



PUBLIC GOLF COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes September 15, 2020
Webex



I. Call Meeting to Order

Jess Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: David Demmer, Jenny Peterson, Noah Kramer, Tammy Sundbom, Jim Sadness, Dan Baumgartner, Steve Kinney, Thomas Griggs, Troy Barnette

New Business

A. Introductions – Jessica Peterson, Parks and Recreation Manager

B. Selection of Committee Chair – Jessica Peterson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Commissioner Peterson motioned to recommend Commissioner Demmer as Chair, second by Commissioner Kramer. Motion carries.

C. Meeting Schedule – Committee Chair

Staff Proposal: Third Tuesday of each Month at 5-6 p.m.

Commissioner Kramer motioned to approve the staff proposed meeting schedule to be the third Tuesday of each month from 5-6p.m. for the Public Golf Committee, second by Jenny Peterson. Motion carries.

Conducting Business: Open Meeting Law – Jessica Peterson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Our Foundation: Council- and Commission-Approved Golf Documents – Jessica Peterson, Parks and Recreation Manager

D. Golf Study: Citizen Advisory Findings

<https://duluthmn.gov/media/8048/golf-study-citizen-advisory-committee-findings-final.pdf>

E. Proposed Changes to Ownership and Use of Public Green Space in the Lester Park and Enger Park Areas

<https://duluthmn.gov/media/8050/proposed-changes-to-ownership-and-use-of-public-green-space-in-the-lester-park-and-enger-park-areas.pdf>

Exhibit A: Parks and Recreation Commission - Public Golf Committee

<https://duluthmn.gov/media/9171/exhibit-a-public-golf-committee-1-8-2019.pdf>

Dan Baumgartner reflected on the Council Approved Document, item C. Shared he would like to extend the review date of the two golf courses to 2025 due to COVID and the delayed organization of this committee.

Jess Peterson indicated that the Council Approved Document is in conjunction of a number of steps within the golf journey. Shared the decision to close Lester for the year was not solely based on Lester, but also the results of the development RFP at Enger, when the Enger course opened, and when it will be renovated. Cautioned that defining an extended timeline now would disregard all the work that has been completed already. Highlighted to take caution on choosing the right timeline, as we do not know what that is.



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Jim Sadness indicated there was a promise for a 2 year period for the study granted by Administration, and there would be some sort of extension for the City and the Golf Community to make a decision on Lester Park. Mentioned that with COVID, in terms of fairness, he believes the City handled this properly. Shared he would, however, like to extend the study period by a year.

Jess Peterson indicated we can have this as a discussion during a future meeting. Stated the Public Golf Committee is not in agreement to choose a timeline at this time.

Demmer stated he agrees with Jess Peterson, and the conversation will be a key component to the outcome of this group. Shared this will be included on the agenda during the next meeting. Demmer requested a presentation on the financial situation of the golf courses so the committee can have a history of the decisions that have been made thus far.

F. Set Agenda for next month – Commissioner Demmer, Committee Chair

Jenny Peterson agreed with Demmer, requested a presentation from Billy Casper Golf on the history and how they have ran the two Duluth public golf courses.

Jess Peterson requested Committee Members to send agenda requests to Jessica Haig, and a tracking sheet would be created to determine agenda topics for future meetings. Shared these could include informational presentations, which would require advance notice in order to prepare.

Jim Sadness indicated that there have been past studies on the conditions of the courses, and encouraged other members to do their own homework in order to not waste meeting time.

III. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 20 via Webex