

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

January 9, 1995

Called to order by Chairman Jamie Hamilton at 7:00 p.m.

ITEM 1 ROLL CALL

Board Members present: John Gormley
 Jamie Hamilton
 Dennis King
 Karen Madsen
 Keith Mumby

Members not present: Frank Dunn
 Dr. Lynn James

Staff present: Erik Joe Stevens, Director
 Doug Jones, Golf Superintendent
 Keri Bailey, Secretary

ITEM 2 MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE FEES FOR 1995

Jamie Hamilton, Chairman, introduced the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He informed the group that the Advisory Board has made a recommendation to the City Council on all of the Department fees excluding golf. Jamie said the board needs to take action soon on the golf fees.

Joe Stevens said he appreciated the participation of the individuals who were in the focus groups. He said the focus groups met to discuss the golf course fee issues, and were made up of golfers and non-golfers. Joe said the debt on the land and clubhouse at Tiara Rado has been refinanced from 5 years to 15 years, which will help ease some monetary problems. Joe told the group that golf was previously projected to grow more than it has, and the growth will level off.

Joe Stevens informed the group of staff recommendations for the 1995 fee structure which includes an unlimited and limited season ticket which is valid Monday through Thursday and after 2:00 p.m. during central standard and after 12:00 p.m. during non-daylight savings time on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Joe said the golf courses operate on an enterprise philosophy, which means no tax dollars are spent and it pays for itself. The fees are projected to increase 4% annually after 1995.

The following comments were made by the group:

The Grand Valley Senior Golf Association asked the board if it will take their proposal into consideration.

Why does the City charge the golf courses interest?

Every 1 in 5 older Americans are poor or near poor.

The golf courses were paying for themselves 7 years ago, what happened?

Three golf members should sit on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Why do City employees receive discounts on season tickets?

Mesa County donated \$59,300 in lottery funds to the City in 1993, and \$24,000 as of July 1994.

The head golf pro makes \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year. Jack Sommers said he does not make this much and would be happy to sit down with anyone to go over his tax returns and books.

It would be cheaper to hire pros to run the clubhouse.

Do the golf courses have a budget? Doug Jones said he does have a budget, and he follows it but sometimes emergencies come up (such as a pump going out in 1994) and he has to overexpend.

Mulligans Restaurant can be used by anyone without a fee. Why should the golfers pay for that?

The golf course should be audited every year. The golfers should be given receipts, and a carbon copy saved for the audit. Not that anyone is stealing money.

The land for Lincoln Park Golf Course holes 2,3 and 4 was given to the City by the Veteran's Administration.

If Friday mornings are taken away our Friday morning golf group will not be able to meet. We were already moved off of Tuesdays because of golf tournaments.

You are penalizing members. You receive a lot of dollars up front from members. Non-members should be charged 75 cents more.

Golfers should take a vote on whether they want the land or not.

Greatest amount of golfers are nonresidents. Why should we subsidize resident golfers?

If golf courses are not funded by taxes, why are nonresidents segregated and charged more.

If the City decides not to build a golf course on the land at Tiara Rado, where will the money go?

Why aren't you offering a "senior" season ticket? This is discriminating against seniors.

It looks as if the City believes revenue is down due to season ticket holders. Payroll costs and capital costs are up significantly and seem to be the problem.

Maintenance should be a priority of the golf courses.

Would the City Council be willing to take over the debt of the land?

A par 3 golf course should be built on the land.

Advertise when the new golf course will be built. In five years it may not be the best use for the land. Don't tear apart the golf course.

The land is the biggest issue. Until this issue is resolved the fees can't be set.

Maintenance should not be cut. We have the best maintenance crews now. Doug Jones and his crew do a great job. Jack Sommers is a good professional and I'd hate to see that change. The main

problem is the 80 acres. The City paid too much. You shouldn't ask the users to carry the debt service. You should ask the City Council to change its policy and pay for the land.

Juniors should pay the same amount as seniors.

Taking away Fridays is self defeating. People who work do not play on Friday morning.

You should have a family plan. Give families a break on the cost.

My house is now in the city limits and one of the advantages is paying less for golf.

Seniors aren't raising children and most can afford the rate increase.

Jamie Hamilton thanked the group for their comments and said the board would take their concerns into consideration before making a recommendation. The board will make their recommendation to the City Council next week at their regular board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keri Bailey
Administrative Secretary