

***Golf Advisory Board  
Kearney, Nebraska  
November 18, 2014  
5:30 p.m.***

A meeting of the Golf Advisory Board of the City of Kearney, Nebraska, was convened in an open and public session at 5:30 p.m. on November 18, 2014, at the Meadowlark Hills Golf Maintenance Building, 3300 30th Avenue, Kearney NE 68845. Present were: Tim Hughbanks, Chairman; Board Members Ken Nikels, Pam Pearson, Chet Graham, Jim Van Amburg. Absent: Nick Erdman. City Staff present was Scott Hayden, Park & Recreation Director; Dave James, Golf Services Manager; Scott Bruha, Assistant Golf Services; Dan Knipping, Golf Superintendent; Rex Rodehorst, Assistant Golf Superintendent; and Robyn Bowman, Recording Secretary.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Kearney Hub, the designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the Chairman and Board Members of the Golf Advisory Board. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Golf Advisory Board. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Vice Chairman Nikels announced that in accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review and is posted towards the back of the room.

Chairman Hughbanks arrived.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Nikels, seconded by Pearson, that the minutes of the Golf Advisory Board meeting held on July 17, 2014 be approved. All those present voted Aye. Nay: None. Absent: Nick Erdman. Abstained: Chet Graham, Jim VanAmburg. Motion carried.

**GOLF COURSE MANAGER REPORT**

The board reviewed the Fiscal Year 2014 Cash Flow Summary which showed a balance of \$46,541 after deposits and disbursements were made over the fiscal year. The fund balance began with \$77,779 on 10-1-13. Golf Course Manager James reported that Punch Cards and Season Passes were down this year but feels that was due to outside factors. James passed out reports showing the past five and ten years of rounds and revenue. The five year rounds played average is 28,796 with the revenue averaging \$892,637. The ten year rounds played average is 30,484 with the revenue averaging \$879,131. The new Elite Annual Passes are catching the attention of some patrons, James stated that he has heard positive comments on the new pass options. Some major budget items purchased in the 13-14 budget were two fairway mowers, updating the clubhouse with paint, new counters in pro-shop and concession area, and new tables and chairs in concession area. Capital items scheduled to be purchased this fiscal year include new golf carts, two tee mowers and two green mowers. Staff is investigating Club Car, EZ-Go and Yamaha golf carts for the next cart purchase.

The new Golf Now web site allows patrons to purchase pro shop items and set up tee times online (6 days in advance). The website also include a blog from the Golf Superintendent as well other course related news. The site is easy to use and visually pleasing.

James reviewed the Action List of items that had been previously made by the Golf board. Eleven items out of nineteen have been completed. Items that were discussed from list included

the #2 White and Red Tee need to be re-leveled again. This may be an ongoing item since the area tends to settle regardless of what is done. Cart paths evaluation is another on-going project. City Engineer is working with staff on drainage issues on holes #2 and #4. He is also reviewing #3 hole waste area, discussion on filling in north area and adding water in south with a fountain. It was suggested that rocks be removed and replaced with sand or making that area a "hazard". James stated that he has the renovation of the #3 bunker in the CIP list for FY19. Staff asked board members to review and e-mail Dave James any new items they would like to see on the Action List. James will prepare the new list and bring to the January meeting.

### **GOLF LEAGUE REPORT**

The 2014 Leagues were again full with 36 teams (4 players per team) in the Business League and 60 teams (2 players per team) in the Men's League. The 2014 season had two more weeks of play due to no state high school golf tournaments and holidays falling on non-league days. The one area that seems to suffer is the concession sales during league play. Revenue is down by \$1,018.00. Assistant Golf Services Manager Bruha reported that golfers didn't come in after league to eat like they did in 2013.

Ladies League went well this year with a total of 51 teams. Ladies are requesting that the league be able to play front nine and back nine on opposite weeks, or at least the back nine on occasion. Pearson will meet with James on ideas for women's league.

Discussion was held regarding the need for Bruha to start a blog or find other creative ways to educate league golfers about the rules of golf.

### **GOLF MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Maintenance staff has been busy replacing 22 trees throughout the golf course. After the extreme winter last year staff is working on laying sand down on greens for protections. It was asked if using temporary greens was a way to help protect the greens during the winter months. Staff reported that it had been done before at Meadowlark but they would prefer to not have to do that. At this time a 40 degree policy is in effect and no carts if there is low moisture. Staff reseeded 5 times this past season and the majority of weather related areas has recovered. Staff will again hand water this year if needed. It was reported that Course Superintendent will be updating his blog on course health and what staff is doing to protect course this winter. It was asked if GHIN scores could be posted during the off season. James stated that you can't post GHIN scores according to winter rules.

It was reported that Prairie Hills Golf Course has closed.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Pearson and seconded by Graham. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. All those present voted Aye. Nay: None. Absent: Nick Erdman. Motion carried.

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ROBYN BOWMAN  
RECORDING SECRETARY