



PUBLIC GOLF COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021
Webex



I. Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Demmer called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: David Demmer, Noah Kramer, Jim Sandness, Tammy Sundbom, Steve Kinney, Dan Baumgartner

Not Present: Thomas Griggs, Troy Barnette

III. Approval of the June 15 Meeting Minutes

Kramer motioned to approve the June 15 meeting minutes. Second Demmer. Motion carries.

IV. Presentations and Informational Updates

V. New Business

VI. Old Business

A. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 35 Article III – Public Golf Courses (Recommendation Requested)
Jess Peterson, Manager

Demmer questioned if the Parks and Recreation Manager is the sole person to decide when the course will open or close for the season. Jess Peterson indicated this was an oversight within the document, and should've included, "or designee." Stated this edit would be included within the recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Baumgartner questioned if the current rule prohibits taking golf balls from the course lands. Questioned what the City's concern is to start enforcing this. Jess Peterson stated that code changes does not mean it initiates enforcement and that this language was already in place though not regularly enforced

Demmer questioned if there is worry that the language related to fee structure is reviewed on an annual basis. Bill Colgan indicated this doesn't worry him and the current method makes sense. Jess Peterson indicated this is carryover from the previous language of green fees. Shared there are certain fees that don't change during a season, such as annual passes. Stated consultation with the golf course manager would take place with items such as green fees, and would be happy to entertain a motion to amend the language. Demmer indicated the comment focused on green fees, and would like the golf course to be nimble and make changes as needed. Bill Colgan agrees with Demmer, as this could be useful for running specials. Jess Peterson recommended striking the word annually within the document.

Sandness stated he is for nimble rates as well. Questioned if the City could set rates earlier in the year. Jess Peterson stated this is the flexibility we are seeking to give the golf course managers.

Kramer motioned to recommend the proposed amendment to Chapter 35 Article III – Public Golf Courses. Second Sandness. Recommendation carries unanimously.

Jess Peterson indicated the next step is a vote with the Parks and Recreation Commission in August.

B. Enger Golf Course Renovation Planning Update (For Future Action) Todd Armbruster, Parks Project Coordinator



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Demmer requested a summary of the decision to not relocate the driving range. Peterson stated this decision was recently shared during a planning meeting. Shared the housing development proposed would be a net loss rather than a net gain. Indicated the most affordable option would be keeping the holes where they are with slight adjustments for irrigation.

Baumgartner stated he is happy to hear that sustainability is a factor. Questioned when the Committee could further discuss the simulator opportunity. Shared the importance of having a great practice area, even with other courses nearby. Armbruster stated this could be within the facility during the off-season, where we would need to look at 4-6 higher end simulators that wouldn't require as many software updates. Stated this isn't part of the initial renovation plan, but can be considered. Mike Cutler stated four simulators is the number to meet return in investment.

Sandness questioned if the City could purchase inexpensive simulators for the off-season, even if it's just one. Questioned the profitability of having a basic vs. full kitchen. Mike Cutler indicated an analysis on simulators was performed, shared the net profitability would be between \$20-\$30k per year. Sandness questioned if there was any type of water allocation for Lester Park Golf Course. Armbruster stated he believes this is mostly City water, and not surface water. Sandness questioned if the City could use the closing of Lester as a negotiating term with the DNR to have more water at Enger. Questioned if the City is ready to cover the deficient that could potentially occur. Jess Peterson indicated further details can be provided next month, as numbers will be readjusted to go up or down potentially.

Kinney questioned if the bunkers will be reconstructed or removed. Armbruster stated there were bunkers identified that were difficult for play – so they will be removed. Shared there will be bunkers also reconstructed. Norby shared both will occur and will supply Kinney with which bunkers will be removed and reconstructed. Kinney questioned what the surface will be for the outdoor patio. Tara Anderson shared this would be a concrete slab or bituminous. Kinney questioned if there will be drinking fountains installed. Norby stated the drinking fountains would be a different water source than the irrigation lines, as the irrigation water wouldn't be potable. Baumgartner suggested having water jugs placed at designated locations. Norby shared there is a labor cost to refill and clean the jugs. Stated installation of a potable water line would be approximately \$50-100k. Cutler mentioned water bottles and an honor system as another option.

Demmer questioned how the 46k rounds was determined and what reasoning was made for the increase. Mike Cutler mentioned there was a decline from COVID and there will soon be a better product, which will help to maintain the rounds, but this does not account for bad weather. Demmer questioned how the \$2.5 million will be funded. Jess Peterson indicated it will be dependent on revenue bonding.

Sandness questioned what the contingency cost category is. Rob Hurd shared they are soft costs, an extra pot of money in case something unforeseen occurs. Sandness questioned if we should just focus on the critical items in the event there are unforeseen costs.

C. Set Agenda for next month – David Demmer, Committee Chair

Peterson shared the next meeting will take place in person and will not have the option to be virtual. Shared in the future, virtual may be used to have consultants join the meeting. Webex will be available for consultants, but not members of the public. Demmer and Sandness stated September 29 would work best for their schedules. Kramer indicated September 29 does not work for his schedule. Peterson shared a mid-day option may need to be considered for the next meeting. Agreement on further scheduling conversations and a meeting notice would follow.



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VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be September date TBD, City Hall, Council Chambers.