



City of Helena

GOLF ADVISORY BOARD SUMMARY October 11, 2016



- Pete Aspinwall
- Dave Bauer
- Kelly Casey
- Andy Cottrell

- Christopher DeVerniero
- Arthur Pembroke
- 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: Conlan Burk, Mike Latka

1. Call to order/establish quorum/review agenda

Chairman Pete Aspinwall called the Bill Roberts Golf Course Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Pete established a quorum.

2. Approval of minutes: September 13, 2016

- Lynn moved to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes as presented. Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

3. Old business

City Staff Fee Recommendations

- Memo
 - Based on a review of the 2016 Bill Roberts Golf Course revenue reports, golf rounds, and the financial feasibility study recommendations from the National Golf Foundation (NGF), the city staff is recommending increases and reclassification to the various fee rates and categories for the 2017 season. The board discussed the golf fee analysis memo distributed by Amy Teegarden.
- Fee Changes Discussion
 - Scott reviewed the fee change handout. He asked members to note the following changes:
 1. **Season passes - unrestricted** increased \$40 for individuals and seniors; increased \$60 for adult couples; increased \$65 for senior couples; and increased \$40 for

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active military. Student passes are now referred to as **Young Adult** passes (ages 19 – 29), and will cost \$380 per year.

2. **Season passes – restricted** have increased \$35 for individuals and seniors; increased \$50 for adult couples; increased \$55 for senior couples; and increased \$35 for active military. We have eliminated student passes.
 3. **Punch cards:** 10-round punch cards have increased by \$15. Sr./Jr. and active military punch cards have increased by \$20. The board moved to eliminate the 30-round punch card.
 4. **Daily green fees:** 9 holes – twilight have increased .50; 18 holes, 18 holes Sr./Jr., additional 9 holes, additional 9 holes Sr./Jr., and active military all increased by \$2. Active military 9-hole green fees will remain the same.
 5. **Power cart rental:** annual lease increased \$35.
 6. **Locker:** locker rental has increased to \$50.
 7. **Simulator (winter only):** increased \$3.
- Scott also mentioned a promotion disclaimer which states: *The City Manager may authorize the Bill Roberts Golf Course professional to implement promotional programs that result in discounted rates for the purpose of increasing under-utilized course play times. Promotions may include “loyalty member” programs, 2 for 1 specials, etc.*
 - When discussing fee increases with our golfers or the public, Scott asked board members to remind everyone that we have not had a fee increase for 3 years. This rate increase is not associated with upgrades, but for the operation and maintenance of the golf course.
 - Dave stated that when talking to his friends about the increase, some of the first comments were negative, but when explained the reasoning, the majority were fine. A 5% increase over 4 years is minimal.
 - Mike then suggested we create a list of talking points so we are giving consistent information. **Scott and staff will create the list of talking points and distribute.**
 - With no further discussion, Dave moved to approve the recommended fee increases. Kelly seconded. Motion passed.
 - Pete then encouraged members to attend the city commission meetings on 11.14 and 11.28.2016 to express board approval. **Jennifer will send reminder notices to the committee members.**
- City Commission Meeting 11.14.2016 – Resolution of Intention
 - City Commission Meeting 11.28.2016 – Public Hearing

4. New business

- Architectural Services RFP
 - The RFP for professional services for the design and construction of the Pro Shop and Clubhouse has been posted to the City of Helena’s website. The submission due date is October 14, 2016. **Per Pete’s request, Jennifer will send out a copy of the RFP for board members to review.**

5. Reports

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- Parks and Recreation Director's Report
 - Nothing to report.

- Golf Superintendent Report
 - Weather is an issue. We had skiers on the course this morning. Larry feels we are still in golf season and is asking skiers to wait. In early fall/winter storms, skiers can take out insulation. Therefore, Larry is asking not to ski yet.
 - We have had a very wet fall. In August, we had 1 inch of moisture, 85 hundredths in September and already 97 hundredths inches of moisture in October. It is very wet and soft on the course. Larry is somewhat concerned about x-country runners as they have already left a track. They brought mud to surface but didn't really tear up the sod.
 - Moving into early winter processes, trying to spray out the chemicals. Most of the fairways have been sprayed. They are finishing fertilization and blowing out the irrigation system.
 - Outbuildings have been painted.
 - The greens look nice. Leaves are falling so they have been busy mowing and cleaning up leaves every day.
 - Last tournament (Capital City Challenge) is this upcoming weekend.

- Golf Professional Report
 - The weather in September impacted play. The course did 4,222 rounds which are down from previous years. The course usually averages 4,600. October will be down as well due to weather conditions. They did do 191 rounds this past Sunday.
 - Sign-ups for winter league – 38 of 40 teams have already signed up. League starts the first week in December.
 - Scott has not received a financial report yet. Even though rounds are down, revenues will be up.
 - Scott and staff are in the planning process for promotional programs.
 - BRGC did more tournaments this year. Two new tournaments included the first annual Montana Disabled American Veterans golf tournament and HBIA. The Disabled Vets have expressed interest in doing a 2-day tournament again next year. They are discussing the possibility of doing one day at Green Meadow and one day at BRGC. They will golf at both courses on both Saturday and Sunday. This was a big event for us. The Disabled Vets raised \$29,000 this year.
 - Scott stated that Chef Jeff has returned to work.
 - October 16, 2016 is the final day for the clubhouse.

- Men's League Report
 - Nothing to report.

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- Ladies League Report
 - Nothing to Report.

6. Public comment

7. Next meeting date – Please note: the next meeting has been moved to November 1, 2016.

8. Future agenda items

Adjournment

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citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov
316 North Park, Avenue, Room 440, Helena, MT 59623

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