

Golf Commission Minutes
Tuesday, August 11, 2009 Noon
OPII

Members Present: Klamfoth, Lutz, Striepe, Tyler, Van Daalen

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ray, Mason, Snook

Council Present: None

Visitors Present: Stu Thorson, Country Club Liaison

Summary of Formal Action: The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by Chairperson Van Daalen.

Motion: The July 2009 minutes were approved as presented.

07-09	Moved: Tyler	Seconded: Lutz
Yes: 5	No: 0	Absent: 0

Regular Business:

1. 2009-10 Golf Budget Strategy

Ray began by reporting the Golf Course Staff has met to determine possible reductions in expenditures keeping in mind the quality of the product. The goal was to get a head start on the control of expenditures without regard to potential revenue shortages or windfalls. To achieve this, staff reduced budgeted expenditures to reflect the difference in the average actual revenues received in the past three years as compared to budgeted revenues. A target amount of about \$34,000 of reductions in expenditures was reached.

It is staff's intention to begin to operate this fiscal year on these voluntary expenditure reductions, monitor the monthly revenues and expenditures to make additional adjustments as needed, and continue to generate revenues by increasing rounds.

Klamfoth asked if there was any adjustment in revenues. None at this time. The fees would be adjusted during budget preparation. There is not much advantage to increasing fees at the end of the season. Staff suggested increasing the special at the previous meeting. Lutz will talk to Wartburg about alternating the golf events.

Strategy is to think positive. Not look at the situation as glass half empty but half full. Staff reviewed the reductions. Mason noted that it is more efficient for Doug to be putting out fires that sitting on a mower.

Klamfoth asked if there was a directive from Council. Ray said staff told the Council that we would come back with a strategy so the situation from 08-09 would not repeat. Lutz suggested grants, Stay and Play offers, and sponsorship from the casino along with larger scorecards and more sponsors. Klamfoth wants to look at all revenue streams.

Klamfoth stated the municipal golf course is providing a reasonable service for the citizens. Ray noted that the average percentage of people that are golfers across the country is about 23% .

Motion: To recommend to the City Council the Golf Operations Strategy for 2009-10 Fiscal Year.

08-09 Move: Tyler Second: Lutz
Yes: 4 No: 1 (Striepe) Absent: 0

2. Discussion of Golf Scoring Handicap System

Ray reviewed the handicap system and the 5 year comparison for the two systems. We currently use the Iowa Golf Association GHIN system. With the GHIN system, the golfers get a handicap, are able to play in IGA events, the course gets a rating as part of the membership with a 5 year commitment. The cost of the GHIN system is over twice as much as the Handicomp system offered by the Iowa PGA.

The Handicomp system provides a handicap for the golfers, costs less and has some additional revenue potential. The rating is important with the opening of the new holes so that our course can be compared to other courses. A decision needs to be made prior to 2011 when the new holes open. The same rating and the handicap can be used for a while. It was decided to wait to get more information.

Reports and Communications:

Director Report

- Reminded the Commission of the City Council meeting on Monday night August 17 to review the Golf Operation Budget Strategy. For July, revenues and expenditures are in line with the budget.

Pro Report

- Reasonable start for this year

Superintendent Report

- Heartland Asphalt is scheduled to start soon on the asphalt paths
- Completed the rock under bridges
- Received 6 donated white pines

Country Club Report

- Concerned about cutting down on maintenance.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2009 at Noon at the OPII

Adjournment: Adjournment was at 1:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tab Ray
Leisure Services Director
Commission Secretary