

Lincoln Municipal Golf Committee Meeting
Minutes from May 24, 2019
Woods Park Place – 3131 'O' Street, Suite 300
Large Conference Room

Members Present:

Brad Brandt, Sherrie Nelson, Bill Allen, Todd Johnson, Jason Hutchison, Casey Karges, Matt Herman, Karen Flowers, Mike Calvert.

Staff Present:

Wade Foreman, Lynn Johnson, Kyle Oakley, Chris Meyer, Michele Jordan.

Call to Order:

12:01 p.m.

Approval of April Minutes:

Unanimous approval of April Minutes.

Staff Reports:

Wade reported that Ash tree removal has been completed at Holmes Park and is now at Mahoney. They are working as weather permits. Tree replacement will begin this fall and/or next spring. Wade reported per Casey that Peg is doing a great job and adjusting nicely. Chad is getting acclimated to his new duties including fertilizers, etc at Pioneers. Sand is still an issue due to short supply. Larger granules of sand are being used in the interim. April golf rounds for the month were above normal. Not much rain was helpful. Wade shared there has been \$1.2 million put into the CIP since 2015.

Mahoney is starting some new promotions, one being "Newbie Night" being led by an intern/instructor from UNL. This consists of an introduction to golf which includes learning to swing, chip and putt. This also includes a free drink at the club house with a total cost of \$9.00. Three "Newbie Night's" are being scheduled at this time. The goal is to lessen the intimidation many may have regarding golfing along with potentially signing people up for Golf 101 and 201 classes. Clubs are provided. Mahoney is also marketing and registering people for "Couples Golf" and a Mahomies Night.

The cost of Highlands Irrigation control panel is just over \$42,000.

Golf Report:

Sherrie asked if there had been any progress made regarding the stolen golf carts from last year. Wade said they were contacted by a Lincoln Investigator and was told a warrant in Omaha had been issued which led to the recovery of one of the golf carts for Mahoney. The cart is in working condition.

The committee discussed and agreed that the CIP dollars and expenditures need to be posted and explained in the clubhouses for the public to view. Wade stated they are posted and people are looking and showing interest. At year end will have an update to CIP dollars and completed projects for 2019.

Rounds Report:

Nice weather in April and above targeted number for the month. May is looking standard just depends on the holiday weekend and if we get any rainouts, there will be approximately 21,500 rounds in May.

Financial Report:

Wade compared 2018 and 2019 numbers. Wade stated that superintendents and pros have been meeting and are conscious of keeping within or below budget including hiring and watering. \$167,000 was April's profit.

Holmes Park Clubhouse is being booked for parties more frequently. Mike shared an email with a complaint he

received regarding the whole clubhouse being closed to golfers. Complaint was not being told at time of check in. Wade stated they have discussed different ways to make golfers aware such as streamers and written acknowledgement along with verbally when checking in. It was discussed by many in the committee different options to accommodate renting entire clubhouse and not just the normal banquet area and accommodate golfers. Discussion revolved around setting up a policy during summer months of renting the entire clubhouse would have to be after 7pm and during off season renting entire clubhouse after 6pm. Denis said this is what he has done in the past at Highlands

There was conversation regarding what to do with the dollars after the Holmes Clubhouse is paid off which will be in 2021. Lynn stated as the time grows closer Lynn will discuss different options as what to do with the extra dollars. The current thought is rolling into the CIP.

L.M.G.A.:

Mike shared they had their modified Chapman in May which was successful. The next event is the Ryder Cup which is East vs. West. The first round will be played Saturday, June 1st at Pioneers, then Sunday, June 2nd at Mahoney.

Women's League:

Alice was not in attendance so Karen reported they had their 2nd event with 30-40 players which is normal. June 9th will be a "Guest Day".

Senior Men's League:

Bill reported they had one postponement which will be made up next month. The first two events were full with 128 players. The 3rd event at Wilderness Ridge was slightly less due to weather and was a mixer. The outlook for June has 2 events. One at Table Creek which is full with a waiting list and Mahoney with a few spots open. There will be six events on the City courses in June weather permitting.

Bill brought up some issues with the 9-holer issue taking about an hour longer to play. Bill suggested to tell the 9-holers skip ahead and give them par's on the hole skipped. Discussion of the 9-holers playing from a different tee along with other potential solutions.

Old Business:

Wade stated there has been a lot of discussion with the staff and Pro's regarding a second round price increase. The plan as of now is not to have a 2nd price increase. The plan is looking at a membership increase this fall. If operations revenue could not cover the expenses then would borrow dollars from the CIP and have it paid back within one year. Lynn brought up the need of having a contingency reserve fund for future years when weather doesn't allow for standard revenues. A price increase would be considered for 2020 with an informational meeting prior in the fall. Jason brought up a "Family Membership" or "Range Membership". Wade agreed and said they are looking at many different options. Everything will be discussed with the committee.

Jason told the committee that the first batch of beer was bad. There is a new batch brewing and should be out mid-June. There will be table tents around the courses along with emails. The distributor, K&Z will do some advertising along with U-Stop giving 2 cents for every gallon of gas purchased June 22nd and 23rd to the Parks and Rec Foundation ear-marked for golf. Word of mouth is also a great advertising tool.

New Business:

Wade and staff had a meeting Tuesday with the staff and Pro's regarding the 5th year customer survey. The survey is made available to golfers via staff and leagues along with email. There has been a large number of responses every year by golfers. Wade said they took out one question and added CIP and stated approximately 60% were not aware of the CIP. The question of the rough was taken out since there is not much control for change. The committee made some suggestions and everyone agreed the survey is worthwhile and successful along with suggestions in verbiage on the survey to make it even more clear and easy to respond to and get good data. Lynn discussed fund support for Ager via the Mayor and suggesting a letter sent in September, after she and the staff are settled in. Lynn suggested sending a similar letter sent to the last mayor a few years ago.

Adjourn: 1:01 p.m.