



TUCSON GREENS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019

The regular meeting of the Tucson Greens Committee was called to order at 3:01 p.m., on Thursday, June 20, 2019. The meeting was held at Randolph Golf Complex, 600 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ.

Committee members present: John Anttonen, Joseph Cates, Thomas Flanagan, Ken Kavanaugh, Judy McDermott, and James Scoville.

City staff in attendance: Greg Jackson and Dawn Blake (Parks and Recreation).

OB Sports staff in attendance: Matt Molloy (Senior Vice President of Operations); Robb Palmgren (General Manager – Randolph Golf Complex); Jeff Brandt (General Manager – Fred Enke Golf Course); Matt Kimball (Superintendent – Fred Enke, Randolph and Silverbell); and Robert Spikes (General Manager – El Rio Golf Course)

Public in attendance: Terry Finefrock and Larry Pagel

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. EL RIO WASH PRESENTATION AND UPDATE

Mr. Jackson provided a presentation and maps showing Pima County Flood Control's plans for slowing the El Rio wash by creating a basin on Rio Golf Course. The plan is to create berms with drainage pipes that will control how quickly the water meters off the course to avoid residential homes getting flooded. It is estimated the project will take about eight weeks. Ideal time would be August and September. The only impact to the City would be lost revenue while from closing the front 9 holes during construction.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2019 AND MAY 16, 2019

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve April 18, 2019 minutes, second by Mr. Anttonen and approved 6-0. The May 16, 2019 minutes will be revisited next month.

4. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

None.

5. GOLF COURSE OPERATIONS REPORTS – OB SPORTS

Mr. Spikes reported May was a decent month. The weather was good; it didn't break a 100 degrees and there were zero rain days. There were 110 guests for the Tucson City Amateur on May 4. Mr. Kimball is working with a contractor to get the area behind number 4 green sodded. The well work continues. Mr. Kavanaugh asked if the new pool table, at Silverbell, is bringing in new customers. Mr. Spikes replied it is still too early to tell.

Mr. Jackson discussed the OB Sports "TCG Bunker Removal/Fill In Report" relating to the Silverbell Golf Course bunkers only. There are six bunkers being recommended to either remove sand bunker and convert to grass hollow or remove sand bunker and fill in area with material to match existing area topography. The

Greens Committee voted to accept the Silverbell Bunker recommendation. Mr. Flanagan motioned to approve the proposal, second by Mr. Anttonen and passed 5-0 with Mr. Kavanaugh not participating in the discussion because of conflict).

Mr. Flanagan noted the Mega Pass sales fell short by 70 passes. Mr. Palmgren responded that green fees were up, as a system, \$32,000 and cart fees were up \$14,000 which could reflect the short fall in Mega Pass sales. Ms. McDermott asked if the dates have been set to replace the netting at Randolph and El Rio. Mr. Palmgren responded they are scheduled between July 8 and July 22 as it stands right now.

Mr. Scoville mentioned he has noticed a lower price on other golf course websites and was wanting to know if OB Sports plans on making any changes to their pricing. Mr. Palmgren explained he has been using the same model for the last three years. Rounds are 3,700 ahead of last year and Green fees are up 4%. Rates will be adjusted for the summer.

6. OPERATING REVENUES, EXPENSES AND ROUNDS REPORT – OB SPORTS

Mr. Palmgren stated rounds are up 3,700 from prior year while May was up 1,800 to prior year. The weather was great. Revenues are 4.4% under budget but 3.5% ahead of prior year. Expenses are also under budget and 3.4% less than prior year. Overall, net operating income is \$255K ahead of budget and \$436K ahead of prior year. There are still some expenses that have not hit this fiscal year that will reduced those amounts. Specifically tree work at Randolph, netting work on the range and fencing and painting at El Rio. Mr. Cates is wondering why Randolph seems to be down compared to the other courses.

7. HOTEL/MOTEL SURCHARGE

Mr. Cates prepared a draft letter to Mayor and Council requesting the opportunity to have a portion of the Hotel/Motel Surcharge be allocated to Tucson City Golf, as a portion has been allocated to Environmental Services. Mr. Flanagan expressed a concern about the idea and does not think anyone on Mayor and Council has changed their position about giving general funds to Golf. He stated City Golf has a really good story to tell. The numbers, the play, and the position in the market. When the Committee is taking an opportunity to communicate to Mayor and Council or the City Manager, they should always tell that good story of what's going on in City Golf. Maybe in another context we can reference funding options for City Golf's capital needs and maybe the hotel surcharge is one of those options to bring to Mayor and Council's attention. Mr. Anttonen thinks the Committee should bring forward these concepts to City Council and point out that it would be an excellent source of funding that has a relationship to Golf.

Mr. Scoville concurs with the two statements that have been made. First paint a good picture of the benefits of City Golf (i.e. The First Tee Program) and then provide options of ways to help fund Golf's capital needs. Each member will come back with their own take on how to present the request.

8. CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

None

9. MEETING SCHEDULE AND TIME – NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2019, 3 pm at Randolph Golf Complex.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Rate sheet and pass options
- Cost for infrastructure to convert El Rio and Fred Enke cart fleets to electric
- Randolph North partnerships updates
- Parcel south of Silverbell Golf Course (Goret property)
- Adding tree canopy at golf courses (Tucson Clean and Beautiful)
- Overseed

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.