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## **City of Tucson Parks & Recreation Department**

### **TUCSON GREENS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2015**

The Regular Meeting of the Tucson Greens Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m., on Thursday January 22, 2015. The meeting was held at Tucson Parks and Recreation, Randolph Golf Complex, Cactus Room, 600 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona.

Committee Members present: John Anttonen; Jerry Anderson; Chuck Cushman; Jeff Farkas; Thomas Flanagan; Dr. David Kopec; Andres Ramos (3:04 arrival); and Matthew Witzke.

City Staff in Attendance: Greg Jackson (City Manager's Office); Erin Gallego (Administrative Assistant – Parks and Recreation); Amy Stabler (Ward 6 Council Aide).

OB Sports Staff in Attendance: Phil Green (Chief Operating Officer); Wade Dunagan (Director of Operations - Randolph); Dan Wickman (Head Golf Pro – Randolph); Robert Moreno (Head Golf Pro – El Rio and Silverbell); Tom Tatum (Head Golf Pro – Fred Enke); Matt Kimball (Superintendent – Randolph Golf Course).

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Anttonen announced agenda items 4 and 3 would switch order.

Mr. Anttonen presented Mr. Cushman with a plaque for his 8 years of service to the Greens Committee.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2014**

Mr. Anderson made a Motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Farkas seconded the Motion.

Approved February 19, 2015

The Minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.

**III. GOLF COURSE REPORTS (EVENTS, ROUNDS, MAINTENANCE)**

Mr. Dunagan announced OB has reconsidered the terms for the refined Club Play policy adding a letter will be going out stating they will recognize groups of 12 or more as Clubs, and be able to use their points towards club play.

**A. EL RIO**

Mr. Dunagan reported walk up play has been significant to the increase in monthly rounds; they are dealing with slow play due to the amount of golfers and have kept the rangers out as much as possible to assist with pace of play.

**B. FRED ENKE**

Mr. Dunagan reported rounds have increased, however they are slightly behind last year; the comment cards have been very positive, the only consistent negative being the poor cart paths.

**C. SILVERBELL**

Mr. Dunagan reported rounds are increasing, course conditions are good and are improving with the better weather; there are still some issues with slow play; he also stated they have run string across the lakes and sprayed a grape bubble gum scent to deal with the ducks and coots; however they are still looking for a long term solution.

**D. RANDOLPH / DELL URICH**

Mr. Kimball reported he is happy with the color and density of the course; he has tightened up the irrigation schedule to keep the course dry to maximize playability; he also stated the Clubhouse area remains a priority along the building and the parking lot; they are working on cutting dead and dying trees.

Mr. Witzke inquired if the Greens were getting smaller since OB took over.

Mr. Dunagan responded they are trying to recapture the Greens surface where they can and it is not their intent to make them smaller.

Mr. Anderson inquired how many stumps and dead trees need to be removed.

Mr. Kimball responded the amount is unknown; some are just physically too big and they don't want to bust the irrigation system in the removal process.

Mr. Anderson stated he appreciated the announcement of the reconsideration of the Club Play policy however he felt it should have been vetted to the Greens Committee prior to the original change; it could have avoided the backlash from the golfers.

**IV. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

Mr. Lee Vulcano, 10024 S. Placita Unica Vail AZ 85641; stated the courses are gorgeous, the best they have been in the last 5 to 6 years and is hopeful the roughs will be kept up. He also stated the Preferred Card rate doesn't make sense, as well as his club did not receive their 10% discount, and rates are not posted anywhere not even in the Clubhouses.

Mr. R.T. O'Grady, 4436 N. Rocky Creek Circle, Tucson AZ 85750; stated he appreciated the announcement at the beginning of the meeting to change the group and club play policies, however he still has questions as to what the difference is between a group and a club, as well as where are the discounts for the Seniors; he also mentioned the improved conditions at each of the courses.

Mr. Anthony Peralta, 1519 W. Speedway, Tucson AZ 85745; thanked OB for reconsidering the points towards Group and Club play; he also mentioned #3 at El Rio should be painted the same color as the fence so it doesn't hit into the neighborhood, or put some kind of advertisement.

## **V. OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES REPORT**

Mr. Green reported they are \$631,000 behind in revenue from where they expected to be, retail sales are down. He also stated the unexpected building repairs and maintenance issues that were not anticipated have caused the expenses to be up; he stated they are challenged with new courses causing more supply in the market place; however the next 6 months should bring a significant change in order to break even.

Mr. Flanagan appreciated the report to see where the shortfalls all; however he would like to see this same report 6 months from now at the end of fiscal year 15.

Mr. Jackson responded to not compare the numbers to last year; where we were at this point last year was \$700,000 behind; however at the end of the year it was only \$24,000; it is not a lost cause we can't catch all the revenue but we can control expenses.

Mr. Farkas stated the courses look fantastic; however he is concerned with the \$151,000 payroll expense.

Mr. Dunagan responded that he focuses daily with all the managers, if there is no play, they send employee's home; they make an active decision each day.

Mr. Green stated when revenue is not coming in, they have to adjust expenses; he further noted the water expense should correct itself over the next 6 months.

Dr. Kopec inquired what the \$150,000 in building expenses falls under.

Mr. Green responded total operating expenses.

Approved February 19, 2015

Mr. Anderson inquired what next fiscal year's budget prep process is and if the Greens Committee would get to review it.

Mr. Green responded the deadline is in March.

Mr. Anttonen inquired where expenses from other city departments get charged.

Mr. Jackson responded a portion of his salary is the only charge to the golf budget from the City.

Mr. Flanagan inquired if the administration costs will be distributed equally next fiscal year.

Mr. Green responded it would be split 40% to Randolph, and 20% to the other 3 courses.

## **VI. D.I.V.O.T.S. REPORT**

Mr. Dunagan reported for calendar year 2014 the following hours were reported: Fred Enke – John Anttonen (353 hours); Lee Smith (38 hours); Ed Gates (215 hours); Randolph – Ed Barron (467 hours); he further stated there are more hours to be reported; however not all the volunteers officially sign in.

Mr. Anttonen requested the Golf Pros and Superintendents get the volunteers on the books; it is important to have their names and hours documented; he also stated that the volunteer hours have a monetary value and the Mayor and Council should know the value of the free labor.

## **VII. FIRST TEE UPDATE**

Ryan Fitzgerald updated the committee on the success and growth in 2014. He further stated in the next 6 months they will have 2 more programming facilities; one at Randolph and one at Crooked Tree; the vision is to have an additional 8 added in 2015.

Mr. Fitzgerald stressed the importance of the volunteers for the program; there are only 2 paid staff members, all the rest are volunteers, and they could always use more.

Mr. Anttonen stated if a First Tee kid brings an adult to play, that adult should get a discounted rate.

Mr. Dunagan responded that is something they can consider.

**VIII. GREENS COMMITTEE GOLF COURSE INSPECTIONS REPORT**

Mr. Farkas reported on the Fred Enke golf course; noting the maintenance trailer is old and lacks any type of air conditioning, the cart paths are in terrible condition even though Mr. Eckart has graded and re-graded the paths; and the Poa Annua is a real curse out there.

Mr. Farkas did find the fairways to be in excellent condition and felt that the course was phenomenal; as well as the A frame signs to draw attention to the restaurant.

Mr. Anttonen stated he is an advocate of not overseeding the fairways, golfers are realizing it doesn't have to be green grass to golf in Tucson in the winter.

Mr. Green stated overseeding does add curb appeal especially with the winter visitors; it would probably pay for itself.

Mr. Cushman mentioned historical data would probably give that answer; do a look back when Fred Enke was overseeded versus now that it is not.

Mr. Ramos stated if you don't have the irrigation system to do the job right, there is no point in overseeding.

Mr. Anttonen commended Tom Tatum for his excellent work for both the City and OB Sports; he is a great teacher and brings people into golf, he is also very good with the clubs.

**IX. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

None.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

The next Tucson Greens Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at the Randolph Golf Complex, in the Cactus Room, at 3:00 P.M.

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Rate sheet for each of the courses  
Expand on group play criteria  
Value of the yearly D.I.V.O.T.S hours

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Flanagan made a Motion to adjourn.

Approved February 19, 2015

Mr. Witzke seconded the Motion.  
The Motion passed, 8- 0.  
The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 P.M

Approved February 19, 2015