

Golf Commission Minutes
Tuesday, December 15, 2009 Noon
WAGOCO

Members Present: Klamfoth, Lutz, Striepe, Van Daalen, Tyler
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Ray, Mason, Snook
Council Present: Ribich
Visitors Present: Zach Beschorner, Country Club Liaison

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

Motion: The November 2009 minutes were approved as presented.

18-09	Moved: Lutz	Seconded: Tyler
Yes: 5	No: 0	Absent: 0

Regular Business:

1. Discussion of Selling Alcohol on the Course
Ray presented a survey of 5 municipal courses that sell beer. All of the courses do not separate inside or outside sales so the information is total alcohol sales. With separate licenses, Tyler assumed the Club would not allow events to take place in their facility. Van Daalen mentioned the difficulty of the separate licenses with alcohol carried from the club to the course and visa versa.

Ray had an estimated costs and revenues scenario. It was based upon conversations with the insurance company, State of Iowa Alcohol Division, and Mason since he has an alcohol concession at his other two facilities. Lutz suggested not selling beer on the course and negotiating some compensation with the Country Club at the future lease negotiations.

Motion: To recommend that the City not sell alcohol on the Golf Course or Pro Shop given that the service is being provided by the Country Club.

19-09	Moved: Tyler	Second: Lutz
Yes: 5	No: 0	Absent: 0

Van Daalen wanted to clarify that the issue would not be discussed again until the lease is due this fall. He said the Commission would prefer that the issue is not annually discussed that this action would be referred as a final recommendation.

2. Discussion of Private Cart Policy

Ray presented the other part of the survey pertaining to private carts, and cart revenues from the 5 municipal courses. He showed the annual trail fee seemed to about average with the other courses with the low of \$125 and the high of \$400. Ray also explained the allocation of the fees to the reserve funds to pay for cart path improvements.

Mason is a proponent of increasing the core season pass membership. The private cart fee is a benefit to those wanting a season pass. Van Daalen said both the Club and Course wants to increase members. He would be in favor of a limit of private carts with room for growth.

Beschorner said there currently is a waiting list of 8-10 people for the cart storage facility owned by the Country Club. He said people that have a cart tend to play more; they are season ticket holders and spend most of their golf money here. They are vested.

Striipe said that if there are no private carts, then there must be a facility established to store private golf equipment, clubs- shoes- etc. Cart owners store their equipment with their carts.

Ray asked about eliminating the daily trail fee and not allowing the people to bring their carts to the course. Mason said a majority of the daily trail fee is for the people that use the cart of a season trail fee owner without the cart owner.

Motion: To recommend keeping the private cart policy status quo, monitor how it affects rounds, and review the policy in 3 years.

20-09
Yes: 5

Moved: Tyler
No: 0

Second: Klamfoth
Absent: 0

3. Review of 2010-2011 Budget

Ray reviewed the highlights of the Golf and Pro Shop 2010- 2011 proposed budget. Klamfoth stated the expenditures, as presented, were the same dollars as the budgets 3 years ago. Tyler stated there was no equipment in this budget and not replacing equipment will not work in the long run.

Mason thought that selling scorecards, tee signs, and changing the amount going to the reserve funds could be a method of increasing the revenues. Ray reminded the Commission that there are obligations for the reserve fund for at least another year for the cart path project. The Commission questions the amount to subsidy that is acceptable. Ribich said if the course was owned privately the owner doesn't get a subsidy. What is the value to the community of owning a Golf Course or 120 acres of maintained green space? It has some value to the community and that would dictate the acceptable subsidy. Ray thinks the old Council was comfortable with \$60-\$80K with the idea of reducing over time. Klamfoth was not comfortable with no equipment for the second year.

Motion: To recommend to staff to add \$20,000 for an annual payment to purchase equipment at the discretion of the staff.

21-09 Moved: Tyler Second: Klamfoth
Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

Lutz asked how many golf holes does this budget cover. Snook answered that it was based upon 18 golf holes. There is still a little money remaining in the project account for extra maintenance costs for the other two holes.

The Commission wanted to discuss fees and charges before making a recommendation for the budget.

4. 2010 Fees and Charges

Klamfoth suggested a patron fee where season ticket holders would pay a dollar or two every time they played. Snook said that Newton has tried that and alienated several golfers. It has worked in other places. Van Daalen is worried about the logistics of the program. Mason said the special fee during the slow times would probably be increased to \$25.

Motion: To recommend the following increases for the fee schedule for the Golf Course for the 2010 season:

Daily

9 holes	\$16 (15)
18 holes	\$22 (20)
Punch Card	\$145(130)
Trail Fee for Private Carts	\$16 (14)
Senior/ Young Adult	\$16 (15)

Season Tickets (about 3%)

Adult	\$565 (550)
Spouses	\$860 (835)
Senior	\$490 (475)
Family	\$935 (910)
Special Junior	\$52 (50)
Trail	\$250 (245)

Carts

Rental Carts 18 holes (per seat)	\$16 (13)
Cart Punch Card	\$135 (120)
Rental Carts 9 Holes (per seat)	\$10 (8)

22-09 Motion: Lutz Second: Tyler
Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

Reports and Communications:

Director Report:

- Ray reviewed the financial report.

Pro Report

- Pro Shop schedule for Christmas will be announced soon.

Superintendent Report

- About half the trees (12) were planted with the others at the next opportunity.

Country Club Report

- Zach Beschorner is new Club Liaison

Next Meeting: January 12 at Noon

Adjournment: Adjournment was at 1:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tab Ray
Leisure Services Director
Commission Secretary