

# **COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES**

### **JANUARY 28, 2020**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gerald Miley and the minutes of the Nov 19, 2019, meeting were approved by unanimous vote of those present.**

**Superintendent Steve Brown reported that fairway spraying of pre-emerge and for poa annum has been delayed due to the unusually wet and warm weather, which has spring characteristics still dominant among grasses. If it continues, it will be difficult to complete spraying for poa.**

**The city dispatched a bucket crew from forestry that spent two days trimming and cutting trees on the East Course's sixth, seventh and eight holes, with the city hoping to be able to send the crew back for additional work. The result is a significant improvement to the course.**

**Brown also reported his crews have dismantled the former bridge that was dislodged and had been blocking a portion of the third hole fairway on the West Course. The wood from the bridge was saved and stored on the concrete approach to the former location of the bridge, with the steel girders removed to an out-of-the-way location south of the creek between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> holes.**

**A new barbecue/charcoal grill has been constructed from abandoned pump tanks, now mounted on a trailer and available for use. Built by inmate labor, the four-unit grills will allow Bull Creek to cater large outings as well as provide grilled burgers, hot dogs and other items for regular customers at the course.**

**New sand bottle re-fill racks have been built and placed at strategic locations, and trash can holders throughout the course have been repaired and repainted green. Outbuildings on the course also are having wood repairs made and being repainted.**

**A new irrigation technician has been hired, replacing “Sarge” Francis, who retired almost a year ago, and more work on the bunkers is on the list of next items to be accomplished as the weather allows, he said.**

**Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that Bull Creek revenues through Period 6 of the 2020 Fiscal Year already had accounted for more than 50 percent of the budgeted income (\$606,283 of \$1,207,000). Oxbow Creek recorded revenues of \$728,456 of \$1,488,000 (45.8 percent) through period 6.**

**A new Point of Sale system installed recently will soon be in full operation with trained staff and much more detailed information will be available for more complete analysis of finances and operations, he said. The information already available shows both Bull Creek and Oxbow are in good shape and on track, with increased merchandising on the horizon at both courses promising additional improvement in sales ahead.**

**Arendt also reported Bull Creek participated in a Columbus Consolidated Government video presentation on the Christmas holidays and expects to make greater use of the CCG video opportunities in the future.**

**He and Oxbow manager Craig Adams attended the PGA show in Orlando and, in addition to PGA classes on increasing revenue, staff building, innovation and other areas of potential improvement, made contacts with experts on bunker construction/improvements, clubhouse architecture and furnishings, and equipment futures.**

**Arendt also said he intends to change the “Marshal” program to an “Ambassador” program, with each employee wearing a uniform (shirt, pullover and hat) plus name tags and with a goal of improving relations and contact with customers to help make each visit a success.**

**A potential Hughston Clinic sponsorship of funds for renovation of the Hughston Pavilion and construction of a nice starter building through a \$25,000 donation is in the offing, with those improvements enabling significant improvements to the control of play, pace of play and even more rounds of golf being made available each week, he said.**

**Arendt said he also is pursuing budget inclusion of a pay raise for golf course employees, who are not part of the citywide pay raise system and have not had a raise in years.**

**Georgia Power also has been requested to perform an energy audit of Bull Creek Golf Course, which it is hoped will lead to improved efficiency and lower costs.**

**Other areas reported on by the golf director include expanded employment of tournament/outing forms, pairing of an outing with hotel accommodations, continued work toward a new Bull Creek logo and a forthcoming meeting on budget preparation.**

**Ricky Wright suggested Bull Creek would benefit significantly from increasing memberships. The impact on the revenue stream could be significant and he urged members to make it a priority to develop ways to grow membership. Among things to consider, he said, could be a system in which fees could be billed monthly directly to a credit card or financial account, perhaps with a slight reduction in rate to encourage that expanded use.**

**A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.**

**Attending the meeting were Chairman Gerald Miley, Ricky Wright, Ken Davis, Ken Crumpler, Mario Davis, Stephanie Callahan, William Roundtree and Jim Houston. Richard Mahone was absent.**



# **COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES**

### **FEBRUARY 25, 2020 MEETING**

#### **CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Gerald Miley**

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the January 28 meeting and the February 18 called meeting were approved on a motion by Kenneth Davis, seconded by Ken Crumpler, and passed unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Steve Brown reported that adverse weather has affected ability to perform certain tasks on the golf courses, including spraying for weed control. The Bermuda grasses have not lain dormant and the continuing strong and steady rains have combined to inhibit weed control efforts.

Work crews have been able to: replace rotten wood in golf shelters and to paint; remove more dead trees; repair blocked drains near greens; repair turf equipment; and complete repair of the large drain pipe near the green at Hole 9 on the East Course.

Plans are advancing to improve lighting, bathrooms, painting and adding onto the Hughston Pavilion, along with adding an enlarged patio and walkway area.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that January revenues at Oxbow Golf Course were good, especially compared to January 2019, up about \$4,500. Year to Date revenues there are up about \$5,000. Expenses also are up, but primarily due to the cost of repairing/replacing old equipment.

**Bull Creek revenues for January 2020, compared to January 2019, were up more than \$29,000, but having not been present a year ago, the primary cause for that is unknown, other than increased revenues from events and product sales. The year-to-date revenue also increased almost \$68,000. Expenses year-to-year also were up by more than \$70,000, also primarily due to equipment repairs, including transfer pumps.**

**Arendt warned that the extended stretch of foul weather, impacting especially on weekends, is likely to make February a bad month for revenue.**

**A new Bull Creek Golf Course logo was presented, which will be widely presented, including on decals fronting the golf carts. This is one of many things that, together, will hopefully elevate the status of Bull Creek in the eyes of current and potential future customers.**

**The Hardaway Invitational Golf Tournament has been negotiated for March, with Bull Creek hosting a practice round on Thursday, March 19, followed by the opening round on Friday, with Columbus Country Club hosting the concluding round on Saturday. In addition, it has been agreed that Bull Creek will host a Hardaway Fall Fundraiser in the fall, which will help raise funds for the event and will financially benefit Bull Creek as well.**

**Arendt said a budget meeting with the city manager, mayor and financial director is set for 3:15 p.m. on March 16. The chairman and up to three Authority members are invited to join Arendt in that presentation at the Government Center.**

**Girls Inc., is hosting an event at Oxbow Creek from March 30-April 3.**

**Arendt also reported that the Disc Golf event at Bull Creek on Feb. 8 resulted in \$1,650 in revenue.**

**Authority Vice Chairman Ricky Wright announced that member Richard Mahone was recently inducted into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame, a great honor recognizing his contributions to the area not only as an athlete, coach and teacher, but as a leader, a mentor and a role model for area citizens, especially the young people. Mahone was accorded a round of applause from those present.**

**A motion to adjourn was unanimously passed.**

**Present for the meeting were Gerald Miley, Ricky Wright, Ken Crumpler, Kenneth Davis, Richard Mahone, William Roundtree, Stephanie Callahan and Jim Houston. Mario Davis was absent.**



# **COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES**

### **October 27, 2020 Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 15 CGA meeting were amended by a motion from Gerald Miley, seconded by Ken Davis, to state that only \$22,389 more than the city's annual subsidy for Bull Creek Golf Course (\$50,000) and Oxbow Creek Golf Course (\$150,000) was required for the 2019-20 fiscal year, despite the courses being closed for 45 days due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Bull Creek was \$55,383 over the "transfer in" amount and Oxbow Creek was \$32,994 under the "transfer in" amount. The amendment passed unanimously and the minutes were then approved by the same vote.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Steve Brown reported the greens are shaping up well, but with cool nights approaching he is watching the height of cut for the greens. Fairways have had pre-emergent herbicide applied as well. The cart barn has been painted, work has progressed on edging the cart paths, with only 11 holes remaining to be worked, and broken and bulging cart path units are being repaired as rapidly as possible, including ingress and egress points of the bridge on hole 13 West.

The next projects to be tackled will include restroom cleanup and repair, trimming trees that impede play or need to be removed, and repair and maintenance of bunkers. Brown also reported that four golf carts remain out of service and are awaiting repair.

**DIRECTOR OF GOLF REPORT:** Jim Arendt reported that financials for Oxbow Creek are showing positive results, with operating revenues generated through October 16 showing more than \$90,742 had already been recorded, which is about half of what was budgeted for the entire fiscal year. Year to date cash collected totals \$112,760.78, with the budget projecting \$381,000, which includes an annual \$150,000 city subsidy. "We're ahead of schedule and not

**counting on transfer-in money (from the city)," he said. "With 9 months to go. It would be good not to have to use that (subsidy)."**

**Some parts of the budget are not as uplifting, with expenditures for auto parts consuming more than desired due to the aging fleet being maintained beyond useful life.**

**He also reported that Yamaha is providing a new cart fleet deal that includes three more carts than the current 30-cart Club Car fleet contains, but at a cost of only \$20 more per month. The new carts are to be in place this month (November).**

**Bull Creek also is showing a strong financial picture to date, he said. Operating revenues totaled \$372,680, with the budget expecting \$850,000 to be generated during the fiscal year. Total revenue to date (\$461,101.73) indicates a very good opportunity to reach the budgeted goal of \$1,207,000 for the fiscal year. But there is a significant need for more capital expenditure funds to replace obsolete equipment, much of which is far beyond its useful life and very costly to repair.**

**The budget report also reflects \$35,789 spent for a new John Deere sprayer that was actually approved for expenditure during the last weeks of the 2019-20 fiscal year. Arendt said he would seek clarification on whether that should be part of the current budgeted funds.**

**"For the most part, we're doing great," he said of the budget performance to date.**

**The course generated \$999,062 during the last five months, compared to \$803,034 for the same period a year ago. "That is strong, especially strong with restricted (one-person) carts," he said.**

**Arendt also presented a suggested new logo for Oxbow Creek, which would be placed in strategic locations to create a clear and pleasing identity for the course. Discussion of costs of the logo implementation was held, with the indication that no Authority action was required unless excessive costs were incurred in implementing the plan.**

The Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, in partnership with PGA of America, is sponsoring a PGA Junior League Program for youths in the community, he said. Beginning Nov. 12, the program will include underprivileged children in a 4-week program of individual instruction on Saturdays, with Oxbow's Ashtyn Citer providing coaching.

Arendt reported he remains interested in developing a way to release water from the golf course lakes in advance of predicted large storms in order to reduce the flooding that costs cleanup dollars and impacts play at Bull Creek. Superintendent Steve Brown noted the lakes were built as a watershed development funded federally, and conversations he has had would indicate a costly redesign or reconstruction of release points would be required, if federal approval was obtained. Arendt said he has talked to the city's engineering chief, but is still seeking out the person who would ultimately be knowledgeable of exactly what could be done to help alleviate course flooding.

Arendt said the city committee has reviewed and approved funding through the federally funded CARES program for 50 additional golf carts for Bull Creek, but it has not received final approval allowing the purchases, which must come from a state panel. The request for additional utility carts, two trucks, three inmate vans and an SUV was denied. The course is now down to one usable pickup truck – borrowed from Oxbow Creek, and if the inmate vans break down, no inmates can be transported to the golf course, which would mean no labor to mow greens and maintain the course.

A new credit card system is under exploration, which possibly could save the golf courses \$10,000 a year, he said. It must be examined further and, if desired, must then win approval from the city's financial officials.

Arendt noted that Bull Creek, Oxbow Creek and Godwin Creek now have automatic doors, implemented after his request to the city for those improvements under the CARES funding program. In fact, the doors were added to city structures throughout Columbus after he recommended the idea – but the first ones were installed at the golf courses.

The golf director also noted that a September budget review that he had been told would be forthcoming was not held.

**Authority member Stephanie Callahan presented a letter from the family of Robert Willis thanking Oxbow employee Don Smith for his support in providing an outing for the avid golfer about to undergo surgery that would cut short his participation in a sport he loved. The letter was placed in Smith's employee file and noted in the Authority's minutes.**

**Ricky Wright noted that previous Authorities had scheduled no meetings during the months of November and December, but he believed the November meeting could be held by moving it from the same week as Thanksgiving to the Tuesday of the previous week. His motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to hold the next Authority meeting at 4 p.m. on Nov. 17 was approved unanimously.**

**In response to a question concerning the continuing absences of Authority member Mario Davis, Gerald Miley reported that the city administration has been notified of the absences. After three absences, unexcused, a member is subject to removal and replacement.**

**Ricky Wright made a motion for the Authority to convene in executive session to consider matters concerning employees as provided in the Open Meetings laws of Georgia. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Callahan and the meeting was closed, subject to reconvening after the executive session.**

**Upon reconvening in open session, Wright made a motion, seconded by William Roundtree, to approve a 2 percent pay increase for golf course employees, contingent upon the City of Columbus enacting such an increase for its employees. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**Wright made motion that the Authority approve purchasing \$100 gift cards for employees as appreciation for their work and in time for the holiday season. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Callahan and passed unanimously.**

**Wright made motion for the Authority to convene one hour before the 4 p.m. meeting on Nov 17 to go into executive session on an employee matter, in accordance with Georgia's Open Meetings law. The motion was seconded by Gerald Miley and passed unanimously.**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Ricky Wright, and passed unanimously.**

**Present for the meeting were Gerald Miley, Stephanie Callahan, Ken Crumpler, Ken Davis, Ricky Wright, William Roundtree and Jim Houston. Absent were Richard Mahone and Mario Davis.**



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY

## MINUTES

### FEBRUARY 23, 2021 Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ken Crumpler made a motion to amend the Authority's action as reported in the November 2020 minutes to change the wording of its decision to award the Director of Golf 30 percent of the "proceeds" from sale of merchandise. The motion changes the word "proceeds" to "profits". The motion was approved unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Steve Brown reported that wet weather has resulted in his work crews getting behind on course work they would normally undertake, but has allowed them to complete more outside painting of the bathrooms, and to complete floor work and painting of bathrooms in the pavilion.

The impact of the pandemic is also being felt on availability of workers at the golf courses, because the prison work camp from which labor crews are provided is 147 inmates short of normal capacity. Bull Creek would usually draw 16-18 inmates for work, but is now drawing 10, while Oxbow is drawing a crew of 4, instead of its usual 6-8 inmates.

Brown also said he is applying fertilizer and herbicide to tee tops, lacking only some on the West Course to complete the applications. Crews also have continued tree trimming and a repair of the concrete cart path on East Course hole #7. Granite sign markers also are being cleaned and prepared for reapplication of colors.

**Herbicides and fertilizer also are being applied on the fairways for the first time in about four years, although the cost (\$6,000 for herbicides and \$11,000 for fertilizer) leaves only \$26,000 in the budget for such items for the fiscal year.**

The city also has committed to assigning a bucket truck and forestry crew to trim more trees along critical areas, Brown said. It is needed along hole 9 on the East Course and holes 10, 11 and 12 on the West Course. Although any time allowed for such work by the city crew is greatly appreciated, Director of Golf Jim Arendt said he has asked for at least one to two full days use of the crew. Chairman Miley said it would be great if an arrangement could be reached to have the forestry crew assist with such work on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

**DIRECTOR OF GOLF REPORT:** Jim Arendt reported that Bull Creek's operations revenue for the fiscal year to date has reached \$680,687 of the \$850,000 budgeted. "We are obviously going to exceed that goal," he said. In fact, when all revenue to date is totaled (including \$222,431 from the CARES act that purchased 50 additional golf carts for Bull Creek), the course has already reached \$1,059,001 of the \$1,207,000 projected in the 2020-21 budget, Arendt said. "We are on track to be \$400,000 or more above budget," he said, noting that if allowed to retain those funds the course could replace some of its antiquated and outdated equipment before the items become irreparable or inoperable.

Oxbow Creek has similarly reported operations revenue of \$175,993 of the \$185,000 budgeted for the fiscal year and could for the first time in its history reach a break-even point for the year. "We never knew revenue would be this good at Oxbow," he said of the nine-hole course.

Arendt noted that he has again contacted the city's Engineering Department concerning an update on the viability of an Oxbow Creek bridge in need of repair. The original review by a since-retired city engineer stated repair was needed but it continued to be functional. An update on the bridge needs to be completed and the department has indicated it will be provided.

The Authority's budget committee – Ricky Wright, Stephanie Callahan, Ken Crumpler and William Roundtree – met for a budget planning session for the 2021-22 budget, the director reported.

Arendt also reported that he has submitted a request for the travel allowance approved by the Authority, but has not received the allowance. The allowance was approved to begin January 2021 and continue monthly. He was informed by the city Finance Director that the matter was under review.

Wild hogs that have plagued rural areas on and near the Fort Benning military reservation have been spotted intruding on golf course property at Bull Creek and a company that traps those animals has been notified and is prepared to remove the animals.

Arendt recently spoke at an Optimist Club meeting. He shared the value of City-owned/operated golf courses as well as an upcoming tournament benefitting Girls Inc. to be held at Bull Creek. Girls Inc. has a program to promote golf through events at Oxbow Creek that will help introduce young people to the game.

Arendt also said he has continued to point out that the golf story in Columbus is about more than a place where the game is played, but is a story about enhancing the quality of life for residents, adding to the desirability of the city as a place to live and work, and a place that has raised more than \$5.6 million for local charities over the years. "Even if you don't play golf, your community is still being served. Whether you play golf or not, you are benefitting," he said.

The worn mats on the range at Bull Creek have been replaced, and Monday-Friday are "mat-only" days on that range, he said.

High school golf programs have kicked off and teams are beginning to train and play at the course, with team play taking place Mondays-Thursdays.

Golf outings that were absent during the last year due to the pandemic have begun returning, and are expected to be an important part of activities at the course during the next year, Arendt said.

The budget prepared with the Authority's budget committee has been submitted and seeks an increase, with justification for the added expenditures being sought, he said. A virtual meeting to review the budget, originally scheduled for September, then postponed until January, has been put off until March. The budget includes \$306,000 in capital expenditures for the coming fiscal year, but is being pared to a submission of \$109,000 for Bull Creek and \$63,000 for Oxbow Creek. Arendt said he is looking at a way of using leases to help fill some of the capital needs.

The Hardaway Invitational Golf Tournament, a popular venture known throughout the state for decades, is returning to Bull Creek, with the Georgia PGA involved in the event this year, then taking over its operation next year, the director reported. The event is limited to 20 high school teams, with play on Friday and Saturday. The course will receive \$20 per player for Friday play and \$30 per player on Saturday. The arrangement was the product of negotiations over several months.

Under New Business, Ricky Wright expressed concern that employees hired to operate the beverage carts at Bull Creek have been financially hurt because they are not paid on days when weather prevents cart operations. He proposed consideration of a method of allowing up to five "rainy day" pay periods to help retain the workers. Arendt said he believes he can handle the issue administratively, with the workers taking on other duties on days when the rains cut into their hours of on-course sales.

Chairman Miley also expressed the Authority's appreciation for Assistant Pro Nikki Siter. Her work at Oxbow Creek has been a great benefit to the operation of the course and promotion of golf in general. "She is a perfect fit," he said, thanking Siter for her contribution to the success Oxbow has enjoyed this year.

The next new addition to the Authority also was recognized. Alonzo Jones, appointed by Columbus Council to fill the post vacated by Mario Davis, was present for the meeting and is awaiting the oath of office before officially joining the Authority.

A motion was made to adjourn, which was passed unanimously.

**Attending the meeting were Gerald Miley, Ricky Wright, Ken Crumpler, Richard Mahone, Stephanie Callahan, Ken Davis, William Roundtree and Jim Houston.. .**



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY

## MINUTES

### MARCH 23, 2021 Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Steve Brown reported that cool nights have restrained grass growth, but warm temperatures are expected to boost growth and light top-dressing will soon be undertaken to further improve greens. He was able to apply 11 tons of fertilizer and herbicide before the recent rains, which will further enhance greens and fairway grasses.

Tee markers are being repainted, the brick gate columns at Bull Creek have been painted white to enhance the appearance of the entryway and the driving range is scheduled for repair work and herbicide application in coming days to improve that facility.

Only eight inmates were available for the work detail last week, but 12 were present this week. The prison warden is working with the golf course to help provide necessary workers on details, but the shortage of inmates at that facility, due to the pandemic, continues to be a problem.

Although the city's Forestry unit has been promised for weeks, the crew has not yet been made available.

Brown said an upcoming April 14 seminar in Griffin, sponsored by the University of Georgia and the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents' Association, will be attended to continue licensing at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek for application of necessary chemicals.

Brown welcomed Stephanie Callahan's suggestion that the local Boy Scouts of America may be willing to undertake painting of granite markers on the golf courses as a project. Inquiry will be made to follow up that suggestion.

**DIRECTOR OF GOLF REPORT:** Jim Arendt reported that revenues at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek continue to surpass expectations and make possible a record performance year.

Oxbow Creek reports \$34,175 in revenue for the month and \$276,128 for the year. That's record territory on revenue. "That's extremely good news. I don't think the golf course has ever NOT been subsidized, but we're headed there," Arendt said projections show.

Similarly, Bull Creek has collected \$1,171,337 of its original \$1,207,000 budget to date, with an additional \$222,431 to be added to the original budget to account for an additional 50 golf carts purchased with CARES Act funds made available due to the pandemic. "We're projecting to end the year over \$600,000 above the original budget if this trend continues," Arendt said.

No date has yet been set for reopening the club house and its grill operation, he said.

The golf director also reported that research of industry standards has shown most courses are allowing two riders per cart whether occupants are from the same household or not, but golf governing bodies are playing it safe at one rider per cart unless from shared households.

Dr. William Roundtree said if two golfers who have each received Covid-19 vaccinations, he would see no problem allowing cart sharing even if they are not from the same household. However, it would be questionable to do so if they have not been vaccinated or from the same household, he said.

The golf director also said the monthly travel allowance approved by the Authority cannot be applied until budgeted and approved by Columbus Council. It has been placed in the budget submitted to the city for inclusion in the 2021-22 budget recommendation.

He also said he and the Finance Department are continuing to grapple with a way to change the method of applying vendor payments for merchandise when the budget shows the amount earmarked for such purchases has been exceeded. He said merchandise is being purchased and sold, but the city is requiring the shifting of money from other items in the courses' budget to accommodate paying for the purchased merchandise.

Assistant Pro Nikki Siter said Oxbow is continuing to serve community interests with programs, including school golf and Girls Club programs, that keep the course busy each week. One problem that continues, however, is a lack of Ambassadors to marshal the course on weekends, she said.

Arendt reported that he and the Authority's appointed four-member committee prepared a budget for submission to the city, which included a request for more capital outlay funds. Among the items sought are \$10,000 for improvements to the entrance at Oxbow Creek, new range ball dispensers for both courses, replacement of a truck, construction of a starter house at Bull Creek, equipment leasing funds that include lease-purchase plans that allow retention of tractors at the end of the lease, and lease-to-own planning for new utility vehicles. The items are critical needs, he said.

"It's important that we reinvest in the golf course," Arendt said. "The city has said, 'Show us you what you can do,' and we have done that. Nobody can question that. Now it's time that we get it. We're not asking for too much. We're not even asking for as much as we're going to generate this year."

The golf director said he's hopeful the council will see the financial results of this year by the golf courses and help fill those critical and long-neglected needs being sought in the budget.

Arendt reported that the recent Girls Inc. Tournament at Bull Creek raised \$29,500 for the organization, which means Bull Creek has now generated more than \$5.7 million for community charities over the years.

**The Georgia State Golf Association also held an event at Bull Creek on the front nine of the East Course on March 20.**

**The problem with the structure of a bridge at Oxbow Creek also is receiving additional attention, the Golf Director said. A video of the bridge trembling and "jumping" when vehicles cross it showed there is an ongoing problem and Donna Newman, head of the City Engineering Department, has committed to having a thorough examination of the problem undertaken.**

**Arendt concluded his report with the observation that April will be a major month for tournament golf, with events scheduled to include the Hardaway Invitational and outings by the Exchange Club, Easter Seals, High School golf programs and a corporate league.**

**A motion was made to adjourn, which was passed unanimously.**

**Attending the meeting were Gerald Miley, Ricky Wright, Ken Crumpler, Richard Mahone, Stephanie Callahan, Alonzo Jones, William Roundtree and Jim Houston. Ken Davis was absent.**

# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY

## MINUTES

### APRIL 27, 2021 Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

**DIRECTOR OF GOLF REPORT:** Jim Arendt reported that revenues at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek continue to meet high expectations, possibly reaching a new performance record for the year.

Revenue at Oxbow for the month to date reached \$57,451 and for the year to date total \$333,580, making the \$401,275 year-end budget within reach. "We're nearly there and basically setting records," Arendt said.

Similarly, Bull Creek is recording a banner year, having collected more than \$1,330,000 of the almost \$1,430,000 in revenue budgeted for the year. It is expected that the continuing trend in revenue could result in surpassing the budgeted total by more than \$463,000. "We're doing great," he reported.

Arendt had accounting expert Zara Day-Brown report that on-time budgeting is now current and the problem of paying vendors expeditiously is being resolved.

Assistant Pro Nikki Siter reported that new volunteers have been signed up for Oxbow Creek, including one for the weekend period. Another has expressed interest in helping in the shop. Also, high school practices at Oxbow and other increases of attendance at the course have resulted in some \$3,500 revenue days "...which is huge for Oxbow," she said.

Arendt reported that he has submitted a list of items for possible funding under the American Rescue Plan, which promises federal funding assistance on items qualifying for relief during the pandemic. The list includes an expanded cart building, a bridge at Oxbow Creek, a new Bull Creek clubhouse, a new well at Oxbow, irrigation system improvements, replacement of lost revenue and other items.

The director said he has met with Columbus Trade Center officials, Councilors John House and Mimi Woodson and other city officials in recent weeks to familiarize them with golf matters and operations.

A number of events in April have improved revenues at Bull Creek, including a Demo Day featuring Cleveland Golf/Srixon products and resulting in about \$10,000 in sales in one day. The Hardaway Invitational high school tournament was a success and the Aflac golf league is getting underway, featuring 50-100 golfers participating in 12 regular Monday contests at 5:15 p.m. Outings also are scheduled for the Exchange Club, Easter Seals, Phi Mu fraternity, and high school competitions.

In May, the Columbus Water Works will sponsor an outing, and TSYS will feature an all-day outing for 288 players using both courses, which will generate \$15,000-\$18,000 in revenue.

The expected audit report of golf course operations should be completed within two weeks and could produce good information for future planning.

Gates routing golf carts onto a brief trek on the Riverwalk have been installed and traffic removed from the bridge at Oxbow Creek. The temporary remedy will ease concern about safety until the bridge assessment and possible correction have been completed.

A revamping of the Ambassador program is underway, with fees the volunteers pay to play adapted to fairly compensate based on their work schedules.

A motion was made by Jim Houston and seconded by Ken Crumpler to return to a two-rider cart program on June 1. The motion passed, with members William Roundtree, Alonzo Jones and Ken Davis opposed.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Steve Brown reported that unusually cold weather for the period has slowed growth of grasses and impacted quality of the greens. It should resolve when warmer nights begin occurring.

Dr. Garrett Settles visited the course and performed tests that found some infestation, for which herbicides will be applied. Some organic matter and shade issues also were pointed out.

More tree work will be undertaken in days ahead to improve sunlight access to weak areas, a continuing project when workers are available, Brown said.

Toro and John Deere machinery is being contracted, but there will be some delay in taking delivery of the mowing systems due to production slowdowns at the manufacturers' plants due to the pandemic.

A motion was made to adjourn, which was passed unanimously.

Attending the meeting were Gerald Miley, Ken Crumpler, Richard Mahone, Stephanie Callahan, Alonzo Jones, William Roundtree, Ken Davis and Jim Houston. Ricky Wright was absent.



# **COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES**

### **MAY 25, 2021 Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Steve Brown reported that warm nights are helping the greens recover on the East Course, and that he is treating the greens for nematodes and lowered the mowers this morning for closer contact. The East also has been dusted, with the West course to be dusted tomorrow.

Oxbow Creek is scheduled for aerification on June 7, with the West Course at Bull Creek set for aerification June 14 and the East on July 12. Both Bull Creek courses also are being sprayed for poa anna.

Equipment lease/purchase deals with Toro and John Deere have not been signed and no delivery dates are yet available due to production delays caused by Covid-19.

There remains the ongoing problem with labor. The crews are five to six workers short due to reduced availability from the prison labor pool.

Work is being done by the city to help with a problem with the 24-inch pipe in the landing area of the driving range. The city's rainwater division is working with the course to fix the problem.

**DIRECTOR OF GOLF REPORT:** Jim Arendt reported that Oxbow is recording "all good news" regarding revenue. "Everything is up," he said, noting that Oxbow is showing \$384,000 in revenue year-to-date and is virtually

assured of meeting and probably surpassing projected budget totals. "I think for the first time, Oxbow is not going to be needing any (city subsidy) transfer money."

The problem with repairing the bridge now closed to traffic at Oxbow remains, with the costs yet to be determined, he said.

A meeting with the city's Finance Department concerning availability of funds is needed and a called special board meeting may be needed, Arendt said.

Bull Creek also is recording a banner revenue year, with \$1.5 million recorded year-to-date, compared to \$1.43 in the budget projection.

Zara Day-Brown said accounting procedures are being revised that should resolve the problem with paying vendors efficiently. She also noted that a 2 percent cost-of-living increase for city workers is expected to pass Columbus Council and the Golf Authority needs to pass a motion to include golf employees in the mix.

Ken Crumpler introduced a motion, seconded by Stephanie Callahan, to approve a 2 percent cost-of-living increase for employees upon approval of the same COLA for city employees. The motion passed unanimously.

Arendt also reported that city directors have been recommended for additional pay level increases after a study of the city pay system. An executive session of the Authority was approved by unanimous agreement to discuss employee matters authorized by the state's Open Meetings statute.

Recalled into session, Ken Crumpler proposed a motion to include the Director of Golf in the executive pay plan proposed by Columbus Council. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Callahan and passed by unanimous vote.

Arendt reported that council is reviewing the proposed golf budget, with the city's budget expected to be finalized and passed in June.

The golf director also noted he would like to schedule a planning session to develop a strategic plan for going forward, including what is desired, how to do it, how to fund it and to propose priorities.

The golf courses enjoyed by city golfers and guests have now exceeded \$5.8 million in funds raised for local charities, including \$65,000 by a recent TSYS outing and \$18,000 by the Columbus Water Works outing.

The practice of placing two riders per cart will begin June 1, as approved by the Authority in a previous meeting. A person in an even-number group who desires to have a single cart will be subject to an additional \$9 charge for 18 holes.

Bull Creek also is in the running as a site for a Georgia Putting Championship qualifier, Arendt reported.

A motion was made to adjourn, which was passed unanimously.

Attending the meeting were Gerald Miley, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Callahan, Alonzo Jones, William Roundtree, Ken Davis and Jim Houston. Ricky Wright and Richard Mahone were absent.



## COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

### SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 MEETING

Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the August 17, 2021, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that Bull Creek East Course hole number 7 has encountered a nematode problem and has twice been sprayed to resolve the issue.

Growth of grass has slowed as the temperatures have cooled, all tees have now been fertilized and the fairways have been sprayed for the first time with Spectacle, at a cost of about \$100 an acre.

There still are many dead trees that need to be removed, Brown said, and two or three days next week will be dedicated to taking more of them down. Then the attention will shift to trimming problem limbs, using an aerial lift truck. The labor problem, however, continues to be a problem, with the course utilizing 12 inmate laborers at a time when it should have a crew of 16.

The course is now short 10 golf carts with mechanical problems that have not been repaired. The repairs should have been covered under warranty with Club Car, but the company has not attempted to make the repairs and those cars sit idle. The course continues to pay the lease rate on each of the carts, even though they are inoperable. Director of Golf Jim Arendt said the company is aware that Oxbow's cart fleet has been replaced by new Yamaha carts, and Bull Creek is negotiating for lower rates on leasing its next fleet of carts. Yamaha has so far offered lower rates than Club Car, he said.

Brown also noted that equipment ordered from John Deere in June is still not available, with a March delivery date now being sought. "It seems everything we order is taking longer," he said.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that revenue at Oxbow Creek is on track and looks good through the first months of the new fiscal year, with \$85,409 in revenue recorded in July and August. A new employee – Tracy Upshaw – also has been hired as assistant superintendent at Oxbow to assist Superintendent Jamie Hughes. The position is funded in the budget. Upshaw previously worked at Columbus Country Club.

The course also has a new inmate van ordered, with the purchase price of \$31,198 within the approved budget. Both Bull Creek and Oxbow also have received new range ball dispensers that no longer require tokens and should be a significant improvement over the antiquated machinery they replace. Oxbow also is making a \$10,000 entrance improvement that is provided for in the budget.

Revenues to date at Bull Creek also are looking good, Arendt said, producing almost \$295,000 in July and August, which compares favorably with the projections for budgeted revenues expected to total \$1.5 million by the fiscal year's end. With several days remaining in the month, September's revenue of \$129,272 also is on track.

Although last fiscal year was a record year for revenue, it is expected that the 2021-22 fiscal year results will be as good as its predecessor, he said.

A new light truck has been ordered. The last time the course received a new vehicle was in 1991, he said. The price (\$25,642) is about \$12,000 less than budgeted for the purchase.

Arendt also said it is important to put in place a starter house, but he does not want to put up a structure of any permanence until a new clubhouse is constructed, which would be funded through the proposed SPLOST to be voted on Nov. 2 by Columbus' citizens. A temporary starter house is being considered, possibly through purchase of a modified building such as those built by Banner or Action Building. The money is budgeted for such a facility.

Zara Day-Brown reported she is continuing to work with the Finance Department to resolve challenges in financial reporting and payment procedures, but the city's audit of its last fiscal year has not been completed, after which more progress may be expected.

Nikki Siter reported that Oxbow Creek has secured additional help in its Ambassador program on the Wednesday-Friday schedule, and another guard is being certified, which will help alleviate a problem in securing and transporting the inmate workers.

Arendt said he and Siter are working on ways to provide additional manpower to take some of the burden from Siter, who is working long hours and often with no assistance at the course.

Fore Golf, a program for young and entry-level golfers at Godwin Creek, is working to put in place a coaching program that would utilize funding available through a Georgia Power/Crime prevention fund already in existence through the school system. Stephanie Callahan, who presides over the Fore Golf operation, said an application will be in place by March 31. She also noted that the proposed lease of Godwin Creek by the Authority is still tied up in the city's Legal Department, where it has been for two years.

Arendt said the 2023-24 Georgia Police and Fire Games are coming to Columbus' Bull Creek Golf Course. They have been held here before and will be welcome with open arms, he said.

The golf director said he continues to wait for results of an ambitious funding request he submitted to the city as part of a program (ARP) using federal funds to offset costs incurred due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He said he submitted everything he could, totaling \$17 million, including items such as costs of a new clubhouse, recovering funds lost due to single-cart rental requirements, infrastructure improvements and many more items. The city is estimated to receive up to \$74 million through ARP.

Two new employees have been approved that will lead to reopening of the Bull Creek Grill at least 5 days a week (Wednesday-Sunday). Initially, part-time workers will be utilized.

Bull Creek also hosted the Keep Columbus Beautiful golf outing, which raised \$16,000 for the group's coffers. The golf course now has recorded more than \$5.86 million for charities over the years, Arendt said.

Retired City Auditor John Redmond shared with the Authority a synopsis of the city ordinances that created and empower the Authority, detailing how it has evolved over the years and what it is authorized and expected to do. Ricky Wright made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Alonzo Jones and passed unanimously.

Members attending were Gerald Miley, Ken Davis, Ricky Wright, Alonzo Jones, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Callahan, William Roundtree and Jim Houston. Richard Mahone was absent.

# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## FEBRUARY 21, 2022 MEETING

Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the January 25, 2022, meeting were amended upon the motion of Secretary Jim Houston to reflect that Ken Crumpler, not Kenneth Davis, was one of the four Authority members on the Budget Committee that reviewed the proposed 2022-23 budget with Director of Golf Jim Arendt. The motion was unanimously approved and the minutes were adopted as amended by unanimous vote.

Superintended Steve Brown reported that 4 inches of rain recorded over an 8-hour period Feb. 3-4 resulted in flooding that forced closure of the entire golf course at Bull Creek through the Feb. 5-6 weekend. Four days were spent clearing debris, with the loss of an entire week of work by crews due to the cleanup required. Holes 3 and 4 on the East Course and 3, 4 and 13 on the West Course required most of the cleanup attention.

Tree trimming has continued and is expected to continue through the end of next week, when the rented lift is expected to returned. Attention will next be directed to removal of dead and deteriorating trees along the course, he said. The new chipper has been repaired and is working even more efficiently than ever, allowing crews to work even faster.

Poa Annua has been found on some greens and is being attacked by herbicide, but the grass is becoming resistant to chemicals that once inhibited its spread. However, he is hopeful the unwanted grass will disappear from the greens where it has made an unwanted appearance, Brown said.

The chemical Spectacle will again be applied to fairways in the spring, bringing hopes that the fairways will be even more plush than ever, he said.

Brown also reported that although the availability of inmates for work crews has not been totally resolved, he has recently received up to 14 for course labor. The

next hoped-for improvement in that area would be earlier release of those crews each day, he said.

As his report ended, Director of Golf Jim Arendt presented Brown with a framed cover of his recent Georgia recognition in the Georgia Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association magazine, which presented an extensive article praising his 40 years of work as the “Boss of Bull Creek”. Authority members greeted the presentation with a round of applause and congratulatory comments.

Director Arendt reported that Bull Creek has recorded more than \$875,000 in revenue to date, which leaves it in “a good spot to hit our budget” of more than \$1.5 million for the fiscal year. He also noted that the new figures include a “transfer-in” of \$24,446 reflecting the funds received last year to offset certain Covid-19 bonuses paid by the city.

Oxbow Creek’s \$277,000 in revenue to date also is a good indication it is in good position to meet its budget for the fiscal year, he said.

Asked where the courses stood on pursuit of new equipment leases from manufacturers John Deere and Toro, Brown said he expects to receive notice from Deere that items being ordered are in the pipeline for manufacture and delivery, the needed paperwork that the Toro lease requires is still in the city’s legal department and no indication has been received as to when it may be available.

Authority members noted that the city’s legal department also is apparently still reviewing a proposed \$1 a year lease of the Godwin Creek Golf Course facility that has been stalled for years, and that Authority-approved raises that were to have taken effect in January 2021 were not put into effect as directed. The Authority’s request for creation of a checking account has been met with no action by the city’s Finance Department.

“Items that are being voted on and approved by the Authority – and we are being told ‘No!’” said Chairman Miley.

Authority member Kenneth Davis said Oxbow needs more carts because customers are being kept waiting for carts to become available. After discussion that included noting that having the course filled, with people waiting in rotation to tee off at the nine-hole course, means the course is actually succeeding quite

well. Arendt said he would take a look at the cart situation and it is possible two more carts could be added. Oxbow Creek's Nikki Siter said there is possibly room for two more carts to be stored in the current cart shed.

Davis also said there needs to be more inquiry into the addition of another nine holes at Oxbow, which was cited in 1995 as a possible future component to Oxbow when the Victory Drive course was being replaced by the South Commons softball complex in time for the 1996 Olympic Games. Miley said Arendt will also be examining those original ideas for another nine holes and what may be available if such a plan was to be considered in the near future.

Zara Day-Brown said the courses' reserve fund for the current fiscal year stands at \$132,384 at Bull Creek and \$36,060 at Oxbow Creek.

Nikki Siter also reported that an allegation of the appearance of racism at Oxbow was raised and that an investigation was undertaken. "I haven't seen it," she said, but she is watching and listening. "We don't want that down there," she said.

After discussion of the allegation raised by an unnamed source, Ricky Wright made a motion that any person making a signed complaint of an irregularity or an incident requiring investigation should be forwarded to the City's Human Resources Department. The motion was seconded by Davis and was unanimously approved.

Director Arendt also said the budget proposal reviewed by the Authority's Budget Committee has been submitted to the city's Finance Department. The next step will be a meeting with city officials for a review of that proposal.

Following up on concerns expressed in the January Authority meeting concerning cash reserves on hand after the city's audit of the 2020-21 fiscal year, Arendt said he has been told reserves included subtraction of certain expenses and the addition of depreciation. The Finance Department has not yet delineated the process that will produce a final figure to answer what the difference is between the amount the golf courses generated above the budget and the amount now shown as the reserve fund. He is still awaiting a definitive response.

Arendt also reported he has been advised that the SPLOST funds earmarked for the golf courses in the latest referendum approved by voters last year are required to be spent on the advertised items included in the SPLOST call. That

does not mean all of the money for a particular item must be consumed by that item and after fulfillment of that advertised purpose, may be available for other needs, he indicated.

Columbus' high school golf teams will again be competing with Bull Creek as their home course, Arendt said. Competitions will continue through April.

The golf director also said he is planning for a 2022 Columbus City Championship tournament for Sept. 10-11 this year. Also being planned is a Senior/Super Senior event for Oct. 22-23. It's all part of an effort to bring more events to the course.

A Men's Golf Association also has been launched by a group of Bull Creek players, which is not part of the golf course operation, but is being welcomed and encouraged as a way to promote golf at Bull Creek, Arendt said.

Also in September will be a Back Columbus Blue event intended to show support for local law enforcement, and a Girls Inc. competition will return to Bull Creek for its second consecutive year, he said.

Kenneth Davis made a motion, seconded by Alonzo Jones, that current members of the Columbus Golf Authority be afforded free play at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek. The free golf would not be extended to friends, acquaintances or other golfers and limited to the CGA members. The motion was passed by a 3-2 vote with Davis, Jones and Richard Mahone voting in favor and Ken Crumpler and Stephanie Callahan opposed. Ricky Wright and Jim Houston abstained. Director Arendt said he will issue cards to each Authority member that include the date of the expiration of the term being served.

Upon a motion by Ken Crumpler, the Authority voted unanimously to adjourn.

Members attending were Gerald Miley, Ken Davis, Ricky Wright, Alonzo Jones, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Callahan, Richard Mahone and Jim Houston. William Roundtree was absent.

# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## MARCH 22, 2022 MEETING

Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the February 21, 2022, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that his crews at Bull Creek have been focusing on tree removal in recent days, especially those that are dead, diseased or present a safety hazard. That will continue for about two more weeks as the crews work their way around the course. He also is seeking assistance from the city's Forestry Department for access to a stump grinder to eliminate several tree stumps that need removal.

Work at Bull Creek will then move to improving cart paths that have been damaged and need repair, possibly even arranging to bring in a concrete truck to make more extensive repairs on certain paths and put in a cut-through path behind the gold/red tee box on the West Course's 11<sup>th</sup> hole.

Although still four inmates short on work crews, Brown said he is now receiving details of 10-12 inmates on average.

The city is in the process of finalizing a lease agreement that will bring new John Deere mowing tractors to the courses, and paperwork is still being prepared to obtain Toro equipment, including mowing decks for tractors. Some supply chain problems have inhibited factory production, with some equipment delayed until at least July, and some likely not to become available until 2023, Brown said.

Director Arendt reported that revenues at Bull Creek Golf Course total more than \$973,149 to date, compared to a budget of \$1.5 million for the year. With 36 percent of the budget remaining available, and four strong months expected before the fiscal year ends, the course is in good shape financially to meet or exceed budget, he said.

Oxbow Creek's revenue also is in good shape, having recorded almost \$300,000 year to date of a budgeted \$528,401. March, April, May and June also have been great revenue months for Oxbow and make it possible for that course also to meet budget projections.

Arendt said he and Oxbow pro Nikki Siter are considering making a seasonal employee hire for Oxbow, possibly employing a collegian between semesters, which would provide a variety of assistance to the staff there and could be funded within the existing budget.

Zara Day-Brown said the courses' reserve fund for the current fiscal year stands at \$85,580 for Bull Creek and \$43,929 for Oxbow Creek. Arendt said he still is seeking a better understanding of the reserve fund balance for the courses from the 2020-21 fiscal year, and will continue to seek a clearer explanation of the posted city results.

Arendt also said he would like to amend the plan to lease Yamaha gold carts, opting for a 48-month lease instead of the 60-month plan. The revised lease would cost \$53.60 per month for each of the 140 carts. Doing so would allow renewal of the carts sooner, as wear and tear diminish the performance of carts over time and make the shorter lease period more desirable.

Ricky Wright made a motion to approve the 48-month lease option, instead of the 60-month lease the Authority approved last month. Ken Crumpler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Arendt said he is still not satisfied with the operation of the Bull Creek Grill, for which only two part-time employee slots have been sanctioned by the City Finance Department. The budget would allow for a full-time grill operator, which the course had before the Covid-19 pandemic occurred, he said.

Candidates are available for the full-time position, and the matter is complicated by the release of one of the part-time employees in recent days. The result was no employee available during the weekend, which should be the grill's busiest time and best revenue producing days.

"If we're trying to be a first-class place, that's just not first-class service," Arendt said. "We've been trying to get someone on board. This is just not acceptable. There is money in the budget to get someone on full time."

“We cannot wait until June or July,” said Chairman Miley, who said he and Director Arendt will meet with the city Finance Director to try to get immediate relief for the staffing delay.

Ken Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Kenneth Davis, for the Authority to accept the proposed 2022-23 fiscal year budget as recommended by the Authority’s Budget Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Arendt reported the courses’ budget proposal was presented virtually to the city on Monday, resulting in “no adjustments yet.”

The golf director also reported that the City Manager has instructed that golf course employees be included in the city’s ongoing “Evergreen” reclassification study, which would establish a “ladder” approach to employee advancement plans.

Arendt informed the Authority of a series of April events scheduled at Bull Creek, including the former Hardaway Invitational, now known as the GPGA Gaither Invitational, which will be held on April 4-5. Moving the event from its traditional weekend to a Monday-Tuesday period will help the golf course better accommodate the tournament and weekend golfers, he said.

Other April events include the Exchange Club (April 8); Tee It Up for Teammates (April 22); VGA (April 24); AAAA High School Regional (April 26); Ga Cities Week at Oxbow Creek (April 27); Easter Seals (April 29); and Church of Columbus (April 30).

Following up on a request for additional carts for Oxbow Creek, Arendt said it has been determined that the facility can house four additional carts, instead of two, and he is seeking help from Yamaha to find quality used carts that may be available for purchase.

Columbus’ Human Resources director has agreed to accept written complaints for investigation by her staff. The move follows previous incidents revealing the courses have had no formal procedure for processing and investigating complaints, including no requirement that complaints be presented in writing.

Arendt reported that Richard Mahone’s suggestion that approaching local schools to develop a Golf in Schools program to foster more youth golf interest is being pursued, with Mahone and Arendt to discuss the proposal with school officials.

The golf director also said he has acquired the Golf Authority's minutes from the 1990s in an attempt to determine what plans, proposals or promises were made to eventually expand from a 9-hole course to an 18-hole facility when Oxbow Creek was being built. He said he has not yet found such references.

Jim Houston said he will contact the Clerk of Council to attempt to locate such proposals or discussions that accompanied the 1994 SPLOST plan that funded construction of Oxbow Creek.

Ken Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Alonzo Jones, to direct Arendt to approach council concerning the possibility of a feasibility study into adding nine holes to Oxbow Creek. The motion was passed unanimously.

Following up on discussions during the February meeting concerning the city Legal Department's progress on leases needed by the courses, Arendt said the John Deere lease proposal is in hand, the Yamaha lease proposal also is available, the Toro lease proposals are being rewritten and the Godwin Creek lease remains in the department's work basket.

Stephanie Callahan made a motion, seconded by Kenneth Davis, to move the Authority's April meeting from the fourth Tuesday to the fourth Thursday (April 28). This would allow Authority members to be available to attend the Columbus Council session on the fourth Tuesday. The motion was approved unanimously.

Callahan also made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to designate the June meeting of the Authority as its Annual Meeting, during which a new chairman is to be selected. The motion also was unanimously approved.

Kenneth Davis made a motion, seconded by Ricky Wright, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was passed unanimously.

Members attending were Gerald Miley, Jim Houston, Ken Davis, Richard Mahone, Ricky Wright, Alonzo Jones, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Callahan and William Roundtree.

# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## MAY 24, 2022 MEETING

Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the April 28, 2022, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that the labor crews were still working to clear debris and falling tree limbs that were caused by recent strong storms, including one that dropped more than 2.5 inches of rain on Monday. Bunkers were washed out and the prolific spread of debris also meant blowers had to be dispatched ahead of mowers. This slowed progress on other work that could have been accomplished. It also means work needed to be completed before the approaching Memorial Day holiday rush may not get done in time.

The putting green, closed to use for weeks to allow grass growth and prevent damage, is now open again, Brown said.

Verticutting will continue on the greens next week, and the East Course will be aerated in June, with the West to receive its treatment in July.

John Deere tractors on order since last summer arrived on Friday, but the mowing equipment for those tractors still has not arrived. Toro mowers still have not arrived, and there is a problem getting parts for virtually all equipment, he said.

A pump on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole on the West Course needs to be replaced. It will cost about \$5,000, but it, too, is at least 20 weeks away from being available. "The supply chain issue has been a nightmare, and it's getting worse," he said.

Inflated costs for almost everything also is becoming an issue, Brown said. Chemicals he paid \$23 for last year are now costing \$40.

The job opening for an inmate guard at Oxbow Creek has now been posted. Crews from Bull Creek have been assisting the staff at Oxbow when available, but the guard vacancy needs to be promptly filled to allow the Oxbow labor crew to return to normal. For now, the former guard at Oxbow has volunteered to work

part-time duty at Oxbow after his shift at the correctional institution where he is now employed, Brown said.

Director Arendt reported that May Revenues at Bull Creek have totaled \$185,914, with another holiday weekend yet to be reached during the remaining 7 days. The entire month of June is also expected to be a very busy month, yet the course already has hit Bull Creek's revenue budget for the fiscal year, he said.

"Were looking good right now and we expect to have a \$200,000 (revenue) month yet to come," Arendt said.

There has been a problem buying a new inmate van. The projected cost of \$31,000 included in the budget was not reached in bids and a new RFP has been issued with an additional \$11,000 input. The change in budget has been approved, he said.

Oxbow Creek already is \$43,640 ahead of budget, with the rest of May and all of June yet to come, he said. "Oxbow is doing very well and we expect to have another \$150,000 (revenue) month there."

Nikki Siter commended the former guard for volunteering to work off-duty hours at the course to help out. Without that guard, it has been a struggle to simply get the greens cut each day, she said. The guard has agreed to continue part-time until a new guard is hired shortly.

Arendt said he had a very good conversation with the new prison warden. "He called wanting to help us with the situation at Oxbow," he said. When told that Bull Creek has had a continuing problem getting full inmate labor crews, and that a third guard has been authorized, but could not be added because of inmate labor shortages, the warden gave assurance that the crews would be available. The third guard position at Bull Creek may soon become a reality, the golf director said.

Toro, with whom a contract has been approved, has attempted to raise the price for leasing its new equipment. Arendt said he has had discussions with Toro's representative, noting that a deal was made and the company is expected to stand by its offer. Discussions are continuing, he said.

Arendt noted that Columbus Council has reappointed to four-year terms Authority members William Roundtree, Ken Crumpler, Kenneth Davis, Alonzo Jones and Stephanie Callahan. Tommy Nobles, who fills the position of outgoing member Gerald Miley, also was appointed to a four-year term.

Arendt said it is important to go ahead with creation of a temporary Starter House. Funds are in the budget to cover the expense and it is planned to have that addition to Bull Creek in place by the end of the month.

Zara Day-Brown told members the reserve funds at Bull Creek through April total \$128,530.35. At Oxbow Creek, the reserve funds total \$56,450.80.

Although Fiscal Year 2020-21 was a banner year for both courses, with revenues exceeding budget at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek, Arendt said both will exceed last year's performance. Bull Creek is already about \$19,000 ahead of last year's superlative results, and Oxbow also is exceeding its performance as well, he said.

It was noted that incoming Authority member Tommy Nobles was in attendance for the entire meeting and he was welcomed.

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Members attending were Gerald Miley, Jim Houston, Ken Davis, Richard Mahone, Ricky Wright, Alonzo Jones, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Callahan and William Roundtree.



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## August 23, 2022 MEETING

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the July 26, 2022, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said he was reporting on behalf of Superintendent Steve Brown. The problem of staffing shortages due to too few inmates being supplied to the golf course details continues. Each of the two Bull Creek guards should be receiving eight inmates each for a full crew, but each is continuously being supplied only five or six each day. The course has been approved for a third guard, which would supply three eight-inmate crews daily, but no move has been made to add the third guard until the supply problem is resolved.

Arendt said he spoke personally to the new warden as recently as this morning, and the warden agrees the facility should be receiving a full shift of inmates. He said he would look into the problem.

The director said the financial report for the last full fiscal year performance at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek is not yet available from the city. However, he said the point-of-sale reports available in-house show both Bull Creek and Oxbow had great years.

Bull Creek recorded more than \$192,400 in revenue during the month of July and more than \$133,400 in August with a week remaining. "We're doing well," Arendt said.

Oxbow also performed well in July. The course exceeded \$58,000 in July revenue, with \$50,000 considered extremely good performance. August revenues are almost \$43,000, with yet another week to go, he said. The results compare favorably with the last two years, when both Bull Creek and Oxbow established better-than-projected revenues that exceeded budgeted amounts.

Arendt also reported that he, Chairman Ricky Wright and Vice-Chair Stephanie Callahan met with Mayor Skip Henderson, City Manager Isaiah Hughley, Deputy

City Manager Goodwin and Columbus Councilor Gary Allen. The officials listened and paid attention as golf course issues and hopes were discussed, Wright said.

Arendt also said that with the federal government emphasizing a “green” movement, he is exploring a possible search for grant money to help move to electric golf carts when the new Bull Creek clubhouse is being constructed. That would allow the carts to be incorporated into the clubhouse design, with storage space beneath the facility being built into the plan. Gasoline carts now in use would not be allowed to be stored or serviced underneath the clubhouse due to fire regulations, he said.

Also discussed was the possible expansion of Oxbow Creek into an 18-hole facility. Arendt said he was asked to determine how much it would cost to conduct a feasibility report on acquiring, funding and constructing the additional nine holes.

The golf director also reported meeting with the city security chief for a staff briefing on an emergency/weather/active shooter plan for the golf facilities.

The city's IT Division also has been very cooperative in helping the golf operations save about \$500 a month on phone/internet/cable costs and in renegotiating a contract with the cable provider. He also is seeking assistance in a plan to obtain and put in place GPS devices for golf course equipment, which would allow instant access to the location of each piece of equipment.

Arendt said he is continuing to look into securing GPS systems that could be incorporated into the courses' golf carts. Some systems are priced rather high, as much as \$45 per cart per month, while other “aftermarket” systems can be had for \$14-16 a month, but with reduced capabilities.

The golf director introduced Evergreen Solutions expert Tob Williamson, who discussed his company's work developing an employee pay plan for the city, which would for the first time include golf course employees.

The plan he outlined, which is being presented to Columbus Council for its consideration, would offer pay grades for golf course employees, which would be built with step increases and recognize special skill sets employees must achieve. The plan compares with other markets of similar nature and includes a recommended \$15/hour minimum pay with exceptions for certain positions, such as grill/beverage cart workers who also operate for tips.

The Authority would ultimately choose the plan to be adopted and the cost would include support from the city which has set aside funding for the full plan's implementation. There would be some cost increases expected within the Authority's budget.

After the presentation, a motion to adjourn made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Ken Davis was passed unanimously.

Members attending were Ricky Wright, Jim Houston, Richard Mahone, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Callahan, Tommy Nobles, William Roundtree and Kenneth Davis. Alonzo Jones was absent.



## THE COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

OCTOBER 25, 2022

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the September 27, 2022, Authority meeting were approved unanimously, followed by unanimous approval of the minutes of the Sept. 27, 2022, Executive Session, which were retrieved and one copy retained in file for potential review under requirements of the Georgia Open Meetings law.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that cool nights with temperatures as low as 35 degrees have the greens' growth slowed. They are now being sprayed with fungicide.

Three pumps have been repaired in the irrigation system, including one with a blown gasket.

A problem receiving a full inmate crew of 16 – eight for each guard – at Bull Creek continues to manifest itself. With 12 inmates now available, the work that can be accomplished is less than it would be with full crews, and only one of the inmates has been on the detail since last spring. Training and retraining continue to be a part of the routine.

The Toro equipment ordered last year remains undelivered, now delayed until November. It has reduced the ability to cut the rough growth. Mulching decks are now being used on the prolific leaves on the course, rather than relying on blowers.

A sprayer for Oxbow Creek, which is to be available when Green Island Country Club completes its lease, will eventually be obtained, although the final price has not yet been determined, Brown said.

The work crews also have been removing sand from the creeks where it can be readily reached by equipment available, and the crews are also cleaning up limbs and debris across the course, he said.

Work on repairing concrete panels on the cart paths will resume tomorrow, with crews starting on the damaged path on East Course #12.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that Bull Creek actually took in \$181,000 in revenue in September, although the city's totals show \$136,000 due to a continuing inability to get all deposits recorded at month's end. The difference will be accounted for in the totals for the following month. More than \$135,500 has been generated to date in October with a week of operation still ahead.

"We've had a good start in the first quarter (of the fiscal year)," he said.

Oxbow Creek also has performed well, with about \$62,000 generated in September. Like Bull Creek, the various elements of the budget for this fiscal year are well within budget expectations through the first quarter.

A new truck for Bull Creek has been delivered as budgeted and new inmate vans are still expected to be obtained. All are provided for in the budget.

Cash reserves to date are \$149,394 for Bull Creek and \$36,950 for Oxbow, Arendt said. The challenge will be to maintain the reserves through the winter months.

Nikki Siter reported that a popular junior clinic being conducted at Oxbow Creek is continuing, and that seats damaged on the recently obtained Yamaha carts have been replaced by Yamaha.

Arendt said the recent City Manager's Day outing, which after its second year is hoped to be an annual event bringing city workers to Bull Creek for golf and exposure to the course, has been very successful.

The first of what is to become an annual City Championship was completed last weekend and nice trophies were presented and on display at Bull Creek. Similar Senior and Super Senior Championship contests are also being held for the first time, Arendt said.

Conversations are being held with Peter Bowden and the Columbus Visitors' Center with an aim to increase exposure of the asset Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek provide to the city and to visitors to the region, he said.

Oxbow Creek also is continuing to hold PGA Hope and Adaptive Golf programs to serve the communities' veterans, providing lessons and instruction to help them enjoy golf as a sport available to them locally. Six such clinics already have been held.

Arendt said he has determined that \$109,000 will be the approximate cost of a feasibility study for locating an additional nine holes for Oxbow Creek, and he is seeking to find that money for the project.

A Back Columbus Blue outing at Bull Creek has been a success and is a charitable event to support local law enforcement entities.

Replacing the bridge at Oxbow Creek continues to be explored. It will be financed through the SPLOST program approved this year by voters. An idea explored that would replace the span with a land bridge composed partially of concrete was found not to be feasible by city engineers, but possible solutions are still being sought and examined, he said.

Arendt said he attended the ARP Fund meeting at which proposed projects for solving problems throughout the city are considered for implementation through the federal funding available to the city. He has filed a request for \$2.1 million of the funds, with \$1.5 million for removing silt from Bull Creek's watershed lakes as part of a water infrastructure program. Another \$650,000 is sought to compensate for revenue the courses lost due to the COVID impact.

Stephanie Callahan told members she met with Mayor Skip Henderson to discuss possible funding of grass cutting costs at Godwin Creek Golf Course. About \$40,000 would accomplish the task no longer reliably being performed. She is seeking permission to include the funding in the Authority's budget process.

Ricky Wright noted that last year the Authority did not meet in November or December to accommodate the holiday season, but he saw no reason the panel could not meet in November.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Kenneth Davis and unanimously approved.

Present at the meeting were Ricky Wright, Stephanie Callahan, Ken Crumpler, Richard Mahone, Tommy Nobles, Alonzo Jones, William Roundtree, Kenneth Davis and Jim Houston.



## THE COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

NOVEMBER 22, 2022

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the October 25, 2022, Authority meeting were approved unanimously.

The Public Agenda portion of the meeting was moved up to accommodate Gary Moore, formerly of Tulsa, Okla., who said he has moved to the area and loves Bull Creek Golf Course. A retiree who is familiar with capitalization of business assets, he expressed curiosity about the possibility of capitalizing on the physical assets of Bull Creek Golf Course. Informed that 27 of the 36 holes at Bull Creek are in the watershed program whose construction was funded largely with federal dollars, there is little to no option for developing capital assets on that property, and the entire course is a city park area under the auspices of the Columbus Consolidated Government. Moore said he is still curious to see how some opportunities might be available for implementation and thanked the Authority for its attention.

Zarrah Day- Brown reported that Bull Creek Golf Course has a cash reserve now totaling \$201,836, and Oxbow Creek's Cash Reserve is \$50,661.

Nikki Siter reported that renovations of cart paths at Oxbow Creek are under way, and crews are cutting back vegetation to improve the course's environs.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said Bull Creek has generated more than more than \$691,000 to date, compared to \$531,751 during the same period last fiscal year. Oxbow has taken in almost \$216,000, compared to just over \$171,300 during the period last year. That means the courses' revenues are at least \$200,000 greater than last year to date, with more than 7 months remaining in the fiscal year. Part of that is due to a price increase that went into effect July 1, which included rate increases for memberships, with more memberships being purchased.

During the October reporting period, Bull Creek had taken in more than \$197,000, with Oxbow generating more than \$40,200 in revenue, he said. The actual numbers will be higher – such as \$53,000 at Oxbow – when deposits banked over the final days of the month, but not included in the city's report, are reflected in the next totals.

A Bull Creek checking account, sought for more than a year to ease the problem of vendor payment and on-hand cash buildup, has been established, for which the help of City Manager Isiah Hugley is much appreciated, Arendt said.

A starter house has been installed, with heat/air conditioning, interior paneling and a speaker system to be put in place. When that is completed, Arendt said he will personally train the personnel who will operate as starters. The result will be better monitoring of play with views of the starting tees for East and West courses. In addition to better control of play, it provides enhanced enforcement of the beer policy (giving persons the opportunity to return to their vehicles the beer purchased off-course, complying with state and local laws). People who ignore the ban of off-premise beer will receive no further warning if then found in violation.

Arendt also expressed appreciation for the grill staff, including the indoor cooks as well as those who operate refreshment carts. All have been diligent workers and added to the success of the golf operations.

A golf outing is planned for the Ambassadors and golf course staff, which will include some gift items and an opportunity for the workers/volunteers to get to know each other during a round of golf.

Appreciation for Authority members also is on the horizon, he said.

Arendt said new Yamaha carts will be replacing the Club Car carts in December. The new fleet will be a great improvement for the course and will qualify for special rebates through the National Golf Course Association membership program, including \$400 for 8 utility carts recently bought, and \$50 each for the \$104 Yamaha carts coming soon.

Ken Crumpler made a motion that the Authority in the future follow the Columbus Council longstanding policy of allowing Public Agenda participants 5 minutes each to express themselves at Authority meetings. Stephanie Callahan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Wright noted that there being no meeting of the Authority in December, the next session would be convened in January 2023.

Crumpler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ken Davis, which was unanimously passed.

Present at the meeting were Ricky Wright, Stephanie Callahan, Ken Crumpler, Tommy Nobles, Ken Davis, Alonzo Jones and Jim Houston. William Roundtree and Richard Mahone were absent.



# THE COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2023

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the November 22, 2022, Authority meeting were approved unanimously.

Superintendent Steve Brown said during the Christmas holidays, the course experienced a 14-degree low temperature, but there was no winter kill from the cold and growth appears to be OK. There was only one busted pipe in the restroom between holes 6 and 7 on the East Course.

The new Starter House has had air conditioning installed, insulation put in place along with paneling and ceiling work. It will now be painted and wiring will be added to the house and to points at the first holes on the East and West Courses as well as the driving range.

Removing dead trees and stumps as well as cart path work are the next projects to be tackled, weather permitting, he said. Material for the cover to be erected for the new cart storage area also will be installed when it becomes available. The city has agreed to accelerate the inspection/license process for that project.

Two new deck mowers for the recently received tractors have finally arrived, along with two new tri-plex reel mowers. Still to come are two fairway mowers and a tri-plex mower. An order for a \$32,000 bunker rake has been placed because it will likely be 2024 before one would be available if the order is not placed now, Brown said. The existing bunker rake repair is going to cost \$6,000.

Brown said the labor problem is improving, with 14-16 inmates being available in recent weeks, but only one of the inmates has been on the crews since Thanksgiving, which is illustrative of the turnover/training challenge with inmate labor. "Short-term inmates are a problem," he said.

The inmate van at Oxbow is now 23 years old and a new replacement van is still not available. The Parks and Recreation's old van is being used on loan to help bring the labor crew to the course.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said Oxbow Creek revenues for December totaled \$22,001, according to city accounts, but the actual total was \$32,927. The difference reflects a continuing problem in financial reporting methods between the city and the golf course operations. The city does not include end-of-month amounts the course deposits from actual income, with those amounts being added to the month following in city reports, he said.

Oxbow generated more than \$284,040 in revenue for the first six months of the fiscal year, which is a significant portion of the budgeted \$394,363 anticipated for the fiscal year, not counting a \$150,000 transfer-in from the city that is in the projected budget, but hopefully will not be needed. "Revenue at Oxbow continues to be strong," Arendt said.

Revenue per round also reflects the growth. In 2021, the course generated \$21.24 per round played, compared to \$23.90 per round played in 2022, the golf director said. The number of rounds increased by 7 percent, with revenue up 20 percent, reflecting price increases put into effect in 2022.

Bull Creek also has generated more revenue than the city monthly account shows. The city accounting reflects \$96,724 collected in December, but the actual revenue was \$122,170, which will be added to January collections in the city's next report, although actually received in December.

Bull Creek during the first six months of the fiscal year generated \$916,648. It is budgeted for \$1,609,331, which also includes \$50,000 "transfer-in" funds from the city that is not expected to be needed.

Rounds at Bull Creek were up 6 percent in 2021 and resulted in \$37.81 in revenue per round, but 2022 reports show a 20 percent growth in revenue at \$42.90 per round, Arendt said. The price increases put into effect last year largely accounted for the difference, he said.

Both Oxbow and Bull Creek have had excellent revenue performances during January, with Oxbow generating \$28,300 to date and Bull Creek receiving \$86,700. “January is going to look excellent,” Arendt said.

Zarrah Day-Brown said the reserve funds to date for each course are \$38,719.77 at Oxbow and \$194,132.79 for Bull Creek.

Nikki Siter reported that Oxbow Creek has been involved in strong cleanup work, including edging bunkers, and she has been developing couples rounds at the course, with a goal of getting more women involved in the game.

Arendt said repair of the old van at Oxbow is costing \$3,800, which he hates to spend on a vehicle not worth \$1,200, but while awaiting purchase of a new van, but there is no available alternative

The golf director said he also met with the city manager and the deputy city managers to discuss a proposed master plan anticipated to cost \$109,000. The plan would include needed improvements at Bull Creek, as well as a feasibility plan for another nine holes at Oxbow Creek and improvements for Godwin Creek. The city officials were receptive and supportive of the proposal, Arendt said.

“This is a tool to help us take the next step,” he said.

The ARP funding request of more than \$2 million submitted to the city for projects that included \$1.5 million to desilt the lakes and creeks at Bull Creek and \$650,000 for economic impact of the COVID crisis resulted in no funding, he said.

The Bull Creek Grill continues to receive scores of 100 from Health Department inspections, of which the operation can be proud, he said.

The 104 new Yamaha golf carts also have arrived, along with a new Yamaha beverage cart. The total fleet now includes 154 carts and two beverage carts, with Oxbow operating with 37 carts, most of which are now two years old. The courses have received \$5,250 in rebates for the Yamaha purchase, plus \$400 for work carts, through an NGCOA program to which the courses subscribed last year, he said.

The new pay study is being implemented. It took effect in November, but will not be included in employee checks until the last check in January. Arendt said golf course employees have been very happy with the notice that their pay schedules have been upgraded. The increases reflect a \$160,000 impact on golf course employee salaries.

Attempts to have guards' status upgraded from Prison Labor Foreman to Correctional Officer have not been successful, resulting in lesser pay for golf course inmate guards than for city employees performing virtually the same duties, said Arendt.

The golf director said he is preparing budget proposals due in February. In addition to the Toro sand rake purchase, he will include purchase of a roller and trailer for the greens, a new front loader and a Toro Workman. They are big-ticket items and some may be eligible for outright purchase, rather than lease option, he said.

Arendt also said he is considering asking for creation of a marketing manager position, which would have a person trained to actively pursue customer growth, work as a pro shop attendant as needed and serve as a backup account technician.

The director also said the position of a third inmate guard for Bull Creek remains in the budget, but the decision on filling the post depends on several factors, including ability to supply enough inmates to warrant it.

He also said he wants to convert a grill attendant to Grill Manager, which would involve shifting from a 30-hour work week to a 40-hour week, but the full-time position would include responsibility for purchasing and provisioning for the grill.

Stephanie Callahan said she has discussed with the city manager making funding for Godwin Creek a budget item, with the city including the funds. The costs are not now reflected in the budget. The proposal will be processed through the Budget Committee and the usual budget process, she said. As an official involved with the Fore Kids project at Godwin Creek, Callahan said she would recuse herself from all decisions concerning that proposal.

William Roundtree made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ken Crumpler, which was unanimously passed. Present at the meeting were Ricky Wright, Stephanie Callahan, Ken Crumpler, Tommy Nobles, Alonzo Jones, William Roundtree, Richard Mahone and Jim Houston. Ken Davis was absent.



# THE COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2023

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the March 28, 2023, Authority meeting were approved unanimously.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that the greens have had slow growth due to the temperatures of 40-50 degrees at night. Fertilizing will be completed Wednesday on the West course and begin immediately on the East Course at Bull Creek.

Two fairway mowers and one tri-plex mower ordered more than a year ago are still awaiting delivery and a backhoe is down for about \$4,000 in repairs, but it is still cheaper to repair than to pay \$58,000 for a new one and still wait 8-12 months for it to be delivered, he said.

One inmate guard is out for illness and a part-time guard is being used to enable use of a second inmate crew. Three inmates on a crew tested were unavailable after drug testing and another was released to go home, which left the inmate availability at 11 instead of 16, Brown

said. It also will take weeks to train replacements for the vacant slots and get them up to speed at expected tasks.

Work also is being done to repair sprinkler faults at Godwin Creek, but the city needs to step up and dig out portions that need repair, he said.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt introduced new Accounting Technician Catrina Howard who formerly worked an accounting slot at the Columbus State University Bookstore. The members welcomed Howard, who replaced the departed Zarrah Day-Brown.

Arendt noted that Bull Creek revenues for March totaled more than \$182,170, leaving about \$557,000 remaining to be generated in order to meet fiscal year budget projections. With April expected to yield about \$200,000 in revenues and the months of May and June always great for revenue, the projections for meeting or exceeding budget look great, he said.

Oxbow Creek revenues also look “extremely good,” with March bringing in more than \$51,000 and April expected to exceed that amount, Arendt said. With only \$170,778 needed to meet budget projections, the course should make or exceed revenue goals for the fiscal year.

Two inmate vans for Bull Creek and one for Oxbow have yet to be delivered. “We’ve been waiting for more than a year,” Arendt said.

Nikki Siter said Oxbow Creek Acting Superintendent Trey Upshaw has been working extra hours and Oxbow has had fertilizer applied this year for the first time in five or six years. It’s needed, with the number of rounds exceeding 26,000 producing widespread wear and tear on tee surfaces especially.

Oxbow also generated more than \$4,000 on April 2 – more than the course has ever achieved in a single day, Siter said.

Arendt said cash reserves to date at Bull Creek are \$179,154 and at Oxbow \$24,140.

The golf director also said grill worker Ashley Morris deserves special recognition for stepping up and assisting Bull Creek operations as a temporary accounting technician. He also said it is his goal to have Morris become a full-time grill manager when that budgeted position is allowed by city financial officials.

A position for Assistant Professional has been posted in ads with the city and with the PGA of America, Arendt

said. The spot in the budget was for many years held by the late Mike Spitzmiller.

Applications for the Assistant Superintendent position at Oxbow, held by Trey Upshaw until he moved to Superintendent, are being accepted and the post is generating much interest, he said.

The Hughston Clinic, which has sponsored the Pavilion for a five-year span and pledged \$25,000 during that period, will also have its name assigned to the new Starter House about to be put into operation, Arendt said. An invoice has been sent to Hughston to complete the agreed sponsorship plan.

A new Golf Genius program, which features instant reporting of scores by competitors at some Bull Creek events, has been launched. The process includes reporting hole-by-hole totals for competitors on a large-screen board in the pavilion area and is still in the “learning” stage, but should be a great boon to competitive outings, the director said.

Arendt also noted that positive comments about the progress at the golf courses has “spiked” in recent months, and outings continue to increase. The biggest

seasons for such events are March-May and September-November, he said.

A cart cover to be erected between the cart barn and Hughston Pavilion is about to be put into place, providing protection from the elements for the carts that cannot be stored in the existing structure. A construction permit has been arranged and asphalt will be also be applied to prevent ground debris from being tracked onto the clean carts about to be leased by customers. When a new clubhouse is erected, hopefully with electric carts stored beneath that structure, the cover will be removed and used in the maintenance department, he said.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Davis, seconded by Ken Crumpler and passed by unanimous vote.

Present at the meeting were Ricky Wright, Stephanie Callahan, Jim Houston, Ken Crumpler, Tommy Nobles, Ken Davis, William Roundtree and Richard Mahone. Alonzo Jones was absent.



# **THE COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES**

**AUGUST 23, 2023**

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the, Authority meeting were approved unanimously.

In his monthly report, Superintendent Steve Brown said his crews have been verticutting, sanding, dusting and rolling greens for the last two weeks, and some scalping has occurred on West Course greens 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12.

Lightning has caused problems with wiring and switches on the irrigation system. Four sprinkler heads had to be replaced at a cost of \$1,350. The 20-year-old sprinkler heads are deteriorating and becoming more costly to repair. Fairways will be fertilized next week and after Labor Day at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek. Mowing is now at 5/8" and will be raised to ¾" after Labor Day, he said. The rough grasses will go to about 2 inches.

A third guard now working at Bull Creek has enabled the work crews to move from 16 laborers to 24 on the three details, Brown said. The expanded crews are needed with

lots of work to be tackled, including cart path and erosion repair, removal of tree limbs and other projects.

To enable a water cooler to become functional on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole on Bull Creek's East Course, a couple of hundred feet of wiring must be obtained and installed, making water availability for golfers much improved throughout both courses, Brown said.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported Bull Creek is now borrowing a used van for transporting inmates until the long-awaited additional vans become available. Acquiring a larger van plus one 15-passenger van instead of three new vans also is being considered.

The financial report from the city is not yet available, but Oxbow Creek point-of-sale records show July revenues exceeded \$65,800, and Bull Creek's revenues for the month exceeded \$242,800 – both occurring during the hottest months in recent history, and at times when the greens on both facilities were aerated.

During the first three weeks of August, Oxbow recorded just under \$42,000 in revenue, with Bull Creek generating almost \$143,000, Arendt said.

Nikki Siter reported that a new guard and the newly hired assistant superintendent have come on board at

Oxbow Creek. Also, the PGA Junior League will begin activities at the course on Monday and continue for the next six weeks.

Arendt said Larry Nelson, winner of the PGA and dozens of other professional golf tournaments, will be at Bull Creek Sept. 11 for the PGA Hope program's Patriot Day event, which encourages veterans and others to learn and to enjoy golf.

Cash reserves on hand as of Aug. 23 total \$295,600 for Bull Creek and \$573 for Oxbow Creek, the director reported.

Pratt and Whitney also has launched its 10-week late afternoon golf league at Bull Creek. Chairman Ricky Wright suggested consideration of lowering the 9-hole golf cart fee from \$16 should be in order, but the measure received no substantial support and no motion was brought to make such a reduction.

Bull Creek now has a little over 300 members registered, and newly hired Assistant Pro Adam Cooper has begun monitoring the memberships, including expiration dates and renewals, issuance of up-to-date cards and other matters pertaining to membership. Arendt also praised Cooper for actually reporting for unpaid duty two or

three weeks prior to his official hiring date in order to become acclimated with the golf operation. He expressed confidence the new assistant will be a valued asset.

City Manager's Day at Bull Creek will be Oct. 5 and Authority members were encouraged to plan to participate in the opportunity to host city workers and help familiarize them with the city's golf facility.

Arendt said the Starter House is now in operation and he is training employees on their duties. New score cards with greens/hole locations printed on one side also have been ordered and should be available in a few weeks.

Ice machines at Bull Creek have been a problem recently, with one machine and two commercial refrigeration units malfunctioning. Coca Cola company helped by providing a refrigeration unit until one can be repaired or replaced, and a "scratch and dent" ice machine was purchased at a reduced price to replace one unit, the golf director said.

Bull Creek will host the City Championship on Sept. 16-17, and the Senior/Super Senior Championship will be held at Bull Creek in October, with golfers 62 and older

eligible for the Senior event, and golfers 70 and older eligible for the Super Senior event.

A “Back the Blue” event celebrating first responders will be held at Bull Creek on Sept. 29. The event last year drew 35 or 36 teams.

Titleist and XXIO golf companies will have a club-fitting demonstration at Bull Creek on Sept. 22.

A new beer vendor has been obtained, with Georgia Crown making beer available at \$3 each, moving to \$4 each on Jan. 1.

Vendors also have been selected and notified for preparing a feasibility study of an additional 9 holes at Oxbow Creek, and for development of a golf Master Plan for all golf facilities. Arendt said the plan will be “a road map for where we need to be, and how to get there.”

The golf director said he has prepared a Godwin Creek budget proposal to allow continued operation of that par-3, 9-hole facility. Fore Kids, which has been operating the facility without benefit of a city lease for years, has notified the Authority it will cease operation there after Dec. 31.

Arendt said an Enterprise Fund operation at Godwin Creek would be advisable, with a combination of private

funds, operating fees and city funding needed to support the Bibb City course.

Ken Crumpler made a motion to have Golf Director Arendt take his budget proposal to city officers and Columbus Council. Alonzo Jones seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Tommy Nobles and seconded by Kenneth Davis to go into executive session to consider a personnel issue, as required by the Georgia Open Meetings law. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was reconvened for continued public session, but no other business was conducted.

A motion to adjourn, made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Richard Mahone, passed by unanimous vote.

Present at the meeting were Ricky Wright, Jim Houston, Ken Crumpler, Tommy Nobles, Ken Davis, William Roundtree, Alonzo Jones and Richard Mahone.

# **COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 24, 2023**

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the September 26, 2023, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Kenneth Davis made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to receive and approve the monthly reports of Superintendent Steve Brown and Director of Golf Jim Arendt, which were previously submitted in writing by e-mail to each Authority member. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Director Arendt said a nine-hole golf outing pairing Authority members with Assistant Professionals Adam Cooper, Nikki Siter and him had been arranged. The Authority meeting was suspended for the time required to complete the outing.

When the meeting was brought back into session at the conclusion of the outing, Chairman Wright noted that the next Authority meeting would be on Jan. 23, 2024, with the panel following its normal procedure of not meeting during the holiday months of November and December.

A motion to adjourn, made by Tommy Nobles and seconded by Ken Crumpler, passed by unanimous vote.

Attending the meeting were Chairman Ricky Wright, Vice-Chair William Roundtree, Secretary Jim Houston, Ken Crumpler, Richard Mahone, Tommy Nobles, Gerald Miley and Kenneth Davis. Alonzo Jones was absent.

**COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 19, 2024**

(NOTE: Originally scheduled for Jan. 23, the meeting date was moved to Jan. 19 and, notice of the change having been properly posted, was begun at 4 p.m. at Bull Creek Golf Course.)

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the October 24, 2023, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that the course had received about 5½ inches of rain in recent days, but had encountered no flooding and little damage, other than debris cleanup.

Pipes to two course bathrooms had burst during cold weather and had been successfully repaired, he said.

Greens at Bull Creek were experiencing no growth, as usual during this cold time of year, but a few areas of poa annua have developed and need herbicide applied. Fertilizer also needs to

be applied and applications are available and awaiting the proper conditions.

One prison guard has recently retired, leaving the course with two inmate details of 16 workers available. Applications have been received for the vacant guard position and a new hire is expected by Feb. 15, Brown said.

Crews are undertaking cart path repair, and a tractor from Oxbow Creek has been removed to Bull Creek for repair work. Work to repaint the Bull Creek parking lot will soon be underway under the auspices of the Columbus Parks & Recreation Department.

Cleanup of Godwin Creek fairways and greens also will be undertaken and should be accomplished by Feb. 15. At least 10 irrigation heads at Godwin Creek have problems and there is a wiring issue complicating repairs because no plans that would outline the wiring routes are available. About 2,000 feet of wire should be required and must be purchased, Brown said. City crews are also needed to clean up the pond at the course, and to eliminate tree limbs that pose a safety hazard. Some aged Godwin Creek equipment also needs to be repaired and will be brought to Bull Creek for that work.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that six months into the fiscal year, Bull Creek revenues are just under \$1 million. The revenue is “on track” for the projected budget, with the months from January-June proving annually to be more financially productive than the first six months of a fiscal year.

There have been problems with reports submitted to the Finance Department and a solution to the reporting methodology is being worked out, he said.

Arendt said funding for two new inmate vans remains in the budget, and the vans are needed, but it is possible a van no longer in use by the prison work camp may become available for Bull Creek, which could eliminate the need to buy one of the vans. Without the approved vans, inmate details cannot be transported to work at the golf course, he said.

Oxbow Creek has generated more than \$300,000 in revenue, of which more than \$27,000 is from sales tax, but the figure does not include some January revenue. "Financial reports are looking good," the director said.

Assistant Pro Nikki Siter said competitions are continuing to be booked at Oxbow Creek, including a return of GSGA events, and on Feb. 12, the HOPE project will again be featured. A church youth mentor program also is getting under way, with volunteers helping with youth golf development.

Oxbow is encountering problems with play at times due to the number of people playing on the course resulting in some customers having to wait up to 45 minutes for a cart rental to become available. "We've been turning some business away," Siter said.

Arendt said Bull Creek's cash reserves to date are \$287,194, and Oxbow's is minus \$110,869. However, Oxbow's reserve is

expected to be revised when about \$40,000 in unrecognized money is included. The problem also has been some untimely deposits, and a better job in making timely deposits is a must, he said.

About \$100,000 in funding is needed at Godwin Creek to carry it through the remainder of the fiscal year. Although it is not likely the course will break even in total revenue for that period, Arendt said he is working on projects that could generate charitable support from entities interested in helping youth golf efforts. A PGA grant project that incorporates Goodwill Southern Rivers/Gene Siller Grant funding is being worked on to provide \$3,000 grants to junior golfers who cannot otherwise afford to participate in golf programs. Later this month, one such grant is expected to be announced for a local golfer, with more in the offing, the director said.

Arendt said his presentation to Columbus Council on Godwin Creek needs and projects was “well received” by councilors and the administration.

The golf director also noted the recent passing of Richard Callahan, who with his wife Stephanie has been supportive of junior golf and Godwin Creek operations through the charitable organization they have headed for many years. The flag at Godwin Creek has been lowered to half staff to honor Richard Callahan, Arendt said.

A new point-of-sale system is being placed at Godwin Creek, and almost all of the volunteers who helped operate the 9-hole

executive course have indicated they will continue, he said. High school volunteers who have been working on instructions for youth golf also have indicated they will continue with instruction.

An additional hire is planned, creating a Junior Golf Leader position, with a PGA instructor running programs for youth leagues and competitions, and golf instruction programs at the course, Arendt said. The professional would work with school programs, be responsible for junior golf programs and help create an environment encouraging young people to take up golf. The cost would be \$35,000-\$40,000 per year, plus lesson fees that could be earned.

Ken Crumpler made a motion to approve hiring a Junior Golf Leader. The motion was seconded by Gerald Miley and, after discussion, was unanimously approved.

Arendt also said he is in discussions with some Columbus residents interested in creating a 501c3 charitable program that would help fund golf efforts. At least four people have indicated interest in serving on the board of such a program, with the ideal number of persons on the board being seven. Authority members were encouraged to help identify people who would be capable and willing to participate. The potential “Friends of Columbus Golf” charity plan already is being worked on by a local lawyer, the golf director said.

The Columbus River Dragons, a professional ice hockey team, also is being sought as a participating organization interested in

promoting youth golf as a partner in the local programs, he said.

Keith Mitchell, a local golfer, also has indicated he hopes to identify 50 to 100 kids who will participate in golf programs.

Arendt said his plan for Godwin Creek includes keeping rates and fees at the current level.

A recently completed feasibility study of golfing opportunities at Oxbow Creek highlighted a need for an additional nine holes at the course and for improvements to the existing facility. The same report also indicated an incremental fee increase would be advisable to help support improvements to the course.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Kenneth Davis, to authorize a \$2 fee increase for golf at Oxbow Creek, beginning April 1. The motion was passed unanimously.

Jim Houston suggested that a copy of the feasibility report that outlines future needs of golf in Columbus, and specifically for improvements and expansion to 18 holes at Oxbow Creek, be placed in the Oxbow Creek clubhouse for all golfers to see the goals for the immediate future of that facility.

Arendt noted that he is attending the annual PGA golf show in Florida the next week and will be looking specifically at junior clubs, training aids, clothing, simulation devices and such.

Ricky Wright noted that the Mill District area, which includes Godwin Creek Golf Course, has received a grant to relocate the

soccer field adjacent to that course, moving it to near the Pop Austin Recreation Center on Veterans Parkway. Such a move could make the soccer property near Godwin Creek available for a possible driving range, a clubhouse and other such improvements.

Arendt said employee evaluations are underway, with the process now including each worker's self-evaluation, an evaluation by the supervisor, and a session in which both are reviewed.

The golf director also said he has been informed that clubhouse planning can now begin for the new facility approved for Bull Creek in the recently passed Special Local Option Sales tax. Site plan options are being considered and have already been discussed during a recent preliminary review by golf architect Bill Bergin.

A motion to adjourn, made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by William Roundtree, passed by unanimous vote.

Attending the meeting were Chairman Ricky Wright, Vice-Chair William Roundtree, Secretary Jim Houston, Ken Crumpler, Richard Mahone, Tommy Nobles, Alonzo Jones, Gerald Miley and Kenneth Davis.



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## JUNE 17, 2025

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the May 28, 2025. meeting of the Authority were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Ken Davis.

Assistant Superintendent Charles Lewis, reporting for vacationing Superintendent Steve Brown, said Bull Creek's West Course greens have been aerified and are healing. The East Course will be aerified starting July 7, with Godwin Creek and Oxbow Creek greens to follow. Oxbow will receive deep-tine irrigation techniques in light of recent fungus recovery treatments.

Grasses are rapidly growing as summer approaches and crews are working to maintain the grass levels throughout the courses. Work is also ongoing to maintain and repair irrigation systems and to repair problems that have occurred in on-course restrooms, Lewis said.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said the latest city financial reports are not available for this budget period, but point-of-sale receipts show revenues of \$1.8 million through the end of April at Bull Creek, whose annual budget is \$2.2 million. Including Godwin Creek revenues, that total is \$1,863,000. The revenues for May exceed \$279,000 and the estimated year-to-date collections exceed \$2.3 million with 14 days left in the 2024-25 fiscal year. Even with loss of revenue due to being closed and only partially open for several weeks due to tornado damage, revenues could exceed \$2.4 million. Without the shutdown period, it's likely revenues would have totaled between \$2.5 million to \$2.55 million, he said.

Oxbow Creek also has had great revenue for the year to date, totaling more than \$520,000 of a budgeted \$554,000 for the year with two weeks remaining, Arendt said. It, too, is expected to meet or exceed its annual budget figure for the fiscal year.

Cash reserves to date show Bull Creek with \$506,575, with some of that earmarked to pay for equipment in the pipeline. Oxbow Creek has a cash reserve

of \$65,177.72, marking a significant improvement over the negative totals from previous months, he said.

Arendt noted, however, that everyone should be cognizant of looming major expenses Bull Creek will soon face, including replacement of aged greens and the need for a new irrigation system, among other needs on the horizon.

One candidate for the position of inmate guard at Oxbow Creek is set to be interviewed. The position has been vacant since illness forced the previous inmate guard from the post, he said.

The director also announced that Yohance Thompson has been hired to take the position being vacated by Assistant Pro Jon Shuskey, who is moving to North Carolina with his family.

Potential costs of establishing a Ranger program were outlined by the director, based on a minimum pay of \$15 an hour. The costs were purely informational and no proposal for establishing such a position has yet been developed or formally proposed.

Arendt noted that a plaque honoring the late Richard Callahan for his contributions to Godwin Creek and junior golf was installed at the course during a recent ceremony.

A request from last month to cede 5 feet of property for parking at the adjacent soccer field near Godwin Creek has been withdrawn following a redesign of plans. The authority in May did not give its approval for the proposed property transfer.

Arendt said signs have been posted notifying customers of the July first \$1 increase in greens fees, excluding junior golfers. Gerald Miley made a motion, seconded by Ken Davis, to also increase members' annual fees by \$50 in all categories except junior golf, with the hike to take effect in mid-July. The motion passed unanimously.

The director also reported that Ashley Taylor of Moon-Meeks, along with Bill Bergin and Larry French, met with him to review prospects of expanding Oxbow Creek to 18 holes by building atop the former city landfill acreage adjacent to the existing 9-hole course. A request has been made for copies of all reports or engineering studies concerning the landfill area.

Arendt informed the Authority that to help in possibly obtaining funds that may be available for future golf projects, he paid \$174 for six-months' access to software that helps seek funding grants. The small fee could lead to significant help in the future, he said.

The director also announced he is considering a new rain-check policy. Current policy gives a golfer a rain check for one-half of fees paid in the event of inclement weather. Under consideration is a "double rain check" that would allow use of a reduced cost for two different times, instead of half-cost for one future use.

Tommy Nobles noted that the Authority has yet to receive the bylaws of Friends of Columbus Golf, the 501c3 entity created to assist local public golf facilities or programs. The group's chairman, Bruce Bacon, last month briefed the Authority on its mission and said the bylaws would be forwarded to the Authority.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Stephanie Leohr, to adjourn the meeting and was passed unanimously.

Attending were Chairman William Roundtree, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Leohr, Tommy Nobles, Alonzo Jones, Ken Davis, Vice Chairman Richard Mahone, Gerald Miley and Secretary Jim Houston.



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## JULY 22, 2025

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the June 17, 2025. meeting of the Authority were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Ken Davis.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported aeration of the greens at Oxbow Creek has been completed using deep tine penetration that reached six to eight inches into the soil. A pump station at Oxbow also has been repaired, but it is a patch and “down the line” a new pump station will be needed.

Godwin Creek’s nine holes also have been aerated and top dressed.

Brown said there are some greens on Bull Creek’s East Course that have nematode and other problems affecting their performance, but the course has been aerated and top dressed.

The superintendent again noted that his supply of inmate labor continues to be a virtual “revolving door,” with inmates freshly trained on skills required being removed and replaced by unskilled laborers every few weeks. That makes it difficult to maintain the needed work schedule and quality desired to maintain the course, he said.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said the golf course needs to have a “better grade” of inmates and he has had a conversation with the prison warden concerning the problem, but “it did not go well.”

The director reported that Bull Creek’s financial condition remains solid, having generated more than \$2.48 million through June 30, exceeding the more than \$2.2 million budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. More than 57,000 rounds of golf were played during the year.

The good financial report was accomplished despite being seriously damaged by a tornado that had the course completely or partially closed for weeks, and after purchase of several items of needed equipment using cash revenue, Arendt said.

Oxbow Creek also recorded a strong fiscal year, ending with revenues exceeding \$709,000, which surpassed its budgeted amount for the fiscal year. More than 26,000 rounds were played, which was “pretty close to capacity” at the nine-hole course, Arendt said.

Bull Creek also is off to a good start for the new fiscal year, having generated almost \$180,000 in revenue during its first three weeks. Oxbow also is starting well, with revenue of more than \$52,208 during the same period.

Cash Reserves at Bull Creek total almost \$546,000, with Oxbow having cash reserves of about \$53,000, the director said.

Arendt introduced newly hired Assistant Golf Professional Yohance Thompson to the Authority. He moves into the position recently vacated by Assistant Professional Jon Shuskey, who led the junior golf program, but departed for a post at a golf course in his native North Carolina.

The director also said he has hired Kierra Macon for a vacant opening as operator of an on-course beverage cart.

Arendt said he was close to hiring a new inmate guard for Oxbow Creek to fill the position vacated through illness by the previous employee. The new hire was lost when the prison warden refused to agree to working with the proposed hire, who was a certified and otherwise qualified applicant. The director said he will come to the Authority in the next budget with a proposal to add two maintenance and one other employee to better meet needs.

The recent \$1 fee increase has gone smoothly, with “zero” complaints from customers to date, Arendt said.

The director noted that several capital expenditures are looming for the near future, including a critical need for updating Bull Creek’s out-of-date irrigation control system, which will cost about \$180,000. Oxbow Creek also needs a new pump station and a new front-loader.

Arendt noted that a golfer participating recently with the Dixie Seniors Golf Association was removed from the course after he was identified as having been previously banned for life for assaulting a course marshal. The marshal never recovered from his injuries sufficiently to return to the course and shortly

thereafter died. The Columbus Golf Authority in 2007 voted to place a lifetime ban on the golfer, which led Authority members Gerald Miley and Alonzo Jones to question whether a lifetime ban is ever a reasonable action. Although debated, no action was taken with regard to the ban.

Arendt reported that Friends of Golf Inc. has provided access to "grant seeker software" and a person familiar with the process to help apply for grants.

The director also reported that the Moon/Meeks firm has proposed two phases of work toward plans that would expand Oxbow Creek to an 18-hole facility. Phase 1 would cost up to \$25,000, with Phase 2 costing up to \$75,000. Authority members noted that the property being studied – a closed-and-capped former sanitary landfill – is city owned and the city might be reasonably approached to pay for the study to determine if it can be used for construction of a golf course.

Arendt said his budget will be expanded to include leasing equipment for use at Godwin Creek, replacing a fairway mower that is outdated. He said he has identified a leasing opportunity for the equipment upgrade, and some existing equipment that is so old it is not even on the city's inventory might be useful in offsetting some cost.

Chairman Roundtree said he has a conflict that will prohibit him from meeting on Aug. 26 and proposed moving the meeting date to either the 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, or 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Arendt said he will seek an agreeable date by e-mail poll of Authority members and make the necessary arrangements for meeting notices to be published.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Ken Davis, to adjourn the meeting and was passed unanimously.

Attending were Chairman William Roundtree, Ken Crumpler, Tommy Nobles, Alonzo Jones, Ken Davis, Vice Chairman Richard Mahone, Gerald Miley and Secretary Jim Houston. Stephanie Leohr was absent.



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## JULY 26, 2022 MEETING

Chairman Ricky Wright called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the June 28, 2022, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Stephanie Callahan told members there are few documented photos in the Bull Creek clubhouse informing visitors who is responsible for the governance of the city's public golf courses. She asked all Authority members to be available before the August meeting for a photograph to post in the clubhouse.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported the West Course was aerified, but it has been a disastrous period since the work was completed, with heavy and regular rains resulting in wet sand being scraped up by mowers, instead of grass on greens being trimmed properly. He has adjusted mower heights to help reduce the impact, but the result is the East and West having materially different paces on their greens for players to confront.

Oxbow Creek greens are being aerified and top-dressed today, he said, but that course, like Bull Creek, has an ongoing problem due to the absence in both locations of functioning large rough mowers. Toro has the Oxbow mower in for repair and a technician is coming to Bull Creek to repair its mower, but in the meantime, the roughs at both courses are not being trimmed as planned, which also is delaying the application of fertilizer to fairways.

Brown said a continuing understaffing of inmates is impacting the golf course operations. For three weeks, he has had 11 inmates available for work, but today there were only 10 available. There are supposed to be two contingents of eight inmates working under supervision of the two guards each day. "There's just not enough labor to keep up our bunkers as they should," he said, while other work projects also are not being accomplished due to the shortage of labor.

"We ought to be the gold standard for golf ... and we've got to get better cooperation from the prison," Brown said.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said he e-mailed the new prison warden today about the inmate availability problem that began during the pandemic and has continued during ensuing months. He said the warden gave assurances the problem would be addressed.

Brown noted that the problem of filling the vacant guard position at Oxbow has apparently been resolved with the hiring of a new guard, Alex Haden, who is expected to move into the post almost immediately.

Arendt said he also is confident that a third guard for the Bull Creek operation, which has been budgeted but unfilled for more than six months due to the inmate availability problem, can now be considered for hiring. That would give Bull Creek three full crews and significantly improve the ability to maintain and improve the course for golfers.

In his report, Director Arendt said city revenue figures are not yet available for the just-concluded fiscal year and the month to date, but his point-of-sale records show both Oxbow and Bull Creek had fantastic fiscal year totals and month-to-date revenues show the trend is continuing.

Oxbow's revenues in June were \$56,298 and the fiscal year ended with \$532,506 generated, more than the \$528,401 budgeted for FY 2021-22. The number is expected to be boosted even more when extant May revenues not previously included are folded into the June revenues, he said.

Arendt also noted that the figures do not include a transfer-in of \$150,000, a subsidy the city included as available within the FY budget, but which was neither needed nor received.

The result is about \$154,105 more received than budgeted. "That's huge for Oxbow," he said, adding that month-to-date totals show the course received more than \$49,000 in July – greater than any July for the last 4 years.

Bull Creek also had a great year and start for the new fiscal year, he said. The course was budgeted to generate \$1,531,311, but received almost \$1.7 million during the FY 2021-22 year. The course also did not use the \$50,000 "transfer-in" subsidy that was part of the budget plan.

"We were pretty much over budget by the proceeds that would be generated in about one good month," Arendt said. "That just shows how much having one bad (weather) month could set you back."

Revenues to date for July also show promise, with more than \$151,320 received.

Zara Day-Brown said reserves generated to date include \$275,318.24 for Bull Creek and \$55,447.36 for Oxbow Creek. Actual reserve totals for the fiscal year for the courses will not be available until city audits are completed.

Arendt said he has made application for federal funds available for government operations impacted negatively by the pandemic through the ARP program. He said he is confident he can support the needs identified in his two areas of request: economic impact due to losses of revenue during the pandemic, and water infrastructure problems impacting the course at Bull Creek.

Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek were totally shut down for 45 days during the early days of the pandemic, and when they reopened carts were available only for single riders, which reduced cart revenue and also resulted in a 50 percent reduction in available tee times. The result was a loss of at least \$604,000 in revenues, he said.

The Bull Creek course also has encountered a major silt problem on its watershed lakes, which has resulted in loss of play due to increased flooding problems and an inability to hold back the volumes of water originally intended when the federally funded watershed program was implemented to ease flooding problems in downstream Columbus areas.

The problem is so severe that "we are about to not have a lake at number 14 green," which should be one of the showpiece components of the golf course, he said. Trees and vegetation are growing on silt sandbars where lake water should be and silt sandbars are growing, reducing the ability to hold water in the lakes and prevent downstream impact.

Arendt said he has learned that a federal project is planned to address some watershed lake problems, including excavating lakes 4 and 5, and notching the existing watershed dam for a spillway that will allow release of water to better control possible flood dangers, he said.

His request includes about \$1.5 million from ARP for additional silt removal. The two requests submitted, if approved, would draw about \$2.1 million from the available ARP program.

Arendt also noted that a truck for Oxbow and an inmate van for Bull Creek have been included in the budget for the current year, and similar truck and van purchases unavailable for purchase during last year – although budgeted – are being processed and should also be made soon.

Oxbow's need for a sprayer could be headed for a solution, he said. Green Island Country Club has a leased sprayer it is turning back that could be purchased to fill Oxbow's need, rather than waiting for a new one to become available many months down the road. The prospect of that purchase is being considered.

The golf director noted that Evergreen Solutions' study of pay levels across the city, including for the first time the staff at the golf courses, is nearing review. Its provisions, if approved by the city – which has set aside \$10 million to cover expected costs – would not be implemented until October or November at the earliest.

Arendt said Senior Project Manager Rob Williamson is prepared to make a presentation to the Golf Authority at its August meeting to outline proposals affecting pay levels of staff at the courses. The golf director asked that an executive session be planned for the August meeting for such a presentation.

Jim Houston asked that the golf director contact the city attorney's office to ensure that holding a closed meeting for that purpose would not violate provisions of Georgia's Open Meetings Law.

Arendt also noted that he has planned golf competitions upcoming to involve local golfers in a way not enjoyed at the public course since the demise of the once-popular annual Exchange Club Bi-City Golf Championship. A Columbus City Championship is scheduled for two days in September and will be open to all golfers. In October, he has planned a Senior Championship for golfers 62 years old and up, and a Super-Senior Championship for golfers 70 and older.

A motion to adjourn made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Richard Mahone was passed unanimously.

Members attending were Ricky Wright, Jim Houston, Richard Mahone, Alonzo Jones, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Callahan, Tommy Nobles and William Roundtree. Kenneth Davis was absent.



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## AUGUST 21, 2025

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the July 22, 2025, meeting of the Authority were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion by Alphonso Jones, seconded by Gerald Miley.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported his crews are trying to catch up on mowing tasks, after having two rough mowers go down. The problem put the crews behind on that maintenance job. Meanwhile, the crews have been verticutting and top-dressing greens, cutting down and trimming some trees and looking for help from the city on getting rid of “root balls” that remain throughout the course from fallen trees lost during the tornado that recently hit Bull Creek Golf Course.

The superintendent said the search for a guard for the inmate crew serving Oxbow Creek Golf Course is continuing. Director of Golf Jim Arendt said a prospect located and who appeared suitable for the job was rejected by the prison warden as “not suitable”. The search continues.

Director Arendt said reports show Oxbow Creek recorded more than \$689,200 in revenue during FY 2024-25, which exceeded the budget expectation by more than \$34,000 and did not require the city input of \$100,000 as a “transfer in” financial assist.

The results for Bull Creek Golf Course for FY 2024-25 show revenues surpassed \$2,407,000, which was more than \$200,000 above the budget for the year. The figure included more than \$265,000 from Godwin Creek.

Figures for the first month of the new fiscal year show Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek “off to a good start”, with Bull Creek’s revenues exceeding \$250,284 and Oxbow Creek’s totaling more than \$76,000.

Bull Creek’s cash reserve as of Aug. 15 was \$434,764, and Oxbow Creek’s was \$58,808. Arendt cautioned that future needs will almost certainly dip into reserves, including a potential expenditure of about \$180,000 for irrigation system improvements.

A proposed weather warning system for the golf courses is still being pursued, with Columbus Council asked to approve acceptance of a grant of up to 75 percent of the cost. Matching funds for the potential grant would total about \$25,000, but no action is yet required of the Authority on that funding issue. The city will be asked to assume that responsibility as a civic safety project.

The recent tornado that ripped through the golf course may result in little financial assistance from the city's insurance policy, Arendt and Gerald Miley reported. The city policy has a \$250,000 deductible that must be satisfied before any claim may be rewarded, and fallen trees and tree removal are not covered under the policy.

Arendt said he was invited to join the meeting of the Sports & Recreation Authority meeting, of which Gerald Miley is a member representing the Golf Authority. The new group received the Golf Authority bylaws.

Arendt said he also provided Assistant City Manager Lisa Godwin with his job description.

Bull Creek Grill employee John Wilcox is being moved to full-time in the absence of a grill manager. During the interim, when no grill worker has been available, the course has purchased sausage/chicken biscuits for resale to provide customers with breakfast or lunch options on days when grill staff is not available, the golf director said.

The grill worker and beverage cart employee candidates have been submitted to the city's Human Resources Department for clearance to work, but the process has left vacancies until approval is received, Arendt said.

The annual City Manager Golf Event is being adapted. It will become a city employee day, with department heads and three members of staff invited, and other employees open to participate. The date will be set and the Authority members notified in advance, the golf director said.

The Mayor's Keep Columbus Beautiful event will be on Sept. 12, with a ladies' clinic scheduled for Sept. 11.

The latest update on potential expansion of Oxbow Creek includes a proposal from Moon-Meeks that has a two-phase approach to planning, with Phase 1

expected to cost \$25,000, and Phase 2 costing \$75,000. Arendt said the city's support for the expansion planning is being pursued.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Ken Davis, to adjourn the meeting and was passed unanimously.

Attending were Chairman William Roundtree, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Leohr, Tommy Nobles, Alonzo Jones, Ken Davis, Vice Chairman Richard Mahone, Gerald Miley and Secretary Jim Houston.



# COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

## OCTOBER 28, 2025

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the September 23, 2025, meeting of the Authority were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Ken Davis.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported application of pre-emerge herbicide has been sprayed to control poa annua, trees downed and damaged by the April tornado have been gathered for pickup and disposal by city crews, and tree trimming has continued whenever time permits.

The superintendent said he continues to experience a problem of shortage of inmate labor. Today, for example, he was able to receive only 12 inmates instead of the 24 allowed with the three-guard contingent Bull Creek utilizes. "We are not getting the inmates we need from the state prison," he said.

Oxbow Creek also continues to have a vacancy for an inmate guard, although some applicants who apparently meet required certification and other requirements have been rejected by the prison warden. Assistant Superintendent Charles Lewis said he was informed that if an employee of the prison decided to leave and was later applying for a position as a guard, the warden would not authorize inmates to be released to that guard, which meant the applicant could not be hired.

A motion was made by Jim Houston and seconded by Gerald Miley, to have Director of Golf Jim Arendt arrange a meeting with Mayor Skip Henderson, to whom the warden reports, in order to try to resolve the impasse. The motion passed unanimously.

Gerald Miley noted that the inmate problem illustrates the need to plan for funding and implementing a move toward hiring more civilian employees, decreasing the reliance on inmate labor. Arendt said he has been considering several options and trying to determine projected costs for such approaches. Nothing yet is ready for consideration, but it is a continuing work project, he said.

Brown also reported that Oxbow Creek is being sprayed with pre-emerge herbicide on fairways, and work is continuing on the greens. There is a continuing need to hire a person at Oxbow who is certified to apply herbicides, because the workload is too demanding to continue having no such person on the Oxbow grounds.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that Bull Creek had a very good September for revenue, taking in more than \$242,200 in gross receipts, and almost \$172,000 to date in October when Bibb City revenues are included.

Oxbow Creek gross revenue for September also was very good, totaling more than \$73,100.

The revenue figures are from point-of-sale records, because full accounting of all revenues has not yet been compiled by city finance methods. The figures are accurate for revenue received, but do not account for the charges to be discounted for credit card usage.

Cash revenues for Bull Creek to date total \$381,846.21, and Oxbow Creek cash revenues total \$73,102.30 for the same period, Arendt reported.

The golf director said he has discussed with Bergin Golf Designs the bunker renovation project approved last month by the Golf Authority, which will have sample restoration techniques applied to some critical bunkers at Bull Creek Golf Course. It will include improving drainage, applying a new method of lining and some earthwork, significantly more than simply digging a hole and filling it with sand, he said.

“This will give us a taste of what the new design (method) looks like,” he said. If it is deemed to be the methodology desired, it would be the course for improvement of bunkers to be retained in future planned renovation work.

Arendt also said that after email communication with all Authority members, he took advantage of the opportunity to save about \$16,000 in costs for needed repair of cart paths at Bull Creek. The city authorized crews to repair paths damaged by the April tornado that struck the golf course, and proceeding with

repair of other needed areas while those crews were on site appeared to be the wisest course of action, he said.

The savings were even greater because Assistant Superintendent Lewis and other course workers assisted in the labor to further reduce the cost. The result is work being completed for about \$12,000, which Arendt recommended be paid for through cash reserves, rather than shifting budgeted funds.

Ken Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Tommy Nobles, to authorize use of cash reserve funds to pay for the work. The motion passed unanimously.

Gerald Miley said the Authority should be involved in spending decisions, but he agrees that taking advantage of an opportunity to save thousands of dollars in an interim period between Authority meetings is financially beneficial.

Discussion followed concerning ways in which such future occurrences might be handled. It was suggested that the golf director find out if a dollar ceiling for emergency spending might be legally available to the Authority, such as the city's authorization for the City Manager to spend up to a limited amount for spending without specific vote of Columbus Council.

Arendt also reported that the golf outing season is continuing to boom late into the year, with a fantastic October experience at Bull Creek. He said a review of the outings held at the course since its origin in 1972 shows that more than \$7.1 million has been raised for charitable events benefiting Columbus.

The golf director also said a city-approved 3 percent cost-of-living pay increase will go into effect January 1. Money to provide such an increase to golf course employees is already in the 2025-26 fiscal year budget. Gerald Miley made a motion, seconded by Ken Davis, to approve providing the 3 percent increase to golf course employees. The motion was passed unanimously.

Arendt also reported that the Columbus Junior Golf Association is in its sixth week of this season, which will conclude through championship play extending it to eight or nine weeks. More than 80 middle school students participated in the activity, making it the largest number since at least 2019. He said the continuing work of new Assistant Professional Yohance Thompson and Assistant Professional Adam Cooper deserve praise for the program's growth and success. He also

recognized the contribution of Green Island Country Club for use of its facilities for the championship dinner and awards ceremonies.

Nov. 13 is the date for CCG Day of Golf, when city department heads and key city workers will be provided lunch and nine holes of golf play at Bull Creek Golf Course. The event is a way of showing city workers how important cooperation of city and golf workers is to being able to provide a quality recreation facility to citizens and visitors.

Arendt also noted that Aflac, which already sponsors nine-hole golf league experiences for its employees, is now also sponsoring a golf clinic for beginners.

The golf director also assured the Authority that he is progressing with evaluations for golf course employees, which already were a practice in place, but is now mandated by the city on an annual basis.

Bull Creek Golf Course will follow its previous policy of remaining open on Thanksgiving Day, when the pro shop will be open until noon, and golfers will be asked to complete play by 4 p.m. that day, Arendt said. Dedicated workers operating as a team show their loyalty and dedication by seeing to it that the course is open 364 days a year, closing only on Christmas Day, he said.

The golf director said wooden, crafted bag stands are being made for the course and driving range. Demonstration units are under construction and will cut costs for the devices and will "dress up" the range.

The recent City Championship competition resulted in James Ballato of the U.S. Army winning the two-day event with a two-day score of 144, Keith Ingram of Phenix City winning the Senior Championship (60-69) with a score of 146, and Won Yi of Columbus winning the Super Senior Championship (70 and older) with a score of 146. There were 43 participants, with the event expected to grow even larger in coming years, he said.

Gerald Miley expressed concern that the Authority is still not getting an adequate update on a proposed bridge project design for Oxbow Creek Golf Course. "We need to get some action from the city," he said, noting that other projects being funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax that allocated \$5 million for Oxbow and Bull Creek improvements must await a determination of costs for that bridge and renovation of Oxbow's clubhouse before proceeding.

Chairman William Roundtree said an executive session to take up a personnel issue is needed. Ken Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Stephanie Leohr, to go into executive session for that personnel issue, as required under Georgia's Open Meetings Law. The motion passed unanimously.

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Upon conclusion of the executive session, the public meeting was called back into session.

No further business being undertaken, a motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Stephanie Leohr, was passed unanimously.

Attending were Chairman William Roundtree, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Leohr, Tommy Nobles, Ken Davis, Gerald Miley and Secretary Jim Houston. Ken Davis was absent. Alonzo Jones and Vice Chairman Richard Mahone were absent.



# **COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES**

## **JANUARY 6, 2026**

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the December 2, 2025, meeting of the Authority were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Ken Davis.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that tree trimming has continued in the aftermath of the April 6 tornado, especially focusing on East Course holes 6, 7 and 8. Other storm damage areas also are being attacked, along with repairs to irrigation devices. The lift used to trim trees is now down for hydraulic system repairs, however, and the stockpile of tree trunks and debris stacked for removal is awaiting city crews.

Final applications of poa annua prevention solutions are being applied and cart path repairs are continuing, Brown said. Availability of inmate labor has improved recently, with 17 available recently and more cooperation from the prison staff. A new prison guard, David Pontecorvo, became available two weeks ago to ease the labor situation at Oxbow Creek, replacing a guard who became medically disabled months ago.

Oxbow is awaiting replacement of an irrigation pump, and cart path repair and general cleanup are still under way at the course. A USGA agronomist is scheduled to be on hand in April to continue overseeing and advising on the courses' agronomy techniques and practices.

Brown said irrigation equipment continues to be a problem, with 28 irrigation controllers so obsolete that the more than 20-year-old devices will cost about \$180,000 to replace.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that he has had nothing but positive feedback on the improvements to the bunkers on East Course holes 1 and 13. The final cost also was less than the allotted \$65,000 approved for the project, coming in at \$58,268. "This lets our customers know that we have invested in

improvements and what we are working toward,” he said of the demonstration project.

The golf director said Oxbow Creek’s revenues to date total \$317,000 of the \$621,000 budgeted for the fiscal year, not counting a \$100,000 city “transfer in” available should it become needed. “We are in very good shape,” he said.

Bull Creek revenues to date total more than \$1.1 million of the \$2.4 million budgeted, with seven months remaining in the fiscal year. Godwin Creek, which does not have an independent budget and is included in Bull Creek accounts, provided \$36,000 in revenue. The nine-hole course is not in good condition and needs renovation. It is not expected to see much usage increase until that happens, he said.

Point of Sale records show Bull Creek generated \$173,000 in revenue in December, and Oxbow recorded more than \$37,000, both good results given the rain and cold weather.

Cash reserves to date show Bull Creek with \$368,907 and Oxbow Creek with \$57,818, Arendt said. When other funds already deposited in the bank but not yet credited on city records are added, Bull Creek should show about \$431,000 in reserve funds, and Oxbow Creek \$72,000.

The golf director said he is proud to report that Assistant Professional Adam Cooper has been named the Georgia PGA South Chapter Assistant Professional of the Year. He will receive the award in February at the Georgia PGA Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the GPGA Annual Meeting.

Cooper and Assistant Professional Yohance Thompson have worked to update the Columbus Junior Golf Association rules and regulations for the 2026 Spring season that will launch in February. The schedule is prepared and a kickoff meeting set for the area’s middle school golfers.

Goodwill Southern Rivers is also continuing its support of golf through the Columbus PGA HOPE program, including \$35,000 available through one month of customer “round up” donations at Goodwill stores, he said. Additional funds including a \$60,000 junior golf grant program, are part of a \$200,000

commitment CEO Jack Warden values as supporting the positive impact golf has on players, including aiding those with depression, PTSD and other problems.

Arendt reported that both the accounting technician and the assistant accounting technician have resigned. Temporary assistance has been provided by Victoria Grant while job candidates for the positions are being identified, interviewed and potentially hired soon. Alonzo Jones made a motion that an audit be undertaken, with the motion seconded by Tommy Nobles. The motion passed unanimously.

The golf director called attention to the posted notice from the Health Department stating that the kitchen/snack bar received a perfect score of 100 on its recent inspection. He also noted that the recently hired manager, John Wilcox, was doing a great job.

In hopes of finding new ways to save money, Arendt said he has reached out to Mayor Skip Henderson for guidance on how to connect with the Georgia Power authorities to undertake a rate review and audit, which could potentially lead to reduced costs and power usage.

Tommy Nobles reported that the Oxbow Creek clubhouse renovation, part of the most recent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax allotment of \$5 million for Oxbow and Bull Creek improvements, is projected to cost about \$390,000 under current bid results. But the project currently includes improvements to the parking lot, which resulted in a question as to whether clubhouse renovation actually extends to the parking area under SPLOST rules. The city attorney will be consulted on that issue before an Authority vote will be taken next month on proposed approval of the bid submitted for the project. Nobles said a final price on the Oxbow Creek bridge replacement, also part of the SPLOST funds, has not been received.

The golf director presented the budget proposal he has prepared for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year, which includes \$769,220 in revenue at Oxbow Creek, allotting \$150,200 for operations and \$199,000 for maintenance. The proposal includes \$2,879,093 in Bull Creek's revenue plan, with \$75,341 at Godwin Creek. The

spending allots \$709,000 for maintenance, \$612,600 for operations and \$99,500 for Godwin Creek.

The plan includes a proposed rate increase of \$1 in green fees and \$1 in cart fees, Arendt said. Alonzo Jones made a motion, seconded by Ken Davis, to approve the proposed fee hike. The motion passed unanimously.

Davis made a motion, seconded by Tommy Nobles, to accept the budget proposal as presented by the golf director. The proposal will now be forwarded for review by the city and for eventual action by Columbus Council.

Proposed changes in the Columbus Golf Authority Bylaws, prepared by a committee of four, was put to a vote on a motion for adoption by Jim Houston and seconded by Ken Crumpler. The motion received only four votes of the nine-member Authority and failed to pass.

Discussion was held proposing adoption of a letter suggesting Columbus Council consider extending the terms of three Authority members to allow them to continue on the board through the coming construction projects. The three members' terms expire in June. No action was taken on the proposed letter at this meeting.

The annual election of officers was held, with Tommy Nobles nominated by Jim Houston and Alonzo Jones nominated by Gerald Miley to succeed William Roundtree as chairman. Nobles received 5 votes and will become chairman in July. Alonzo Jones was nominated by Houston to succeed Richard Mahone as vice-chairman and was elected unanimously without opposition. Houston will continue to serve as secretary.

A proposed resolution authorizing the director of golf to spend funds of up to \$25,000 without first receiving a formal vote by the Authority was discussed, but no action was taken.

The golf director noted that he plans to attend the annual PGA Golf Show in Orlando, Fla., and will be accompanied by Assistant Professionals Adam Cooper and Yohance Thompson. Hopefully, contacts made at the event will lead to savings

on future purchases benefitting the golf courses, and new ideas and leads on other projects that could result in savings and improvements here, he said.

Chairman Roundtree entertained a motion by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Stephanie Leohr, to proceed into executive session on personnel issues. The motion passed unanimously and the public meeting was suspended.

Following the executive session, the public meeting resumed.

A motion was made by Stephanie Leohr and seconded by Richard Mahone, to approve a pay increase of 5 percent of base salary for Golf Director Jim Arendt. The motion passed with no opposition.

No further business being undertaken, a motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Ken Davis, was passed unanimously.

Attending were Chairman William Roundtree, Vice Chairman Richard Mahone, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Leohr, Tommy Nobles, Alphonso Jones, Ken Davis, Gerald Miley and Secretary Jim Houston.

