.

Chairman Fuller asked about the issues on Hole #5.

Pete reported that the homeowners (the McCraes) and the Homes Association agreed on the piece of property. It has been surveyed and a legal description completed of the property. The legal documents were presented to the law firm representing both the McCraes and the HOA.

Pete reported that their lawyer is out of town. Once the lawyer returns the legal description will be presented to both parties. The property will be deeded to the city when an agreement is made.

Chairman Fuller asked if everything is executed accordingly, how quickly he can finish the berm.

Pete reported that he will begin the following week. The work should be completed within a few days. He is anticipating an end of May completion date.

Pete reported that the split rail fence materials are in. It will be installed soon.

Chuck Sipple asked if the trees that were discussed at a previous meeting have been planted.

Pete reported that five thousand dollars was budgeted for tree replacement. He should be able to purchase ten trees for this amount.

Pete also reported that during construction seventy two trees were planted around the course. They are located on the left side of #3 and #13. Twelve trees were planted between #6 and #7.

Pete reported the Parks and Recreation Department recently hired a Landscape Supervisor, Dustin Branick. He is an arborist. He met with Pete several times to inventory the trees that they would like to keep as well as discussed areas to add new trees. He will develop a new plan will continue working together to bring it to fruition.

Chris asked if Dustin sprayed the existing trees.

Pete reported that the trees were sprayed for fungus.

Chuck asked if there are plans to add landscaping at the end of the range on the hillside to dress it up.

Pete reported that he recently met with Chris and discussed this issue. It is currently not in this phase because of the expense of the fence and the priority level of the location. Rod iron fence and landscaping will be added to Mission Road next year.

Pete reported that he met with the representative from the soils lab this past week. He toured the course and was extremely happy about the greens.

Chuck asked about the employee turnover rate.

Pete reported that he continues to have some turnover, but the existing crew is getting better and doing well.

Chuck asked Chairman Fuller how things are going in relation to working on the Mission Statement.

Chairman Fuller reported that he appreciates Chuck for volunteering to assist him and he hopes to meet with him soon to get his input on this.

II. 2010 Budget Recommendations

See attached.

Chris reported that in relation to the budget, there weren't many changes from before. The only changes were in relation to some estimates from 2009. She was contacted by Lou who had a few questions. Chris met with Lou and his questions were answered.

Chuck asked what Lou's questions were.

Chris reported that Lou had minor questions regarding the expense. He questioned some of the taxes, and why we were paying a long distance fee.

Chairman Fuller asked how realistic the budget is relative to the fact that we were closed for two years and don't have any numbers to gauge it off of.

Chris reported that as long as we don't do more than what was budgeted we will be fine. We had to use some of the formulas set up with the Finance Department and plug numbers in and this may have to be done again.

Chairman Fuller asked when this will be done.

Chris reported that she is uncertain of an exact time. It may be the end of this year and also the beginning of 2010. This wouldn't cause any amendments to the budget. If anything it would be recommended to decrease some of the estimates.

Chairman Fuller asked if it is preferred to make amendments or adjustments when we recognize and/or receive the direction it is headed.

Chris reported yes. We try to be as close as possible with revenues and expenses. It is hopeful because it will be reviewed again in June to see where we are with the numbers; including the leagues and tournaments to make sure the accurate amount of stock is on hand.

Shane reported that in comparison to where we were in 2006, we are behind. This is due to being open a partial season last year and the changes in the economy.

Leo Morton asked if the weather is a factor.

Shane reported that the current weather is the same through March as it was in 2006. Through the first twenty-two days in April, we are \$60K behind in revenue.

Chuck Sipple asked if this is because of rain.

Shane reported that it is due mostly to the rain.

Shane reported that there is a significant drop in other aspects and departments as well. This is a result of the economy. People who play golf aren't spending money in other areas of the operation like they were before.

Chairman Fuller reported that he noticed the huge drop in food and beverage as well as merchandise. He asked if a lack of inventory is creating some of the problem. Or, is it mainly the economy and people aren't making purchases.

Chuck asked if selling items at sticker price is solely at the decision of the city.

Chris reported that there have been several mark-downs this year. There will also be a super clearance of 2006 inventory within the next couple of weeks.

Shane reported that there are a few marketing events planned that will allow hopefully allow the 2006 inventory to be sold.

Chairman Fuller reported that if the items are from 2006, it would be nice to give them away as promotional items.

Chairman Fuller asked what was done budget wise in relation to merchandise.

Shane reported that overall we are significantly below the budget. The membership numbers are increasing. A lot of people are joining from private clubs.

Shane reported that the Senior League has increased. The ladies league is also significantly higher. It has doubled in size. He is confident that it will continue to grow.

Shane reported that he and Chris developed a direct mail piece that will be mailed to 13,000 homes in Leawood and Overland Park with a perforated card redeemable for playing the course for a reduced fee. Hopefully this will bring people out to see the improved conditions.

Shane reported that he spoke last night at a Leawood Chamber of Commerce event. He discussed an upcoming promotion at the golf course. (see attached).

Chairman Fuller reported that he, Councilman Azeltine and Bob Reid met with three very active players when they arrived for tonight's meeting. They expressed that they are very pleased with the course.

Pete reported that he continues to receive a lot of good, insightful compliments.

Chuck Sipple asked Shane if he is optimistic that we will be close to budget by year end.

Shane reported that he doesn't think we will make the budget. It is uncertain because we haven't had good weather. There are more rain days coming soon, which will again slow things down.

III. Discuss Upcoming Events/Marketing Efforts (Shane)

Shane combined his reports. (Please see above)

IV. Discuss Financials Through March (Shane)

This was also discussed in Shane's previous report. (Please see above)

V. Misc.

Chris reported that the next meeting date is scheduled on the Thursday after the holiday. In the past there were conflicts when the meeting was scheduled the week prior to a holiday. She doesn't anticipate any conflicts this year. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28.

We will meet at the Clubhouse at 5:30p.m. .

A motion was made by Bob Reid to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm. The motion was seconded by Leo Morton. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation