



TUCSON GREENS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Tucson Greens Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m., on Thursday October 22, 2015. The meeting was held at Silverbell Golf Course, 3600 N. Silverbell Road, Tucson, Arizona.

Committee Members present: John Anttonen, Tom Duddleston, Jeff Farkas, Joseph Cates, Andres Ramos, Jerry Anderson (arrived at 3:03 pm), Thomas Flanagan (arrived at 3:03 pm), Matthew Witzke (arrived at 3:05 pm and departed at 4:33) and Dr. David Kopec (arrived at 3:11 pm)

City Staff in Attendance: Greg Jackson (City Manager's Office); Stephanie Brooks (Secretary – Parks and Recreation); Amy Stabler (Ward 6 Council Aide).

OB Sports Staff in Attendance: Phil Green (Chief Operating Officer); Mark Woodward (Senior Vice President of Operations); Robb Palmgren (General Manager – Randolph Golf Complex); Julie Windall (Assistant Food and Beverage Director), Jeff Eckart (Superintendent – Fred Enke Golf Course); Reuben Proper (Superintendent – Silverbell Golf Course); Robert Moreno (General Manager – El Rio Golf Course); Tim Brady (Superintendent – El Rio Golf Course);

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. Duddleston made a Motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Cates seconded the Motion.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0

3. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

None.

4. GOLF COURSE REPORTS (EVENTS, ROUNDS, MAINTENANCE) – OB SPORTS

Approved November 19, 2015

A. EL RIO – DETAILED REPORT

Robert Moreno and Tim Brady reported September and October numbers as El Rio was closed for two weeks in September.

- 5,564 Rounds increase of 682 rounds from last year.
- Revenue at \$115,327 up \$19,224 from last year.
- Special Olympics held at El Rio, 40 players.
- US Kids Golf, 60 players.
- Issues with sewer smell have been resolved.
- Three new TV's installed in clubhouse.
- Deep cleaning occurred during closure.
- El Rio has received a lot of positive comments due to recent updates/cleaning.
- 11 stumps were removed.
- More customers are staying and enjoying the facility.

Mr. Woodward reported in general, all courses are now open, course maintenance occurred during over seeding closures. Conditions of courses have been improved and in great shape. Stimp meter readings taken on regular basis and explained the process.

B. RANDOLPH / DELL URICH – GENERAL REPORT

- Volunteer hours 37 in September and 16 and a half hours in October.
- Marketing continues to be priority with new signs on Broadway.
- 2016 City Card sales are up at all courses, currently \$59 until December 1.
- Recent events include a free lesson night, trick or treat event planned.
- Girls and boys State High School Golf Tournament on November 2nd & 3rd.
- Senior and Women's Tucson City Amateur Tournament.
- OB Championship on December 5th & 6th.

C. SILVERBELL – GENERAL REPORT

- Course opened after over seeding on September 18th.
- Silverbell Road construction impacted play.
- Filled a few vacancies, hired new staff recently.

D. FRED ENKE – GENERAL REPORT

- Rounds and revenue up
- Volunteer hours: 61 hours in September, 13 hours in October.

Mr. Cates inquired about the revenue/ratio of free/comp rounds.

Mr. Green estimated 4, 5 or 6%, but offered to confirm and respond at next meeting.

Mr. Cates inquired about the employment status of employees during over seeding process.

Mr. Green stated maintenance takes place during over seeding process.

Mr. Cates inquired about cost of recent repair at El Rio and the process for payment approval from City of Tucson.

Mr. Woodward stated that OB Sports communicated with Greg Jackson on a daily basis, as a contractor daily operational expenses are paid and larger items/issues are discussed with Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Green stated that true emergency items/issues would not necessarily be discussed with Mr. Jackson prior to repairs.

Mr. Ramos inquired about any concerns regarding recent over seeding at courses.

Mr. Woodward explained the follow up process and stated that course superintendents “sweeten” areas recently over seeded and confirm effectiveness of over seeding.

Mr. Anttonen mentioned the need for a partnership between OB Sports and the City of Tucson regarding equipment needs to improve the maintenance of golf courses.

Mr. Jackson stated that equipment can continue to be loaned to OB Sports as needed however, city staff cannot be loaned to OB Sports.

5. OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES REPORT – OB SPORTS

Mr. Woodward provided a report and indicated all courses are at or above rounds projections an average increase of 20% across the system.

Mr. Woodward mentioned revenue decrease due to over seeding expenses and stated the next month’s report will confirm OB Sports is on budget.

6. EL CON GRILL EVENTS – OB SPORTS

Robb Palmgren and Julie Windall provided an update on event business at El Con Grill.

Mr. Palmgren mentioned the goal to increase the after hours, non-golf events.

Ms. Windall stated the recent improvements in the grill operations, including additional staffing, updated menu have increased business.

Ms. Windall reported the recent and upcoming events include Wildcat happy hour, weddings, birthdays, holiday parties, Golftober Fest, Music Nights, Diner Night, Friday Fish Fry, Wine and Beer Dinners.

Mr. Palmgren stated the increased use of social media and other marketing in newspapers, billboards, TV and radio has also increased business.

7. STAFFING REPORT – OB SPORTS

Mr. Woodward explained the spreadsheet provided regarding staffing numbers to include the total of approximately 100 full time employees which is under budget of 106 positions.

Mr. Cates inquired about the function of the one Staff Accountant listed at Randolph on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Woodward explained that the Staff Accountant is a system wide position and in fact does the accounting for the entire golf system.

Mr. Woodward stated that effective October 1, OB Sports took over the accounts payable from the City of Tucson and expense for position is split 40, 20, 20, 20 between courses.

Mr. Cates inquired about the lack of a janitor at El Rio.

Mr. Moreno stated the full time janitor splits time between El Rio and Silverbell, 20 hours at each.

Mr. Duddleston inquired about the payroll figures.

Mr. Green estimated 23%.

8. OB SPORTS CONTRACT AMENDMENT – GREG JACKSON

Mr. Jackson provided and explained a spreadsheet regarding 2016 Incentive Measures.

Mr. Jackson further explained the monthly report to be provided by OB Sports which will determine the incentive eligibility per the spreadsheet provided specific criteria is met.

9. GREENS COMMITTEE GOLF COURSE INSPECTIONS REPORT – COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mr. Farkas reported that he interviewed golfers that reported no problems at El Rio with any of the greens or speed, but expressed concerns with goose grass.

Mr. Farkas agreed with golfers and stated that the staff is always focused in their duties and apply themselves to accomplish their responsibilities.

Mr. Farkas mentioned the September/October edition of Arizona Golfer headlined City of Tucson Golf: A tradition of quality and value which stated El Rio received 100% recommendation rate on GolfAdvisor.com in the last six month. Mr. Farkas agreed with the article and also rates El Rio at 100%.

10. AGA ARTICLE

Mr. Anttonen spoke about a critical article in another publication “Arizona Golf Insider” and expressed his concerns regarding the false information about Tucson City Golf conveyed in the article.

Mr. Woodward explained his part in the article and expressed the need for a public apology on his part as the author took information out of context.

11. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MEETING WITH P&R MASTER PLANNING CONSULTANT

November 4, 11:00 – 12:30 at Randolph Golf Complex

12. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

None

13. MEETING SCHEUDLE – NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next Tucson Greens Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., Randolph Golf Complex, 600 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ.

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

How does OB grow revenue
Enterprise Fund

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Farkas made a Motion to adjourn.
Mr. Duddleston seconded the Motion.
The Motion passed, 7- 0.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M