



City of Helena

# GOLF ADVISORY BOARD SUMMARY August 8, 2017



- Pete Aspinwall
- Dave Bauer
- Kelly Casey *excused*
- Tyson Lesmeister

- Judy Reddy
- Susan Skinner-Bannon
- Lynn Staley

### Ex-Officio Members

- Larry Kurokawa, Golf Course Superintendent
- Scott Longenecker, Head Golf Pro
- Amy Teegarden, Parks and Recreation Director
- Jennifer Schade, Recorder

**LOCATION: City-County Building, Room 326**

**Visitors: Jeff Downhour, Doug Olson**

### 1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum/Review Agenda

- The Bill Roberts Golf Course Advisory Board was called to order at 12:00 pm. Chairperson Pete Aspinwall established a quorum.
- There were no changes made to the agenda.

### 2. Approval of Minutes: June 20, 2017

- After review of the June 20 minutes, Lynn moved to approve as presented. Sue seconded. Motion carried.

### 3. Old Business

Update on Clubhouse and Pro Shop GC/CM – Jeff Downhour, Mosaic Architecture

- Amy thanked Jeff for taking time to attend the meeting and provide an update on the clubhouse and pro shop.
- Jeff stated that we selected Golden Eagle Construction to serve as the GC/CM on the project. Mosaic has turned over very preliminary drawings for pricing. The initial pricing came back a little high in a couple areas, but Jeff believes this is due to the fact that the market is currently so busy that companies are not pricing fairly. We are looking at some options from a design/functional standpoint. We will continue to refine the project. Now that we are working with golden Eagle, we can ask specific questions to refine the design and the details. We have come to a conclusion primarily on the kitchen design.
- Mosaic has created a panorama view of what the new clubhouse/pro shop will look like. We can put this into VR (Virtual Reality) glasses as well so people can get a 3D view of the

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new clubhouse/shop. This will help with the decision making process as well. We can edit in the model and adjust the design accordingly.

- Pete stated that Scott mentioned that the contractor has offered to put in a temporary building off of the clubhouse for this winter.
- Jeff – the hope for staging is to do another storage and support shed building where the current clubhouse is to support outdoor activities, support the driving range, be used to park beverage carts, etc. In working with Lance at Golden Eagle, he recommended putting the simulator in that area. Jeff stated that area would not be big enough for that. But the idea evolved and they discussed flooding that against the clubhouse. We would take out the doors and windows that face the patio and place the simulator in that area. You would be able to serve beverages out of the clubhouse during the winter. The construction company can work on the pro shop without bothering the patrons. This will not only ease the ability to do the remodel of the pro shop, but will be a much better set up for winter league. There will be an accessible bathroom outside and this option provides us with a shed once the area is completed.
- Jeff is hoping to break ground around the first of October. The later we break ground the better pricing we can get on some of the fixtures. Ideally, we bid in January or February, but we can't wait until then. The only other potential delay will be in getting Northwest Energy's process underway for powering up the building. Northwestern Energy is currently looking at options.
- Golden Eagle is in the first phase contract. The second phase contract includes a due date and if they don't make the due date, they have a penalty.
- Larry asked what is happening with the clubhouse after it is used as a temporary facility. Jeff stated we will advertise if for free if you haul. If there is no interest, the fire department may use as an exercise. Whoever takes it will have to go through the driving range. It may be best to haul when the ground is frozen.

#### **4. New business**

- Dave asked for further discussion about the proposed name of the bar and grille - Muni's. He asked 25 people if they liked the name "Muni's". 13 stated they do not like the name, 5 said it was fine, and 7 stated they had no opinion. One person saw an original design of the restaurant and recommended the name "Towers". A thought along with that name is to find old golf clubs and actually construct a fire tower out of the golf clubs. This could be placed outside in the front of the restaurant.
- Pete –the community as whole liked the name of the golf course. We are now embracing the fact that we are a "municipal" golf course. Dave did like some of the messages that were shared at the last meeting. But was there the effort put forward to select the name?
- Scott stated they looked at several different options. He wanted to clarify that this name will be Muni's Sports Grille – it's edgy and will bring in a younger clientele.
- Amy stated she likes the idea of a sculpture made out of golf clubs. She added that the reason she likes Muni's is because it is making that connection that this is a city-owned facility and all profits go back into golf course. Muni's will be easy to market.
- Sue – we have to find ways to make money. It's not just about golfing – it truly is about good customer service, good food, a relaxed atmosphere, and fun.

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- Tyson stated the younger crowd already calls it the “Muni Track”. Amy added that the one important thing to remember in discussion of the graphics is that the name of grille doesn’t overshadow “Bill Roberts Golf Course”.
- Doug stated that he didn’t care for the name initially, but the more he has heard it, the more he likes idea that it’s a sports grille and that it is more than going in and having a sandwich.
- We are a city course.

## 5. Reports

### Parks and Recreation Director’s Report

- None.

### Golf Superintendent Report

- Larry stated that his thought on the name is that he agrees with Sue. The name will catch on – what is even more important is the good customer service and great food. We need to focus on what will keep it viable.
- July weather – we had 26 days of 90° plus weather with afternoon winds. That takes a lot of moisture out of the ground. John has taken the lead role on the irrigation and he and his staff have worked diligently on watering.
- Jerry Anderson has been focusing on two jobs this summer – the first has been the sanding divot program which has been extended from the driving range to the par threes. This takes him a couple hours in the morning. After that, he has been working on the cart path asphalt milling project. We purchased 150 tons and after we are done with this project, we will have over 4000 lineal feet of cart path. The next year or so, we will work on the rest of these. We will see how it comes through the winter. It is definitely better than the road mix - much less dusty. It should flex so hopefully we can touch it up with the blades if needed.
- Planted trees:
  - Thelma’s tree and Don’s trees were planted. Thelma’s tree is a Spring Snow planted on the #3 tee box.
  - Dons Anderson’s was a Clump Canada Red between #13 green and #14 tees.
  - Kenny’s tree should be spaded if moved as it is getting quite large. If we try to hand dig, it probably won’t survive. We will also need to make sure the natural gas has been turned off.
  - Have natural gas turned off

### Golf Professional Report

- Scott stated with the heat in July, our rounds were down. Revenues are up. We have been busy in the early morning hours and evenings.
- In July, we were up in green fees cards, carts, concessions, and merchandise. While passes and green fees cards are up, punch cards are down (which was to be expected).
- Food sales are up \$10,000 again. Molly continues to do an exceptional job.
- The Basket and a Bucket has been a great promotion. Scott is seeing golfers he is not used to seeing. Doug agreed and has noticed a lot of young adults out there on the course playing golf.

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- In reviewing the financial report, Scott noticed they still don't reflect young adult. He will talk to the finance department about getting finances to reflect young adult.
- We are opened earlier and staying later. Food costs are up but so are sales.
- The City-County Employee tournament had 16 teams this year.
- Sue stated Couples Night was a great success last week!

#### Men's League Report

- Dave – there are three weeks left of league. Men's league playoffs take place the last three days of August.

#### Ladies League Report

- Sue announce that she is resigning her position of President of Ladies League. She feels the ladies league needs a new voice with new ideas.
- We have had a vibrant Wednesday morning league. Sue would like to encourage the Wednesday morning group to pay \$30 to be part of our ladies league to get all the benefits.

### 6. Public comment

### 7. Next meeting date – September 12, 2017

### 8. Future agenda items

### 9. Adjournment

With no further business, the Bill Roberts Golf Course Advisory Board adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

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