

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the August 21, 2025, meeting of the Authority were approved by unanimous vote upon a motion by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Gerald Miley.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported his crews have been working daily on mowing to keep pace with the prime growing season featuring warm nights. Work also is ongoing to maintain and repair problems with the aging irrigation system at Bull Creek Golf Course, which is more than 25 years old.

Pre-emerge and post-emerge herbicides also have been laid down and work will move tomorrow to Oxbow Creek Golf Course to promote healthy tees and fairways. Crews soon will be turning back to working on trees, bunkers and other problem areas.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said bunkers throughout both Bull Creek courses are worn out and need to be renovated. With that in mind, he said he has been in contact with a company that features a rather new approach to bunker renovation, which includes relining bunkers with “capillary concrete” that serves to line the bunkers with material that allows proper drainage while preventing rock and gravel from seeping upward. The conversation included a proposal that could allow conversion of four or five “sample” applications at Bull Creek at a cost of \$25,000-\$50,000.

Arendt said he would like to see the process applied to some of the bunkers in most desperate need of repair. A determination could then be made whether the process is the correct one for a more thorough renovation of the courses’ bunkers.

Stephanie Leohr made a motion, seconded by Alonzo Jones, to authorize spending up to \$50,000 for application on selected sample bunkers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Arendt reported that for the first two months of the new fiscal year, Oxbow Creek generated almost \$140,000 toward its annual budget of \$721,000.

During the same two-month period, Bull Creek revenues totaled more than \$282,000, and already has recorded more than \$505,000 toward its annual budget of \$2.41 million. When Godwin Creek Golf Course revenues are added, the total to date exceeds \$517,000.

September's first three weeks have also been great revenue producers at both Golf Courses, Arendt said, with Bull Creek recording more than \$177,000 and Oxbow generating more than \$60,000 during that period.

"We're off to a good start. As long as we keep exceeding revenue projections, life is good," he said.

Bull Creek now has a new grill manager, but still needs a part-time worker who could assume those duties two or three days a week. A search for someone to fill that position is under way, he said.

Cash reserves, as of Sept. 18, are \$548,716.76 for Bull Creek, and \$75,914.59 for Oxbow Creek.

Structural damage repairs have been approved by the city for buildings and cart paths damaged during the April 6 tornado that struck Bull Creek Golf Course. Arendt said an adjuster placed estimated costs at \$50,000 and the Risk Management division of the city authorized repairs to proceed.

A golf event for city officials and employees, replacing the former City Manager's Day of Golf, has been scheduled for Nov. 13 and will include more down-the-line city workers than previous events, the golf director said. The 9-hole event and lunch provides city workers with an opportunity to see what the city has to offer golfers.

The City Championship tournament will be on the weekend of Oct. 25-26 at Bull Creek Golf Course, Arendt said.

The golf director said a new work vehicle is needed for Oxbow Creek, and a new Yamaha utility vehicle with a cage will cost up to \$14,500. A motion to authorize purchase of the vehicle was made by Gerald Miley, seconded by Richard Mahone, and was passed by unanimous vote.

Arendt said a new emphasis on marketing and social media is planned to launch in October, which will include advertising, emails and other means of reaching out to the golfing public to promote public golf in Columbus. It will also be a feature on the new web site promoting Columbus' public courses, ColumbusGaGolf.com.

The fourth week of the season is under way for Columbus Junior Golf, and is already featuring its largest number of participants, Arendt reported.

It was noted that the city is emphasizing a requirement for regular employee evaluations, with Arendt reporting that employee evaluations are already a process required by the Golf Authority and that some are already under way this year.

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

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