

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

MAY 19, 2026

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

The chairman entertained a motion by Alonzo James, seconded by Kenneth Davis, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026, Authority meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that Bull Creek's greens have been aerified using small tines, which have shown good results with prompt playability and will be continued monthly. They also have been top-dressed and rolled. The purchase of the small-tine aerifier last year has proven to be a good purchase and a benefit to players and revenue by reducing the negative impact the large-aerification process entailed each summer. Oxbow Creek will begin the process next month.

Tees also have been treated with growth retardant and herbicide application, and will be fertilized before June. Fairways will follow, with some patches of other grasses appearing in fairways to be addressed.

Labor force problems have been lessened with the return of the inmate guard who recently left. He is back at work starting today, returning with him the capability of bringing three full inmate crews to work at Bull Creek.

The USGA agronomist visited April 27 and it was determined that the Oxbow Creek greens should make a full recovery from recent problems, but the chipping and practice putting greens will have to be replanted. Grasses for that will be available by contracting with the Pike Creek Nursery in the month of June, Brown said.

A pump on order for Oxbow Creek's irrigation system still has not arrived, the superintendent reported. He also said he needs to delay opening of Oxbow until at least 11 a.m. on Mondays to give more time to get the necessary work done. Current opening is 8 a.m. It was noted this could be accomplished simply by signage and communication with the golfing customers.

Brown said irrigation is a vital ingredient for proper growth and maintenance of golf courses, and Bull Creek's system needs to replace a number of controllers on its aging system. Assistant Superintendent Charles Lewis said a single controller card can cost \$1,000 and the cost for the number needed is expected to total up to \$210,000.

Golf Director Arendt reported that revenues continue to be doing well, with Bull Creek recording more than \$2.2 million received through April, compared to a fiscal year budget of \$2.4 million, leaving just over \$201,000 remaining to be collected to meet that budget projection. The month of May already has generated \$180,000 in revenue.

"I would expect we should be about \$400,000 over our budget revenue by year's end," Arendt said.

Oxbow Creek's revenue also has been doing well, despite its recent problem with grasses, he said. Through April, Oxbow has generated more than \$585,000, and received more than \$35,000 thus far in May.

As of May 15, Bull Creek's cash reserves totaled \$519,846, and Oxbow's reserves were \$132,941.

The golf director outlined a series of immediate needs and requested that cash reserve funds be approved to address those needs. After his report, Alonzo Jones made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to

authorize spending from the cash reserves: \$10,000 at Bull Creek for storage containers; up to \$4,500 at Bull Creek for new chairs for the grill; \$3,750 for a new freezer at Bull Creek to replace the 32-year-old unit; up to \$11,000 at Bull Creek to purchase from E-Z-Go a demonstration electric utility vehicle; and up to \$24,000 for replanting of the putting and chipping greens at Oxbow Creek. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Director Arendt also reported that the Hughston Clinic, which was responsible for erection of the Hughston Pavilion at Bull Creek decades ago, has renewed its sponsorship of that facility for five years, with the second payment toward it's \$6,000 commitment to be received soon.

Arendt also noted that the City of Columbus has proposed to include a 2 percent cost-of-living increase for its employees in the 2026-27 Fiscal Year budget to take effect July 1. He recommended that the Authority, as it has in recent years, approve for its employees the same size of cost-of-living pay increase that the city implements.

Ken Crumpler made a motion, seconded by Jim Houston, to authorize a cost-of-living increase for employees that will match the amount approved in the new budget for city employees, but limited to no more than 2 percent. The motion passed unanimously.

The golf director reported that Columbus Council approved the proposed trade of the 50 golf carts owned by the Authority. The vehicles will be traded with Yamaha as part of a fleet lease negotiated to provide at least 150 gas carts for use until the new Bull Creek clubhouse is constructed and an electric cart fleet is required. Alonzo Jones made a motion, seconded by Gerald Miley, to proceed with the

trade-in option for the new lease arrangement. The motion was passed unanimously.

Director Arendt also recommended a separate lease of seven electric maintenance vehicles at up to \$310 per month, or \$2,170. Kenneth Davis made a motion, seconded by Alonzo Jones, to authorize the transaction.

A proposal by the director to lease a beverage cart for \$504 a month was discussed. It was suggested that purchase of the cart might be more reasonable financially. Arendt said he will pursue that suggestion and return with a recommendation at the next Authority meeting.

The director also noted that budget sessions with city officials resulted in \$158,000 previously requested for the golf courses, but trimmed in negotiation sessions, restored to the proposed spending plan.

Arendt said three nominations for new Columbus Golf Authority members have been made by councilors and will be followed by council votes to fill the seats of three current members who leave their posts on June 30.

The director reported he dispatched a letter notifying the golfer who last month was banned from playing Columbus' public golf courses for five years, but the letter was returned after the recipient refused delivery by the United States Postal Service.

An audit of the golf course books by the city has begun. The process will likely take several weeks to complete and is a normal part of the process of monitoring municipal operations, Arendt said.

The director said he has received only positive feedback from the recent reduction of fees at Oxbow Creek to \$18 for nine holes and \$25 for 18 holes. The reduced rate was put in place to reflect the poor grass conditions of the greens in recent months. He also noted that the new bridge at Oxbow Creek has been installed and is operational.

Arendt said he has no recommendation for further action on a proposed use of a grant writer who appeared before the Authority last month to offer a plan for employment to seek funds for public golf operations.

Tommy Nobles said Oxbow Creek's temporary office trailer should be in place by June 1, allowing the estimated 14-week project to renovate the Oxbow Clubhouse to begin. He also reported that three companies have journeyed to Bull Creek Golf Course to examine the proposed site of a bridge over the creek at West Course hole number 5. Bids on the project are expected to go out this week, he said.

Chairman Roundtree produced for each Authority member a proposed Code of Respect and Conduct Policy. No action was taken and the proposed policy will be forwarded to the City Attorney's office for review.

The chairman also asked Golf Director Jim Arendt to reflect on what he expects and would like to see in his relationship with members of the Authority to which he reports.

Arendt said he has enjoyed a sense of support during the seven years he has been Director of Golf. He said the progress that has been made reflects a lot of work and a lot of effort and support by the Authority. The one word that would define his expectations, he said, is "Respect. If I am not doing the job, let me know."

He said communication up and down is necessary and that mutual respect is the key to good communication and progress.

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

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