

Lincoln Municipal Golf Committee Meeting
Minutes from August 22, 2019
Woods Park Place – 3131 'O' Street, Suite 300
Large Conference Room

Members Present: Brad Brandt, Sherrie Nelson, Bill Allen, Casey Karges, Matt Herman, Karen Flowers, Alice Skultety, Mike Calvert.

Staff Present: Wade Foreman, Lynn Johnson, J.J. Yost, Scott Philippi, Kyle Oakley, Joe Canny, Chris Meyer, Michele Jordan.

Public Present: Ryan McKay

Call to Order: 12:00 p.m.

Approval of June Minutes: Minutes moved by Matt and seconded by Karen after striking the last sentence of first paragraph of "Staff Reports".

Ryan McKay, a citizen who is a golfer spoke to the committee regarding private golf carts. He stated paying trail fee of \$12.00 for bringing his own cart when a course cart can be rented for \$9.50 for nine hole rental is not right. Ryan was told that the cart fees were for trail improvements which he has not seen and stated the paths are not good. Some committee members asked if private courses in Lincoln or Omaha had the same fee. Ryan said he had not done his own research. Sherrie asked Lynn and Wade what the logic is behind the private cart trail fee. Wade stated the trail fee has been in place for the past 10 years and between 1-3 people a year bring their private cart and pay the trail fee when they golf. Wade stated it's standard golf course practice. Liability was brought up. The cart owner is the responsible party. Karen suggested to find out what other courses do, along with Omaha. The issue will be discussed with the Fee Committee this fall once more information is obtained.

Bill asked if it were possible as a committee to get a report of the financials and rounds in a calendar year, not fiscal. Bill explained what he meant and why. Mike confirmed that what Bill is asking for is a summary of 2019, January – December. Scott Philippi explained the work to compile what Bill is wanting is a time-consuming task for accounting no real benefit.

Golf Reports: Wade stated July was a typical month, which is good and discussed last month. Casey wanted it mentioned that many of his staff have been heading back to school. Courses will be over seeding everywhere but Highlands at this time. Aerating is starting Monday at Mahoney. Per Casey there was an irrigation leakage/break at Holmes which has been taken care of. There is a new Highlands irrigation pump being replaced today. Joe has great registration again with the Youth at Ager for fall classes and leagues. There is a program starting this fall, PGA Hope at Holmes. It's a national Veterans program with Holmes and a course in Omaha the only two courses involved in the state. Matt commended the staff regarding the great shape all of the courses are in with many committee members in agreement. Lynn shared with the committee that Bogey, Holmes Goose Dog is no longer with us due to being hit by a car during his goose-chasing duties.

Rounds Report: Wade showed July being a very good month with over 28,000 rounds being played which shows in the financials.

Financial Report: The expenses are where they want them to be thru July. YTD ending deficit is looking to be much less than anticipated earlier in the year with such poor weather which Lynn talked about. Overall, Wade and Scott shared that the financial stats are looking much better than anticipated and a possible profit on the

operations side could happen and would allow not having to borrow dollars from the CIP fund.

L.M.G.A.: Mike stated the LMGA had their 2 Man Best Ball event at Pioneers on the 11th. There were 27 teams. It rained the last ½ hour but most still played to the finish. Next event is the *Miller Lite Open* the 8th of September which will be at Holmes, a 4-person scramble open to all. Last year 116 people signed up for the event.

Women's League: Alice has their Club Championship this weekend. Shy of 40 people signed up. There is one more event at Ager later in September. Sherri commended the staff for the food prep and reiterated how much it means to everyone.

Senior Men's League: Bill stated they almost got all of their events in. The last event was cancelled due to weather and lightening in the early morning. The golf was cancelled but the 215 gentlemen still were able to go to Highlands for the luncheon. This is the conclusion of their league play and now Fun Days begin in September. There will be playing fun days in October at City courses.

Old Business: Beer has been sampled. Sherri said she's not a beer drinker but said it was good with others in agreement. Karen was surprise by the lack of advertising. Wade stated they are spreading the word via table tent signage and with KNZ the distributor more signage to come. Overall, the new beer is a success.

New Business: Wade discussed the annual Golf Survey Results. There were 493 responses. Overall there were no big surprises or anything that stuck out. Sherri noted the survey was similar to the 2015 survey score. Matt disagreed with part of the survey regarding condition of fairways and greens which are exceptional this year yet not reflected in the survey. Sherri felt overall the survey numbers are good.

Lynn brought up a concern with so many surveys out there that the annual golf survey may be too often. Matt feels the golf survey annually is just fine and not too often. Matt and others did find it interesting with all of the improvement are not shown in the survey. Sherri brought up that customer service is inconsistent and suggested age or gender related. She suggested re-training to make the golfers feel welcome and the staff be friendlier. Lynn agreed and said there has been discussion regarding customer service training by course. Matt doesn't think it is gender related with his experience, but not recognizing the golfer which is not what we want. It was agreed good customer service is an easy and free problem to fix. Karen ended the survey discussion with many people thinking that City tax dollars are involved, opposed to being a separate entity.

Wade let the committee know everyone who left a name and number on the survey has been contacted by him. Everyone agreed with Matt that rates will always be an issue no matter what. Matt made reference that the other courses look to us as far as rates go. Matt feels the main concern is the sprinkler systems. All in all he is amazed at how well the season is ending.

Wade wants to get the CIP draft to the committee early to review and make suggestions and approve prior to confirming in September. Lynn stated J.J. is putting the CIP together and will share the progress with the committee as time passes.

Mike asked if there was anything mentioned regarding golf or changes regarding the new Mayor. Lynn said there are no changes that he has been made aware of.

Sherri asked about the Pioneer's Roof is looking bad and was wondering if it was a historical building and if we could get assistance to repair. Lynn said since the LMGCM is tax exempt which mean no funds available.

Adjourn: 1:03 p.m.