



City of Santa Barbara

GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GAC)

Wednesday, October 8th 2014

Minutes

Dominic Namnath called the regular Golf Course Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:36 pm at the Parks and Recreation Department Conference Room.

Roll Call

Committee members present

Dominic Namnath (Chair)
John Craig (Vice-Chair)
Bob Garcia
Bryant Henson
Bob Swider
Gretchen Ostergren

Others Present

Chris Talerico, Director of Golf
Nancy Rapp, Director of Parks and Recreation
Simon Herrera, Golf Course Superintendent
Mark Sewell, Business Analyst
Carolyn Brown, P&R Commission Liaison

Changes to the Agenda

None

Written Communications

None

Public Comment

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes from September 10th 2014

The approval of the minutes was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORT

2. Parks and Recreation Director – Verbal report on Financial Status of the Golf Fund.

Director Nancy Rapp reported on the presentation that staff made to the City Council Finance Committee on 10/7/14 on the financial status of the Golf Fund, including golf trends, impact of projected rounds and revenue in out years, and that the Golf Fund Operating reserves may deplete within the next 12-18 months. A number of options City Council might consider going forward were presented, including General Fund support, restructuring of golf course debt, and contracting with private operators in one form or another. Staff is working with a Golf Course consultant to update a 2013 report on golf course operating alternatives which will be shared with the Finance Committee on November 18.

A video of this meeting can be found online at the following address:

<http://santabarbaraca.gov/gov/news/video/default.asp> - select the Finance committee link.

Following the Finance Committee presentation, it is anticipated that staff will seek direction from City Council in December on next steps for the Golf Fund.

Ms. Rapp stated that this will be a very public process and that the GAC has a very important role to play to ensure that the needs of the golfers are at the forefront of the decision making process. Staff will be looking for recommendations to the City Council from the GAC, P&R Commission and Finance Committee as part of this process.

Ms. Ostergren inquired as to where the final decision lay. Ms. Rapp indicated that City Council will make final decisions concerning operational changes to the golf course.

Mr Namnath commented that the current model is unsustainable, and reiterated that it is the role of the GAC to reach out to and listen to golfers and represent their views to staff and council.

3. Golf Fund FY 2016-2022 Six Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Sewell presented the proposed capital plan for the golf course to the GAC.

Mr. Craig offered a motion that the GAC approve the 6 year capital plan as presented and this was unanimously approved by the rest of the GAC.

4. Player Course Improvement Subcommittee (PIFSC) Report.

The GAC reviewed two draft documents relating to the establishment and operation of the Payer Course Improvement Sub-Committee, (The document establishing the Players Improvement Fund (PIF) Sub-Committee and the Project Identification and Approval Process. Mr. Henson motioned that the GAC accept these two documents and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Rapp thanked the committee and Mr. Craig in particular for his leadership to establish an official committee to benefit the golfers in identifying and putting forward projects for discussion at GAC meetings. Mr. Sewell issued a draft of the PIF project proposal form to the PIFSC for feedback.

5. Rounds and Revenue Report

Mr. Henson commented that the decline in play being seen by SBGC is not unique, and other courses are seeing declines.

September saw a reduced decline in play than the previous three months, but sill saw less revenue and rounds played than September 2013.

6. Golf Maintenance Report

Mr. Herrera presented the maintenance report and confirmed there would be very limited aerification at the course over the fall and winter months. Greens on #9 and #15 will continue to be deep tine aerified to help to continue the improvements seen by regenerating the soil structure over the past 12 months.

Bermuda grass on #13 and #14 greens will be targeted with IPM agreed products to encourage the growth of bent grass. This will help to increase the consistency of putting on the course. New tee markers and divot mix boxes have been installed at the course.

7. Golf Pro Report

Mr. Talerico advised that strong merchandise sales had seen the pro shop perform well in September with business up a little over the prior year.

8. Restaurant Operator Report

Mulligan's were not represented in the meeting, however Mr. Sewell communicated that sales were higher year over year.

9. Home Club Reports

Ms. Ostergren communicated a request on behalf of the Executive Women's Golf Club for maintenance staff to repair existing yardage markers on sprinkler heads.

Simon Herrera confirmed that this was planned and would be looking to complete in the coming weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6.00 pm.