

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2026

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

The chairman entertained a motion by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Kenneth Davis, to move into an executive session to consider a legal matter. The motion passed unanimously and the executive session was convened.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION IS CONCLUDED)

Upon return to public session, Stephanie Leohr made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to order a 5-year ban from all Columbus' public golf courses for golfer Todd Robinson, following repeated complaints of sexual harassment incidents affecting employees and a patron. The motion included recognition of the right to appeal that action. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

Odanov Martin, a grant writer, was introduced to the Authority by Director of Golf Jim Arendt. Martin outlined his experience in applying for grant funds for national and international entities and how such a strategy of grant applications could lead to funds supporting public golf in Columbus.

Martin proposed a 90-day program for the public golf courses in which he would seek at least 8-10 opportunities for grant funds available in such areas as water, habitat, tornado recovery and

infrastructure improvements. He noted it sometimes takes 6-9 months from submission to award for grant applications.

His proposal includes a fee of \$3,000 a month from April-July with no long-term commitment.

After a brief discussion, no action was taken at this meeting and future consideration set for the next Authority meeting.

Chairman Roundtree entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, Authority meeting. Tommy Nobles noted a typographical error on the second page of those minutes that stated Oxbow Creeks reserve fund on March 13 was "\$7878,296.48" when the actual fund was \$78,296.48. Upon a motion by Nobles, seconded by Gerald Miley, to amend the minutes to rectify the error and approve as amended, the revised minutes were adopted unanimously.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that Bull Creek's greens had been aerified twice and would be each month through August and possibly September, using a less-intrusive method not requiring the usual large-hole punching during summer months. The system assures a quick recovery for the greens.

Fairways all have been fertilized, he said, but the biggest maintenance problem continues to be a labor shortage. One prison guard has resigned and not yet been replaced, leaving the course short one eight-man crew of inmate workers. Advertising for a replacement guard has begun, he said.

Further exacerbating the labor problem is the constant need for training new inmates as many routinely move out of the prison labor system, Brown said.

The superintendent noted he will be retiring on Aug. 31 and advertising for a new assistant superintended will need to begin.

Golf Director Arendt reported that his proposed plan for the period following Brown's retirement calls for Assistant Superintendent Charles Lewis to move to the superintendent post and a new assistant to be hired, with a requirement including a license to apply herbicides and chemicals. The proposal also proposes employing Brown on a part-time basis as a licensed chemical/herbicide sprayer.

Brown said a United States Golf Association agronomist is visiting next Monday and his work will include examining the green problems affecting Oxbow Creek. He also noted that Oxbow will need experienced help, including someone licensed to spray herbicides and apply necessary chemicals. There is now no one on staff there with such a permit.

Arendt reported that Bull Creek revenues for the year to date exceed \$1.78 million. With April-June annually the busiest and most lucrative period financially – last year accounting for about \$900,000 in revenue – “We’re looking really good on revenue,” he said.

Cash reserves as of April 17 were \$384,163.66 at Bull Creek, and \$85,258.17 at Oxbow Creek, Arendt reported.

The director updated his report of the previous month concerning proposals for early renewal of Bull Creek's golf cart fleet. Yamaha and E-Z Go made proposals for renewing the 104-cart lease now in effect and for trading in the 50 carts separately owned by Bull Creek. Club Car made no proposal and Yamaha offered a \$3000 trade-in value for the course-owned carts, plus a lower price on all 104 carts. Kenneth Davis made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to accept the proposal from Yamaha.

The plan is part of a "bridge" to a future when electric carts are expected to be acquired upon completion of the new Bull Creek Clubhouse that will be built with funds from the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. No firm date has been set for start on that construction, or for an expected completion date.

Director Arendt reported that he met with the city's internal auditor on April 17 and an audit is being launched with an expected 3-4-month duration before completion. The audit is part of a normal audit process for city agencies and departments.

PGA HOPE participants will be honored at the Columbus Clingstones' game on Saturday, June 25, Arendt said. He also said the PGA Blind Open golf outing at Green Island Country Club was a great success last week, with sight-impaired golfers assisted in playing by sighted PGA Hope veteran golfers.

The Columbus Junior Golf Association's spring season is ending, with championship matches upcoming. Arendt said Assistant Professional Adam Cooper deserves accolades for his guidance and leadership for that program, helping to make it a great success.

The Larry Gaither Tournament, formerly known as the Hardaway Invitational, was also a great success and has "put Bull Creek Golf Course on the map in Georgia" among high school golf programs, Arendt said. It will grow to at least 50 teams next year, making it the largest in that event's history.

The director said he has had a preliminary budget meeting scheduled to address concerns about revising budget projections.

Arendt also said he is continuing to pursue a weather warning system for the golf courses through a city grant process.

Tommy Nobles reported that the new Oxbow bridge is in place, with abutments and approaches to be completed, hopefully by next Monday. The cost is expected not to exceed the \$219,000 original estimate.

The Oxbow clubhouse renovation contract has been signed and sent to the city, and engineers have been to Bull Creek to examine the area where a bridge will be placed over the creek at West Course hole number 5, replacing a culvert that continues to erode and present yet another washout danger. All the projects are funded through the \$5 million SPLOST voters approved more than two years ago, Nobles said.

Chairman Roundtree then said he would entertain a motion to go into a second executive session, this one concerning a personnel issue. Ken Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Stephanie Leohr, to move into executive session. The motion was approved unanimously.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION CONVENED)

The executive session having concluded and public session reconvened, Kenneth Davis made a motion, seconded by Alonzo Jones, to authorize paying up to \$60,000 a year for a qualified Assistant Superintendent to lead Oxbow Creek. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn, made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Alonzo Jones, was passed unanimously.

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