

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2025

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.,

Superintendent Steve Brown said his crews have been giving stump grinding, tree cutting and tree trimming serious attention since purchasing the grinder, truck and aerial saw a month ago.

Training of new inmate personnel continues to be a major project. Of 11 inmates on two crews, six are scheduled for release by June, and of 24 on three crews, only four are qualified to mow greens. Rotation of inmates requires constant training of replacements.

Brown said he is still awaiting deliver of a dump trailer that would allow transport of sand to bunker locations for reworking necessary for bunker improvement. He has one trailer capable of hauling some sand and is positioning sand in locations to make it easier to then deliver to bunkers in close proximity to the supply.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt said in November, Bull Creek golf course recorded \$98,813 in revenue, according to official city reports, but the actual revenue was "significantly more," grossing about \$225,000. December gross sales totaled more than \$179,000.

Oxbow Creek's revenues for November were \$60,799 in city reports, but totaled \$49,412. December sales were \$35,511. The director said the actual sales do include taxes collected, and the difference in the reports continues to be due to city recognition of deposits versus actual collection during the periods cited. Some deposits dated after city records close are recognized in the next month's reports.

Arendt noted that Nikki Siter resigned her post as assistant professional charged with Oxbow Creek operations. She was unhappy at her job and submitted a two-week notice. Since her departure, Assistant Professionals Adam

Cooper and Jon Shuskey have worked at the facility, and staff at the course have been pleased with the result. Confidence in the staff at Oxbow is high, he said.

The director also noted that Adam Cooper has taken on the task of building an inventory of all equipment for an eventual detailed report.

Jon Shuskey reported he is working on building the Columbus Junior Golf Association, which will have its Spring meeting on Feb. 10 at Bull Creek, with a start on March 10. Last season, the program accommodated 60 juniors, with more expected to participate in the coming season. Saturday morning clinics begin Feb. 1 and continue through the Saturday before Thanksgiving, he said.

Arendt said Bull Creek's cash reserves total \$530,744, with Oxbow Creek's reserves at (-\$35,329).

Revenue projections for the current fiscal year ending June 30 show Bull Creek expected to total \$2,848,000, Oxbow Creek to total \$716,612, and Oxbow Creek to total \$72,271.

The director asked for permission to purchase two Yamaha vehicles – one a used beverage cart in good condition with about 200 hours usage and at about a third of the cost of a new cart – and one a flatbed that can be used as a shuttle cart transporting up to six passengers. Cost would be up to \$35,000. Ken Davis made a motion to approve the purchase, Ken Crumpler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Arendt said he is working on a plan to shift to a hybrid personnel operation that would add some part-time workers who would mow greens on a regular basis, with inmate laborers freed for other tasks. This would give more continuity to qualified mowing staff and reduce reliance on inmate labor for that task. Cost would probably include a \$15 hour pay rate, with about \$56,700 required for the plan. In the meantime, he said he will continue to seek the prison warden's help in obtaining the necessary number of inmates for work each day, plus a timely release for the early-morning mowing schedule to be met.

The director said Columbus Councilor JoAnne Cogle has indicated she is willing to meet with Authority representatives to discuss a recommendation that Council consider designating the landfill site off of South Lumpkin Road as reserved for future expansion of Oxbow Creek Golf Course to 18 holes. A meeting date is requested for a volunteer committee of four members, with other Councilors, such as Glenn Davis, possibly joining for the discussion. A date and site will be designated for the meeting.

Arendt reported the liquor license application submitted for Bull Creek Golf Course is expected to be approved "any day now." It is also expected to cost less for the first year than originally estimated.

The director said a new grill operator is needed to replace a part-time employee who resigned. The advertising has begun for a full-time and part-time operator.

Another new employee, Carlene Forbes, has been hired as a part-time Accounting Technician. She will replace the previous part-time assistant who is returning to service as a grill/beverage cart employee.

Arendt said he, Adam Cooper and Jon Shuskey will be attending the annual PGA equipment show in Florida next week.

Construction of a new golf web site is well under way, he said, with work continuing on photos and verbiage to be included on the site.

New point-of-sale hardware and programs are now being placed at Godwin Creek Golf Course. It is hoped that the trial of that operation can ultimately result in a better system that can be put in place at each golf course, Arendt said.

Tommy Nobles, who has chaired a committee looking into use of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax revenue for Oxbow and Bull Creek courses, said he has had difficulty getting city officials who are authorities on SPLOST operations to return his calls requesting information. He also said he has found information indicating that a bridge for Oxbow Creek that city officials have indicated would cost about \$800,000 has actually been built in

place at other golf locations for about \$160,000. Chairman Roundtree said he would try to contact the City Manager for assistance in getting the information desired.

New officers for the Bull Creek Golf Authority were elected, with Ken Crumpler making a motion to have the current slate of officers continue for another term. The vote was unanimous to retain William Roundtree as Chairman, Richard Mahone as Vice-Chairman and Jim Houston as Secretary.

Arendt reported that the Authority Budget Committee has met. Preliminary figures from which an eventual budget recommendation will be drawn were distributed to members for their review. A budget session has been scheduled for 4 p.m. on Feb. 11.

A motion was made by Ken Crumpler, seconded by Gerald Miley, to convene in Executive Session on a personnel issue, as permitted by the Georgia Open Meetings Act. The motion passed unanimously and the panel recessed the regular session, subject to returning upon conclusion of the Executive Session.

Upon reconvening, no other business was taken up and Ken Crumpler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tommy Nobles, and the vote was unanimously approved.

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