

DeKalb Park District
May 7, 2012
Golf Committee Meeting

Board Members Present: Joan Berkes Hanson and Dave Mason.

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Cindy Capek, Golf Supt. Roger Huber, Assistant Supt. Craig Wilson, Food Service and Clubhouse Operations Manager Jane Holdridge.

Others Present: Dick McLaughlin, Buena Vista Clubhouse staff.

The meeting was called to order at noon. Director Capek indicated that the financial data for April was included in the packet of material. She also distributed a summary of the Golf Survey which was completed by 86 individuals. The survey was available on the website, using a survey program called Zumerang, and was sent to season pass holders.

Public Comments: Dick McLaughlin, a golf participant was in attendance and had positive comments with regard to the staff and their friendliness. He mentioned that last year there were some concerns with the conditions at Buena Vista but noticed considerable improvements this year; he was complimentary of the new sand traps. He suggested that a foot bridge be installed on BV#8 to assist in speeding up play as well as be helpful to the less physically agile golfer.

Review of Financials: Director Capek noted that April was not as prosperous as March due to the inclement weather.

Staff Report: Growing the Game of Golf: Staff noted that they had worked with Scott for advertising at NIU as well as the Orange Peel and that a flyer was completed for the Sunday free youth golf. There were no other ideas or programs presented. Commissioner Hanson commented that she believed there was an understanding that staff would be reporting on increased efforts/options at the meeting as previously discussed. Jane and Roger commented about having very limited time in the last month to address this area; and that they were very busy with keeping up with daily demands. They commented about the amount of time spent on hiring, training and other personnel needs as well as the need to have a staff person who could handle marketing. Staff noted they will try to work at this.

Craig was asked if he had sufficient help, based on his statement at last month's meeting that 160 hours/week would be necessary, he said yes, noting that he will have five employees; more than last year. He indicated that they are catching up and moving forward with improving course conditions. The question of the condition of the landscaped areas near tee boxes, especially numbers 1 and 7 was raised; he noted that they were working on the greens and tees and this would be next. Commissioner Hanson said that utilizing an outside contractor for a one-time landscape work-as was done for sand traps-would be a good idea. Craig disagreed

and asked that he and his crew be given time to accomplish the work themselves without outside vendors. Guest McLaughlin commented that golfers care about the condition of the course, not about the flower beds. Commissioner Hanson disagreed and said she thought care and attention to all aspects of the course were important.

Commissioner Mason asked about the TV at Buena Vista as well as signage when chemicals are being applied. He thought the TV should be functional (especially for inclement weather warnings) and that signage must be placed in easily-seen locations on days when chemicals are applied. Jane noted that she was researching cable options, it was agreed to proceed with ComCast. Roger was exploring inter-changeable signs. Staff provided the material that was available at the counter regarding chemical applications. Commissioner Mason said he believes inexpensive signage would be easy to acquire and post at both courses.

Course Infrastructure Discussion Items

Areas for future consideration/budgeting:

- Irrigation Piping
- Drainage
- Replacement of older T's, Greens
- Maintenance Facility Buena Vista
- Addition of Cart Paths
- Equipment Replacement

When questioned on the list of infrastructure items, Staff said that the priority and ability to implement each noted item was related to funding-all could be accomplished if funds were available.

Commissioner Hanson suggested that priorities be worked into the Capital Budget Plan that the Executive Director Capek has now established while recognizing that all areas compete for capital dollars.

It was agreed that staff would explore options on growing the golfer base and report back at the next meeting. The committee felt that using the topic list would be beneficial to providing a frame work for the meetings. Customer Service will be discussed at the next meeting of May 14th.

The meeting ended at 1:15PM.

Next Meeting: June 4, Noon, River Heights Golf Course