

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY

MINUTES

July 21, 2020 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Gerald Miley called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 23 CGA meeting were approved by unanimous vote of those present.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Steve Brown reported that for the first time ever at Bull Creek 18 holes on the West Course were aerated in a single day, and that temperatures of 96 degrees during the day and 75 at night are providing excellent growing weather for the grasses. That means the transition back to smooth surfaces should be much quicker than it took for the East Course, which was aerated in June when cool nights inhibited growth. Oxbow was aerated Monday and the course was sprayed, all despite the challenge of having new inmates and a new guard unfamiliar with the process. There is a need for an additional, trained person to fill the void when Jamie is off or unavailable at Oxbow. Gerald Miley suggested consideration be given hiring a "floater" who can be trained to fill in where and when needed.

Brown also reported that the greens have been tested for a nematode problem and will be retested in September. The \$400 per treatment for the expert to visit each course has been money well spent and will pay dividends in condition of the courses, he said.

The new sprayer authorized to replace the ancient device that was destroyed by fire is on order, but production backup at John Deere means it may be the end of August or later before the new machine will arrive.

DIRECTOR OF GOLF REPORT: Jim Arendt said golfers from First Baptist Church have now provided \$700 worth of fertilizer as a donation to the golf facilities. The group recognized the improvements that have been made and are being initiated at the public golf courses and wanted to help. It was suggested that a

letter of appreciation, signed by all board members, be issued thanking the group for its contribution to the courses.

Arendt reported that Bull Creek recorded \$171,401 in revenue in June, including more than \$12,400 in food and beverage sales, primarily because there are now two sales carts operating on the East and West courses, and more than \$7,900 in merchandise sales through the pro shop. The final tabulations for the 2019-20 fiscal year will show the golf course operation has come “super close” to making its revenue budget despite being closed for 45 days due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Oxbow Creek also had a very good month in June, recording revenues of \$39,357, with 2,036 rounds played. There is still room for growth in merchandise sales at the 9-hole facility, however, he said.

The courses are hampered by still having single riders in most carts, which is costing “thousands of dollars”, but the growth that has been recorded is encouraging as more people are playing golf during the pandemic.

It was suggested that the Authority develop methods of letting the citizens and Columbus Council know how it has managed to meet financial goals during this time of crisis, and of the improvements that have been implemented. Arendt suggested using the city’s cable television facilities to record such a message, along with reports to the Council.

Arendt reported he has prepared job descriptions for personnel, including for the management vacancy at Oxbow Creek following Craig Adams’ resignation. It has been pointed out that the Authority is the entity that retains the ultimate decision in hiring or firing personnel. Ken Crumpler made a motion that the Authority ask the city attorney how the city ordinance can be changed to provide that the Director of Golf has the responsibility for hiring and firing employees who report to him, as he, in turn, reports to the Authority. Stephanie Callahan seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

City crews are progressing with work on an office for the director, and the city provided a sanitizing service to spray the clubhouse area after a part-time worker there tested positive for the coronavirus, Arendt said.

The course now features a 40-foot flagpole with an 8x12-foot United States flag, thanks to a donation by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lewis. A letter of appreciation also will be prepared thanking the couple for their generous support of the facility.

Other items reported include:

- Four youths continue to work on the courses four hours daily through the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, with Wayne Ayers overseeing the activity.
- Three handicapped parking spaces have been returned to general parking, with the course continuing to provide the required number of handicapped spaces.
- The Ambassador program will be extended to Oxbow Creek, where there is a continuing need for that service.
- Arendt will participate in a Folds of Honor Program on Sept. 8, endeavoring to play 100 holes of golf in a single day to raise money for the veterans charity.
- The statewide Military Veterans Adaptive Golf program, developed through the Department of Veterans Affairs, will also find Arendt participating at the sessions being put on at Maple Ridge and Oxbow Creek.

Arendt also reported that the Oxbow Creek cart replacement schedule provides for an end to the current Club Car lease on November 30. He has asked vendors to provide proposals for a 48-month term. Club Car has proposed a 54-month lease at \$49 per month per cart for 30 carts, or \$1,470 per month. Yamaha has proposed a lease of \$46.50 per cart, or \$1,395 per month, which means two more carts for the same money, he said.

"I'm going to recommend Yamaha," Arendt said. He also said it would be best to have 33 carts, rather than 30.

Ken Davis made a motion to authorize leasing 33 carts from Yamaha. William Roundtree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ken Crumpler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ken Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

Present for the meeting were Gerald Miley, Stephanie Callahan, Ken Crumpler, Ken Davis, Ricky Wright, Richard Mahone, William Roundtree and Jim Houston. Absent was Mario Davis.