

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Golf Advisory Committee
December 11, 2019
River Heights Golf Course Clubhouse, DeKalb, IL
Public Meeting 6:00 p.m.

I. Meeting Call to Order

Golf Committee Chair Dag Grada called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Vince McMahon, Austin Sands, Dag Grada, Dean Holliday, Larry Schultz, Steven Burski, Tom Anderson, Tom Teresinski, Adam Anderson, Randy Bourdages

Non-voting Members Present: Amy Doll, Doug Eaton

Other District Staff Present: Heather Collins, Mat Emken, Greg Bruggeman

II. Action on the Agenda

Committee Member Bourdages made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Committee Member Burski. Motion on the agenda carried by voice vote.

III. Public Comment

Sarah Slavenas spoke about the importance of weighing the research about the pool when making decisions about golf. Mike Wochte shared some notes about some ideas for improving golf.

IV. Approval of Minutes from 12/4/2019 Meeting

Mr. Teresinski made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/4/2019. Seconded by Mr. McMahon. Minutes were approved by voice vote.

V. Old Business

a. Discussion of Golf Capital Projects

Mr. Teresinski presented the history of the golf course capital projects over the past 12 years. He discussed how depreciation gives us a measurement of the District's investment in assets and that the golf share of depreciation has declined, which is an indication of declining investment. The analysis of this data indicates a 12-year shortfall over 12 years of \$954,000. He indicated that this would paint a picture of some of the shortfall on spending on the golf courses in the area of capital.

Mr. Schultz added to the discussion from last week that a management company would not investing in things like irrigation or drainage and those things would still be the responsibility of the District. Mr. Teresinski talked about the District's capital budget being only \$1.2 million but the golf capital list that was presented showed approximately \$3 million in capital needs in the next couple of years. Mr. Bourdages talked about the possibility of corporate sponsorships to help with some of the items for capital purchases. Mr. Schultz suggested that the District could offer unique and quirky tournaments that could drive additional revenue. Mr. McMahon said that it is recognized that the District can't do everything at once, but it is important to do something and to make some progress next year within the financial constraints that are obvious. There was some discussion from the committee about the criteria for which improvements would be measured.

Mr. A. Anderson and Mr. Emken did some research about the cost of golf cart paths with gravel and crushed granite and will get the number to Mr. Schultz. Mr. Anderson shared concerns about putting in gravel and that the paths would be washed away unless drainage was addressed. He also discussed concerns about possible damage to mowers or safety concerns with mowers picking up the gravel and shooting it out. Mr. Schultz suggested that the wash-out areas could get paved and the other areas could be gravel. Mr. T. Anderson talked about the risk of gravel ruining a reel on a mower and said he does not agree with using it for paths on the courses. Mr. Emken reported that the materials for gravel paths would be significantly cheaper than paving the paths but the prices that he was able to get were materials only and did not include labor for installation or for hauling away materials. Some additional discussion about the drainage issues at the courses was discussed. Additional conversation was held about the gravel and granite and limestone options, including cost and availability. Mr. Teresinski suggested that the things that generate revenue should be highest priority on the capital list. Mr. Emken suggested that it will be important to have an entire plan for the cart paths before the District puts them in.

b. Discussion of Golf Funding

Mr. Teresinski shared a spreadsheet showing information about how DeKalb Park District golf courses compare with other courses in the area. A column showing the loss as a percentage of expenses was added since the meeting when the draft was presented. The point of preparing this data was to show to the commissioners and the community what DeKalb is experiencing is similar to other communities. He shared information also about the share of tax support as a percentage of expenses from several programs at the District and stated that the golf course at 23% is similar to other program areas at the District.

Ms. Doll presented an updated organizational chart based on several conversations with committee members that had taken place since the last meeting. This organizational chart is an increase to the current year staffing budget of approximately \$38K but is in line with the staffing budgets from fiscal year 2018 and 2019. There was a consensus of approval of the golf organizational chart that was presented. Several on the committee suggested that the Superintendent of Golf should be given the leeway to staff the division in the way that he or she thought would be most successful.

Ms. Doll presented information about proposed rates on daily greens fees and memberships for 2020. There were suggestions that weekend morning rates at River Heights should not be lowered during the summer, but perhaps seasonal rates during April and May and again in the fall should be considered. Mr. McMahon and Mr. Teresinski both suggested that the passes are a good deal and a 5% increase is not out of line.

Mr. McMahon suggested a cart pass or a cart punch card so that if you buy 10 and get the 11th free.

VI. New Business

a. Discussion of Next Meeting

Chair Grada noted that since the committee is scheduled to present at the meeting on the 19th that perhaps moving the committee meeting to Monday, December 16th would be beneficial. Mr. McMahon asked if there would be a draft available to review. Mr. Eaton stated that Ms. Kremenec would have a draft of the report for the committee to review on that date. There was a consensus among the committee to move the meeting to December 16th at 6:00 p.m. at River Heights Clubhouse.

a. Discussion of Golf Report Presentation

Chair Grada discussed the report and stated that the plan was that each of the leaders of the sub areas would present their topic at the meeting. Further conversation about this will be held at the meeting next week.

VII. Adjourn Public Meeting

Mr. Holliday made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. McMahon. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.