

GOLF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PORT ORANGE
DOROTHY L. HUKILL CITY CENTER ANNEX
1395 DUNLAWTON AVE - CONFERENCE ROOM
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
JUNE 1, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Golf Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Lance Green at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Lance Green, Chairman
Richard Lee
Bill Schell
Jane Taylor
Dennis Flesch

Also Present: Susan Lovallo, Parks & Recreation Director
Peter Ferreira, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director
Shelby Field, Assistant City Clerk

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

C. DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Consideration of Minutes - April 6, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes from April 6, 2021 as presented was made by Member Taylor and Seconded by Member Lee. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Financial and Evaluation Reports from KemperSports

Bob Duquette, General Manager for Kemper Sports, provided an overview of the reports and answered questions from the Board. He informed the Board the course is 118% over budget as more people are coming out to golf, there was a 75% increase in pro shop sales, and they are seeing an increase in tournaments for the first time since the start of COVID.

Member Lee asked if the course is pursuing any 9-hole promotions. Mr. Duquette responded at this time they are receiving enough walk ins they do not need to pursue that option and besides a few leagues currently using that system there has not been a lot of interest locally.

3. Discussion on Golf Course Improvements

Member Schell stated the punching of the fairways is the best he's seen in 30 years.

Member Lee discussed concern from the homeowner between holes 15 and 16 regarding people urinating in the woods on his property where there are children. Member Lee asked for something to be done. Chairman Green asked if there is any landscaping that can be done to deter the activity. Mr. Duquette provided a few options they have tried so far and will reach out the police about any language they can use and actions they can take.

Susan Lovallo, Parks & Recreation Director, suggested some type of handout regarding the danger of exposing themselves in public with minors present to deter the activity.

4. Update on Lake Bank Restoration

Chairman Green asked to keep focus on this topic and lay the groundwork to address it as soon as possible. Ms. Lovallo believes the solution to the issue may not be favorable to the homeowners because it will affect the presentation of the course.

Member Taylor believes the HOA can work with the city to provide education to the homeowners on the necessity of addressing the lake bank concerns. Darren Bache, Superintendent, offered to provide educational material to support the outreach if needed.

Mr. Bache has made some progress on hole 8 with vegetation. They did the tees in house this year and just completed aerification on the fairways and rough. Mr. Bache discussed the plan to clear the ditch near hole 2 going towards Waters Edge. They are aerifying the greens June 2, 2021.

5. Trail Fees

Mr. Duquette explained that as costs of materials continue to rise, they need to ask City Council for an increase in the fees as the last resolution setting the cap was done 5 years ago.

Member Lee would like to investigate a wider range of option for trail fees as a lot of people end up dropping the annual trail fee because it's not worth it. Ms. Lovallo stated that since the fees need to be tracked which takes staff time, the city is only willing to look at a few different options rather than a wide range. Mr. Duquette provided a few six-month options with different cost variations for the Board to consider.

The Board is in favor of adding a 6-month trail fee option at \$1,000 for a defined time frame of October 31 – March 31.

Member Taylor believes the cap of the golf cart rentals should be higher to accommodate the increase in golf cart costs in the next few years. She would like to see the cap set at \$30 instead of \$25.

6. Staff Comments

Ms. Lovallo informed the Board the Mayor's Golf Tournament is June 19, 2021.

The Golf Course Management contract is in the works and will come before the Board soon. It is in the same style as the previous contract. The RFP will most likely go out for bid in January.

The item of golf carts is going to be renewed this year. Ms. Lovallo explained that if the city buys the same type of carts, lead acid battery carts, the trade in value will go down in the future. The City is considering the lithium-ion battery carts which are lighter and have better electrical costs. Ms. Lovallo would like to pursue a lease option as the city tackles other costs.

The Board is in favor of switching to a lease system with the lithium-ion battery carts over purchasing them. Chairman Green doesn't believe owning the carts is economical for the city anymore, but he wants to make sure the city budgets for the lease costs.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Discussion on Golf Course Improvements

Update on Cart Paths

Lake Bank Improvements

Update on Golf Course Management RFP

Language on Proper Etiquette on the Golf Course

D. BOARD COMMENTS

Chairman Green believes things are going in the right direction right now with the course and asked that Kemper Sports reach out to the Board if they need anything.

Member Taylor believes the repairs on the cart path on hole 2 are just as bad as it was before they repaired it. She asked if anyone reached out to the course design guy regarding the bunkers. Mr. Duquette responded he may be able to come out in June to look at the course.

E. ADJOURNMENT – 6:20 p.m.

8. Next Meeting Date: August 3, 2021

9. Board Report to City Council - June 1, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Green", is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman Lance Green