

IRONHORSE  
Golf Club



**GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of October 24, 2013**

**5:30 P.M. – Leawood City Hall – Main Conference Room**

Members attending: Dick Fuller (Chair), Tommy Davidson, George Waterman, Dr. Greg Peppers, Jamie West and James Kennedy – Troon Management Staff.

Members absent: Leo Morton, Bob Reid and Steve McCartan.

Council Liaisons attending: Jim Rawlings, James Azeltine and Lou Rasmussen.

Staff attending: Chris Claxton

Guest Attending: Mitch Harrell -Troon Corporate.

Chair Fuller called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

Chair Fuller welcomed new committee member, Dr. Greg Peppers.

George made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2013 meeting. Tommy seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. 2014 Proposed Fees**

*GM Jamie West distributed fees being recommended by Troon for the 2014 year.*

Jamie advised the committee that Ironhorse does not pay sales tax as it is a municipal course. Private courses do pay and so this should be taken into consideration when reviewing the comparative fees on the spreadsheet.

George asked for confirmation that annual passes are also going up

Jamie confirmed that yes; basically all pass fees are going up \$100 across the board.

George stated that in his opinion, fees being proposed are in-line and fair. The only thing he has heard from the golfing community is that they would like a calendar of events sent out showing any closures for the annual pass holders.

Tommy agreed that he has heard the same thing. Pass holders would appreciate knowing ahead of time and not when they arrive at the course.

Dick reminded the committee that Troon has been given the flexibility to adjust rates as needed, based on the floor minimum that was agreed to by the Council.

George asked if there was any news on the future ownership of Sycamore Ridge. It is up for sale.

Dick said that he hadn't heard anything lately.

George made a motion to recommend to Council the proposed fees from Troon for the 2014 year.

Dr. Peppes seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **II. 2015 CIP**

Chris explained the process for the CIP noting that 2014 is done and 2015 is now on the table for discussion.

Lou asked Troon what is on the list for 2015, reference the prioritized list that Troon presented and the committee and staff reviewed earlier in the year.

Mitch stated that Troon is working to determine the priority of the list.

Chris stated that \$100,000 is the minimum for a project to be considered for the CIP.

George suggested discussing the bunkers – maybe using a liner or another option that would prevent soil contamination. It remains a big problem at Ironhorse. Especially following all the flood events.

Jamie stated that the first priority will be the safety issues.

Chris asked Jamie what the anticipated time frame is for having the review and prioritization completed by Troon.

Mitch said they are trying to hit a November 1<sup>st</sup> date.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked James to provide a list with the complete items crossed off.

## **III. Operations Report**

Jamie stated that the first two quarters of the year have been very difficult for the golf course financially. We believe we are making some good strides in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to make up for the loss.

Dick asked how October is looking.

Jamie stated that they are ahead \$10,000 over last year to date. Jamie summarized the operations report that everyone had received.

George stated that in regards to additional revenue, the Par 3 course (P1, 2, and 3) could be marketed differently and more aggressively. The putting and chipping greens are heavily used.

Jamie said that some marketing of the area has happened but can certainly be revisited.

George said that marketing to adults might be more advantageous if we suggested them as true practice green/holes.

Dick stated that we need to be sure fees are being collected, regardless of what type of play is going on. The damage from divots on those green is very labor intensive.

#### **IV. Course Maintenance Report**

James summarized the high points of the agronomy report that was distributed.

Council Liaison Rawlings asked about the dead/dying trees – what is causing this?

James said that it is mostly due to lightning strikes, although some of them have succumbed to stress and disease. There are a lot of trees on the course and this is not unusual.

George stated that some of the scrub trees on #2 continue to be a site problem.

#### **V. Update on Proposed Clubhouse Expansion**

Dick passed out the newest schematic and foot print and explained the details. Basically the space will go out over the cart bar entrance and be connected by an interior hallway to separate the current bar/grill space. There will be a set of doors leading from the current space, lined up with the doors to the next space. Storage and an additional restroom are also proposed. Some of the current windows will remain to provide light from an exterior doorway to the northwest.

Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested we double check the windows so that the area will not be dark.

Mitch said that Troon plans to hire a banquet coordinator in the future to handle the expanded space.

George asked if the deck will be open to the daily golfer.

Jamie stated that it would.

George said that the group working on the project needs to consider how to get the general public from the grill out to the deck area.

Dick said that perhaps this could be considered as an alternate in the plan, if necessary.

Council Liaison Rawlings asked Troon what their experience is in juggling multiple events. Do most tournaments take place Monday – Thursday?

Jamie confirmed that this is correct. Once in a while a tournament of high caliber or numbers may happen on a weekend, but even then they have experience managing the situation.

Chris explained how the project would move forward including interact meeting, planning commission, preliminary bid estimates from contractor, etc.

Council Liaison Rawlings asked about outdoor weddings. Is there anything being considered out by #2 behind the green as former GM Jeff Thomasson envisioned?

Dick said that this is not part of the current plan; however everyone is very excited about the opportunities this will bring to the course.

**VI. Misc.**

**A. Golf Carts**

Chris said that the existing fleet was paid off one year early. If Troon is going to be requesting a new fleet in late 2014 or early 2015 she would like a comparison report as to the cost to repair existing fleet vs. replace.

Jamie stated that he will discuss with James (repairs) and contact vendors about options on a new fleet.

A motion was made by Tommy to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Peppes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Leewood Parks and Recreation Department