



CITY OF HELENA
Bill Roberts Golf Course Advisory Board
Time Stamped Summary: July 16, 2024 - 12:00 PM
City County Building 316 N Park Ave Room 426
Zoom Recording Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/JEHtpuRVFmnQGGuKr7WW1llg2VWiDmzo4dT_aj7F5deBhvQHB6PG8e6zYbgY0lCu.HmuCN6l1f_4EGHIT

(00:00:01) Call to Order by Secretary Susan Court / Roll Call

Roll Call was taken, and the following responded present:

Board Members:

Jack Gregg

Susan Court

Rob Logsdon

Nicholas Balcken

Zoom attendees:

Art Pembroke

Excused Absence:

Chris Smith

Additional guests and members of the public present:

Kathy McDonald-representing Women's League

Doug Olson-representing Men's League

City Staff:

Parks Director Doug Smith

Golf Course Operations Manager Tod Fitterer

Golf Course Superintendent Steve Link

Golf Course Assistant Superintendent Bryce Wideen

Parks Administrative Assistant Heather Kahler

(00:01:20) Public Comment (Items pertaining to this agenda)

No public comment.

(00:02:45) Minutes –

A. April 16, 2024 Time stamped summary link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/t1Lz3UXaEyLW0GQd9bicKKhpPHJR7P8UMGqzZNXLfBKZUaxFRXvMYrNJCqKb7osd.8_vcAD9rRama4Vm8

Rob made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2024 meeting, Nicholas seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

New Business

(00:02:50)

- A. (00:03:15) Brake Adjustment on Golf Cart Fleet. Susan reported that some cart users have reported that the brakes do not release with a slow acceleration; possibly wearing brake linings or pads. Recently a cart user reported that the brake did not engage upon being depressed. Todd says the gas pedal must be floored to release the brakes. Steve shared that this was the first he had heard of the problem. His staff drives the carts about every 10 days for gas fill-ups.
- B. (00:06:44) Golf Cart Owner Rental Agreement. Jack shared a recent incident when an electrical issue with a cart in the cart barn that could have possibly caused a fire. Discussion regarding proof of personal cart liability insurance/riders on homeowner policies. Nicholas suggested an online form for registration of golf carts in the barn (age, value, model, etc.)
- C. (00:18:55) Public Comment

Unfinished Business

(00:18:57)

Reports

- A. Parks Director
(00:19:09) Director Doug Smith applauded the great condition of the course and Tod's upcoming Muni's report.
Golf Course Superintendent
(00:19:49) Golf Course Superintendent Steve Link reported that one of the four main irrigation pumps is not operating. Hose watering during the current hot spell has been employed to keep greens from drying out too much. A valve leak behind tee #2 occurred this week; the system was not turned off because it would have taken days to refill. The system is old; Steve says there is a 10-year old report (circa 2014) that noted many failures in the system at that time. Doug Olson asked how the funding/reserves will be built to replace the irrigation system which is expected to cost approximately \$3 million. Doug Smith reported the current loan doesn't expire until 2029; only then can another loan be taken out for irrigation system improvements. Doug S reported the golf course is an enterprise fund that doesn't qualify for a CIP. City fees such as salaries for Parks and Rec director/city staff were questioned by Doug O as possibly being removed from those expenditures the golf course is required to pay from its revenue. The solar power project was updated by Doug S and Steve.
- (00:34:04) Golf Course Operations Manager Tod Fitterer reported that FY 2023-24 finals show Munis revenue increased \$150K and Bill Roberts revenue increased \$350K. New credit card terminals are coming soon which will allow the online tee system to work better. Todd hopes to come up with ideas/methods this winter that will penalize tee time "no shows" by pass holders.

Leagues

(00:51:00) Kathy McDonald-Women's League: Kathy reported that 104 ladies showed up for the Bill Roberts Ladies League Invitational. Todd reported on the many compliments he overheard about the event. Upcoming tournaments are the Gre-Bil, league championship, and a derby.

(00:52:20) Doug Olson-Men's League: Doug reported that the Men's League Fun Night had 68 members – this is a non-league week during the 4th of July. Doug extended "good wishes" to Nicholas and Susan at the upcoming state am tournaments.

(00:53:20) Public Comment (Items not on this agenda) – none.

(00:53:35) Member Communications-Announcements / Proposals for next Agenda – (August 20, 2024)

(00:53:45) Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM.

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