

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2026

Chairman William Roundtree called the meeting to order.

The chairman welcomed to the meeting Brian Lunsford and Carlos Coleman, who have been appointed by Columbus Council to positions on the Authority for terms beginning July 1.

Employees of City Auditor Donna McGinnis also were welcomed and presented to the Authority a brief summary of suggestions and recommendations to be reported to Columbus Council following conclusion of the team's audit of operations under auspices of the Authority.

Among the recommendations summarized were reclassification of the administrative services coordinator as financial operations administrator and closure or renovation of Godwin Creek Golf Course due to parental concerns about children's safety, and the need for clubhouse and site upgrades. Other recommendations included an estimated \$13 million expansion of Oxbow Creek Golf Course to 18 holes.

The chairman entertained a motion by Alonzo James, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026, Authority meeting, subject to correcting the spelling of Gerald Miley's name in one notation in the minutes before the members. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Steve Brown reported that the practice and chipping greens at Oxbow Creek have now been replanted and that delaying opening until 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the course has helped get needed work completed before the 9-hole course opens for business.

The superintendent also reported he is getting quotes on irrigation equipment needed to replace the more than 27-year-old parts around the greens.

Assistant Superintendent Charles Lewis, the irrigation expert for Columbus' public courses, said Bull Creek also has an urgent need to replace the controllers that are decades old and worn out. The cost to replace the equipment would range from an estimated \$156,000-\$180,000, he said. It is hoped the equipment could be purchased and installed by October, before the winter season arrives.

Gerald Miley made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to approve spending up to \$180,000 of Bull Creek's cash reserves to buy the needed irrigation equipment. The motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Brown also noted that the recent purchase of a small-tines aerification machine has allowed aeration of Bull Creek greens without the need for large plugging of the greens usually done in June and July. The process will continue through September and possibly October. The small-tine process results in play being unaffected within a day or two of the aerifications. Verticutting will follow on Monday and Tuesday, he said.

Brown noted that of the 24 inmate laborers available at Bull Creek, eight will be leaving in September, a common problem requiring continuous time spent training new laborers. With only

seven paid employees, the need for a more hybrid mix of fulltime workers and inmate laborers is an important item for consideration, he said.

Authority member Alonzo Jones, following up on Brown's notation that Godwin Creek Golf Course is in need of intensive attention he is unable to provide with current crews and budgets, noted that Godwin Creek is "an embarrassment" and should be closed, perhaps converted to a driving range.

Director Arendt said there is no doubt that Godwin Creek greatly needs improvement, but it would require a reinvestment in that facility.

Chairman Roundtree suggested Columbus Councilors be invited to go to Godwin Creek to see for themselves the facility and its need for improvement.

Golf Director Arendt reported that Bull Creek's revenues in May totaled \$301,104.62. Through April, the course had generated more than \$2,275,330, which means the course will likely surpass its fiscal year budget projection by more than \$400,000.

Oxbow Creek generated more than \$57,190 in May, and its revenue total through April exceeds \$585,000, which means it will also likely exceed its projected revenue budget for the fiscal year, he said.

Arendt said Bull Creek's cash reserves through June 13 totaled \$522,204.63, and Oxbow Creek's reserves totaled \$117,813.99

Following signing of the proposed new lease with Yamaha, already approved by Columbus Council, delivery of 154 new golf carts can be expected to arrive soon, the director said, and a new maintenance vehicle lease with E-Z-Go also is awaiting signing and delivery.

A new E-Z-Go electric beverage cart is ready for a trial to insure it meets the desired operational goals, Arendt said. Purchase of the cart is expected to cost up to \$28,000 and should be paid for from cash reserves, he said. Jim Houston made a motion, seconded by Ken Crumpler, to authorize spending up to \$28,000 for the vehicle if it is found to meet the course's needs. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Arendt played a video of a message to be played for the audience attending PGA Hope Night at the Columbus Clingstones' June 25 baseball game. The video outlines the program and thanks the military veterans and supporters.

A new I-Pad device and an alternative internet service have been purchased to serve as a backup point-of-service availability during renovation of the Oxbow Creek clubhouse, Arendt said.

Complimentary food and drinks will be contributed to the annual National Night Out this year, an annual police and community partnership taking place on the first Tuesday in August, the director said.

The proposed Code of Conduct introduced at the May meeting has been sent to the city's legal department for review. No action will be taken until that review is completed, he said.

The Director took a moment to note that Bull Creek Golf Course is in excellent condition, and that it is a tribute to Superintendent Steve Brown – who is retiring in August – and his staff, who deserve congratulations for the nearly unanimous comments and praise received from customers.

Oxbow Creek, which suffered serious greens difficulties this spring, is finding conditions improving as planned, Arendt noted.

The director said he has sent three requests to the city's Human Resources Department. They are: Hire an Assistant Superintendent for Oxbow Creek; reclassify the position now held by Trey Upshaw; and reclassify an unfilled Assistant Superintendent post at Oxbow Creek to create two part-time staff positions. No response has yet been received.

Arendt also took a moment to express his thanks and regards for Chairman Roundtree and Authority Members Ken Crumpler and Kenneth Davis, whose terms will expire on June 30.

A motion to adjourn, made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Tommy Nobles, was passed unanimously.

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