



ROHNERT PARK GOLF COURSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, 5:00 PM

Public

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present:

Susan Harrow

Gerry Burr

Michael Harrow

Janis Brokaw

5:00pm meeting start

Staff Attendees: Marcela Piedra (City Manager), Vanessa Garrett (Director of Public Works), Tom Kelley (General Services Manager), Joe Hanson (Parks Supervisor), Ashley Cotter, (Management Analyst)

CourseCo Attendees: Tom Bugbee (COO, CourseCo) and Christopher Gay (General Manager, Foxtail)

Liaison attendees: Golf Course Superintendent, Jeff Sutherland, Mike Thompson, Samantha Rodriguez (mayor)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the meeting minutes July 5th, 2022, as October, Q4 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum

Motion to approve: S Harrow seconded, by J Brokaw.

Motion carried by the following 4-0-0 vote: AYES: S Harrow, J Brokaw, G Burr, M Harrow, NOES: None, ABSTAINS: none.

4. COURSE UPDATE

Tom Bugbee and Chris Gay provided updates on work to be done to the course and exciting upcoming projects: renovating 29 bunkers on the North Course, an update to the driving range to include the installation of Top Tracer (similar to Top Golf), and an updated food and beverage area, as well as cart path work to be done on the north course. The cart path updates are going to start on Wednesday, 2/8/23. Mr. Bugbee further expanded on what the Top Tracer upgrades would look like: every driving range stall would have a screen that would be programmed to accommodate golfers of all levels, and that they are looking forward to using this in community programming for charity fundraisers and events, as well as becoming more of a family fun center. Additionally, Foxtail will be used for NCAA Open in May that Sonoma State will be hosting.

Discussion:

G Burr: how much of the driving range is going to be taken over by this?

T Bugbee: The driving range will remain relatively the same, we are just installing screens in the stalls.

M Harrow: How are these protected?

T Bugbee: encased locks and other means of protection

S Harrow: How does it function?

T Bugbee: The technology includes radar detection, which is built into the electrical, so you won't see them but you'll be able to look at your stats on the screen, and they will have internet connectivity as well.

S Harrow: Can you send your stats to your email?

T Bugbee: Yes you can!

S Rodriguez: How often is this system down for repair or damage? Is there a rate?

T Bugbee: We don't have a rate, but this isn't brand new technology, we've been following it for a while, it seems like the biggest problems users have encountered is a damaged screen from swings, etc. We aren't using wireless because of connectivity concerns, so this will be highly efficient.

M Harrow: How many golf courses have this technology in the area?

T Bugbee: McInnis Golf Center in San Rafael has it, but none in the immediate area. We're excited to bring this to the area and generate a lot of new activity. Golf has had a boom since Covid – looking at studies, approximately 36 million people participated in golf – 12 million play only golf, 12 million play both Top Golf and conventional golf, and 12 million only

play Top Golf related activities – so essentially, we are increasing our audience by capturing an additional 33% of the golf playing population by offering this.

S/M Harrow: This sounds great!

J Brokaw: I'm assuming this isn't inexpensive

T Bugbee: That's correct, but we're investing in this course, a higher participation is expected, and also enhancing the food and beverage space, having more family-oriented activities, etc.

Chris also provided some additional information on the course: the 4th quarter numbers look good, projections are about 10% reduction in rounds played but still over 2019 numbers by a large margin. October had good weather, but November and December were rainy. Black Friday is usually a very busy day, but unfortunately it was raining. Foxtail is still running youth programs, and it's exciting because quite a few participants end up continuing onto High School level golf. Regarding staffing, a few changes: Matt Anderson left for a new opportunity, so Jason Bennett has been promoted, but he doesn't have his PGA Certification yet, but is working on it. Megan Bianchi was previously the food and beverage manager, but accepted a position in Petaluma, so Michael Aristondo will be replacing her. He comes with a lot of great experience so we are excited! Regarding players club membership fell a bit compared to 2021, but their numbers are still good. Sunset membership and annual memberships continue to grow. Foxtail also offered a Halloween Family Fun night, that had an estimated 250-300 people in attendance, we offered finger foods and trick or treating, it was very well attended. Foxtail also hosted it's first Veteran's Day breakfast. Maintenance wise – general maintenance was completed in Q4 – north greens aeration was completed on 10/3, postponed from 9/6 due to high heat, cart path edging, bunker maintenance, and several irrigation repairs were completed. The Q4 storms brought in a good amount of debris that was cleaned up as well.

Discussion:

G Burr: The Veteran's Day breakfast was really nice!

S Rodriguez: my niece went to the Halloween Family Fun night and she loved it!

T Bugbee: that's why we do these events, golf courses can be intimidating but if you get kids out there, it's fun!

S Rodriguez: This is great exposure for more longer-term players!

J Brokaw: Especially with the new games, I can see my teenage grandsons out there already!

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. None

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Fall and Winter Maintenance Summary Report – presented by Tom Kelley. It was decided to look at only the current condition of the golf course, so only the Winter Report was reviewed.

Tom: Discussed the course with players, always get great reviews for staff, everyone loves you guys, wanted to make sure that gets addressed since it's not part of the course report.

Went out to the course with Joe, who will be taking over for me when I retire in a few years. There was some huge storms in Q4, and was amazed at how good the course looks overall. I know a lot of work went into it to get it playable condition. On the South Course there are some tree branches down on hole 10 and along the Smart Train path. Cart paths have been cleared and edged. The infrastructure on the South Course does need some help, the bunkers are in poor condition, but they have been edged and most are weed free. The North Course overall looked good. Cart Paths are looking good, there were some repairs to Hole 10, hopefully this year/next year we can start working on Hole 11, with the goal of asking for more money to dedicate to this, as all the cart path funding is going towards South Course. There shouldn't be a lot of overall improvements until the Spring. The pro shop also looks really well organized and inviting.

Discussion

J Brokaw: I golfed the south course today, lots of standing water on the cart paths

J Sutherland: We got two inches of rain over the weekend

T Bugbee: The ground is already so saturated from previous rain events

G Burr: Are there new people installing holes on the green? Some fills are ¼ to ½ inch off the ground, as seen in this photo.

J Sutherland: We can take some sand and level it. On Saturday we took some new people out to fix some spots.

G Burr: On hole #6 there also seems to be no tee boxes

J Sutherland: Those were stolen, we just got the new ones in, and they should be installed shortly.

T Kelley: Is this the best way to address these issues? Players coming to you directly?

Chris: Yes, tell us! We have turnover with some new staff that will have to learn some new skills, but always let us know.

M Harrow: Anything else?

J Brokaw: The ninth hole is also missing a red stake.

J Sutherland: That was also stolen, will get to fixing that in the spring time.

G Burr: With the NCAA tournament coming up that will definitely be marked.

- b. Discussion and Direction: Scheduling Committee Meetings for Remainder of 2023: Staff Recommendation: Q2: April 4, 2023, Q3: July 18, 2023, Q4: October 3, 2023

Discussion:

J Brokaw: I won't be here for 2 out of the three

S Harrow: Let's change one then, assuming the vacant seat is filled by the next meeting.

M Harrow: Can the staff suggest other dates?

V Garrett: For Q4 we can change it to Wednesday October 17th

S Harrow: Then let's keep the recommended April and July dates suggested, and change to October 17th for Q4.

c. Building Condition Assessment for Golf Course Buildings

V Garrett: I wanted to present some information received on both of the golf course buildings from the building condition assessment the City commissioned. We hired a consultant who reviewed 61 facilities. The inspectors captured everything that they can see, so it didn't necessarily capture anything underground. They also used an A-D grading system. Grade A is good condition, and has few complaints, Grade D is in critical condition, that has many complaints and failures that cause the building to shut down while in repair. A lot of the City's well sites are in critical condition. Here, at the Golf Course, we redid the roof because it was at the end of its useful life, as well as addressed the HVAC. Part of the assessment is understanding where we need to act in order to address items before they fail.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS & REQUESTS

G Burr: The bridge situation on south hole 4&6 is a safety issue

T Kelley: next meeting we will all go out and look at it, and come up with some solutions

J Brokaw: Women's restroom has a seat that needs adjusting in ADA Stall

Chris: Will do

Next meeting: April 4th, 2023 at 5pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT

M Harrow moves to adjourn, S Harrow seconds, meeting adjourns at 5:47 pm.



Vanessa Garrett, Public Works Director
City of Rohnert Park



Michael Harrow, Chair
City of Rohnert Park