

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

DECEMBER 2, 2025

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

The chairman recognized attendance by former Columbus City Manager Isaiah Hugley and City Councilors JoAnne Cogle, Toyia Tucker and Charmaine Crabb. Each told the Authority they recognize that the financial status of Bull Creek Golf Course and Oxbow Creek Golf Course has changed dramatically, since the hiring of Director of Golf Jim Arendt. It has progressed from requiring support annually from city revenues to operating with no city subsidies and generating revenue exceeding annual budgeted funds.

Each of the guests also pledged continuing support for the prospective goals of the Authority, which include a proposal to expand Oxbow Creek to an 18-hole facility.

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

In the absence of Superintendent Steve Brown, Assistant Superintendent Charles Lewis reported that work crews have continued to focus on removing fallen trees downed by an April tornado and transporting them to an area where city crews are to pick them up. In addition, tree stump grinding and limb removal have occupied a generous portion of the crews' time at Bull Creek Golf Course.

The Bull Creek inmate crew has consisted of 21 inmates, with four designated for Oxbow Creek being trained at Bull Creek. A new inmate guard has been hired and will be working with a crew of up to eight inmates at Oxbow. The Bull Creek inmate allotment continues to be seven or eight short on a regular basis, however, Lewis said.

A pump for pressure maintenance on the irrigation lines at Oxbow Creek also has become necessary and two applications of herbicide have been applied at that course.

Cart path repair work also is an ongoing effort, Lewis said.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt reported that revenues at Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek continue to look strong, with Bull Creek recording more than \$258,940 in October, totaling more than \$953,566 for the year to date. When Godwin Creek totals are added, the ledger shows more than \$988,000 has been banked toward the FY 2025-26 budget of \$2.41 million. Oxbow's revenue totaled more than \$56,538 during the month, reaching \$268,114 of its \$721,000 budget.

"Our revenues continue to be strong," Arendt said, while reminding members that the courses are facing large expenditures above normal on the horizon, including replacing aged greens and irrigation infrastructure.

Cash reserves for the year to date at Bull Creek total \$497,269.06, with Oxbow Creek reserves at \$102,100.89, he said.

Arendt said the prison warden has helped Oxbow with approval of the hiring of David Pontecorvo as the new inmate guard for the facility. The hiring was necessary when the previous guard became ill and was unable to return to work. Months without a guard have required shifting of manpower and extra work by the regular staff at Oxbow and Bull Creek. The new guard is expected to complete training and be at work in two weeks.

Work has been completed to build demonstration bunkers on East Course holes No. 1 and 13, which was previously approved by the Authority at a cost of up to \$50,000, the golf director said. The actual cost exceeds that amount by \$14,000, which requires approval of spending that additional sum from cash reserves, rather than from shifting budget allocations. Gerald Miley made a motion to approve spending up to \$64,000 on the project, with Ken Davis seconding the motion. The measure passed unanimously.

The demonstration bunkers were installed under the auspices of Bill Bergin Golf Design to show how the Bull Creek bunkers, considered the weakest part of the 36-hole course, would be redesigned and put in place to show golfers how a reconstruction project would improve those problem areas.

The golf director reported he has been consulting with the city's legal department on crafting a resolution that would permit the golf director to spend a limited amount of funds, when necessary, without delaying for approval by the Authority at its next scheduled meeting, or a called meeting. The maximum amount suggested would be \$25,000. The resolution requires adoption by the Authority, which is proposed for action at its next meeting.

Arendt said he is working to prepare a budget proposal and will work with the Authority Budget Committee to fashion a plan to present to Columbus Council.

The golf director said he also is working to complete employee evaluations, and distributed to Authority members a form for each to prepare in order to rate his performance for the last year. He gave an oral self-evaluation presentation to the Authority, noting the accomplishments of the past year and progress toward goals previously set.

Tommy Nobles, with two key city advisors present, outlined status of the work toward Oxbow Creek projects to be funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Tax that authorized \$5 million to renovate the Oxbow clubhouse, replace a fallen bridge at Oxbow, replace or build a bridge at Bull Creek Golf Course, and build a new clubhouse at Bull Creek.

The update noted that bids are in and a contract is in order for the low bidder on the Oxbow projects. The work could be completed in the Spring, if all goes well, but Authority agreement is needed. Members suggested a rendering or craft example of the clubhouse renovation proposed by the bidder is desirable, and a called meeting of the Authority at Oxbow Creek will be set when the demonstration is ready for presentation. The contract would be slated for approval following the Authority's review and consent.

Three proposed amendments to the Golf Authority Bylaws also were distributed to members by Chairman Roundtree following their adoption by a four-member Bylaws Committee. No action was taken on the proposed amendments to give all members an opportunity to review and consider each.

During earlier discussions with Columbus Council guests, it was noted by Nobles that during the next couple of years, at least three members of the Authority would be due for replacement, robbing the Authority of continuity during a time of considerable reconstruction activities. Councilor Tucker suggested the Authority to prepare a letter requesting a variance on terms for current members in order to allow continuity on the Authority through the upcoming construction projects. Alonzo Jones made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, for such a letter to be prepared. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Roundtree noted that the next regular meeting of the Authority is set for January 13, at which time during that required annual meeting a slate of officers is to be elected for 2026.

In the meantime, the Authority will await the call for a special meeting with city officials at Oxbow Creek to consider the proposed contractor's plans and give approval for the bid contract to go forward.

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, Alonzo Jones, Ken Davis, Gerald Miley and Secretary Jim Houston.