



Minutes Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board – Golf Subcommittee February 21, 2024

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board – Golf Subcommittee meeting held on February 21, 2024, 4:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting- Tempe Public Library, 2nd Floor Board Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ, and virtual through Microsoft Teams.

Members Present:

Lane Waddell – Chair
Susan Carlson – Vice Chair
Thomas Klabunde
Shereen Lerner
Mary Farmer

Members Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director – Parks (Staff Liaison)
Craig Hayton, Community Services Director
Julie Hietter, Community Services Administration Manager
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director – Recreation
Shelbie Meyer, Management Assistant

Guests Present:

Jake Hoselton, Grass Clippings

Upon the establishment of a quorum, meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Alex Jovanovic.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Subcommittee Officers

Motion by Alex Jovanovic to establish a Chair and Vice Chair position through a motion on the floor. Thomas Klabunde motioned to nominate Lane Waddell as Chair; second by Shereen Lerner. Motion passed on a 5-0 vote; Lane Waddell as Chair. Lane Waddell called the nomination of a Vice Chair. Mary Farmer motioned to nominate Susan Carlson as Vice Chair; second by Shereen Lerner. Motion passed on a 5-0 vote; Susan Carlson as Vice Chair.

Agenda Item 3 – Scope of Subcommittee

Julie Hietter discussed the scope, background, and the purpose of the golf subcommittee. Julie also distributed handouts to the board from Ken McDonald that listed all of the upcoming events .

- Julie informed the board about the public private partnership objectives and background on the golf model.
- She discussed how the business model type changed from a management agreement to a long-term lease where a company is hired to run operations.
- Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - The parameters of the decision making of the golf course.
 - The operational decisions left with the companies (CourseCo & Grass Clippings).
 - City of Tempe's responsibility of capital projects now that it is a long-term property lease agreement.
 - Whether the irrigation at Ken McDonald is 100% covered by the City of Tempe.
 - Hopes *all* elements are written on Parks & Recreation Plans, in reference to inclusiveness and recreation for all.
 - Discussion about the agreement between the City of Tempe and respective golf course companies. Additional conversation about areas within the contracts.
 - Discussion about community golf versus community recreation.
 - Curiosity about Tempe Union High School District's presence at Ken McDonald and Rolling Hills.
 - Discussion of the items and topics that the golf subcommittee is hoping to resolve with Grass Clippings regarding the zoo, par 4 to par 3, and course name.

Agenda Item 4 – Grass Clippings

Jake Hoselton, Grass Clippings, presented to the subcommittee about Grass Clippings Rolling Hills Hole 1 update and Hole 3/Zoo situation and solution.

Regarding Hole 1:

- Grass Clippings will complete construction and fencing in December 2024.
- Food and beverage cart caused hole 1 to shorten causing it to be a par 3 temporarily.
- Due to negative feedback, there is now a temporary tee box reinstating it as a par 4.
- The intention is to restore the tee box as it was in the past.
- Once the food/beverage amenity/clubhouse, hole 1 will go back to its original format.
- Estimated completion is June 2024.

Regarding Hole 3/Zoo:

- Phoenix Zoo is hoping for a solution to the ongoing issue of the golf balls going over the fence-line from Hole 3. This ongoing issue is considered a hazard to the employees, animals, and zoo property.
- The cause identified as the Hole 3's length, angle, and proximity to the Zoo property.
- Previously a net was suggested to mitigate the issue, but the net was estimated at \$2 million.
- Proposed par 3 tee box and operating as a par 3 temporarily instead of par 4.

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- Zoo provided documentation via email that there is a large reduction of golf balls entering the area compared to before.
 - Grass Clipping's initial proposal was to permanently implement Hole 3 as a par 3 to ensure the health and safety of Zoo employees, animals, and property as there is a liability/risk issue as well.
 - Board members asked questions and made comments about:
 - The significant reduction by cutting the course down by 150 yards to be a par 3.
 - If Hole 3 will be the only hole changing from a par 4 to a par 3.
 - Discussion whether par reduction will also happen to other holes.
 - If the Zoo has issues will Hole 4 balls going into their property/animal enclosures.
 - Curiosity how the City navigated the tee box/zoo issue prior to Grass Clippings.
 - Whether other alternatives were looked at rather than changing Hole 3 from par 4 to par 3. Perhaps reorganizing the yardage/orientation of the course or if it could be potentially moved to the back 9 instead.
 - Board should be taking a holistic view of golf range/hole 3 issue and should also be looking at the driving range.
 - Looking to the subcommittee to work through the agenda item issues and report back to the board to take action.

Agenda Item 5 – Ken McDonald Clubhouse

Craig Hayton presented an update on the reconstruction of Ken McDonald Clubhouse – background and next steps.

- Construction could start as soon as summer of 2025.
- The plans are in the conceptual design phase.
- Pulling from public input from 2016 and 2022.
- Discussion whether the clubhouse will be completely knocked down and renovated.
- Possible expansion of parking lot area near adjacent homes.
- There are two public meeting opportunities on February 28 (one in-person, one virtual).
- Public comment period will be from February 28th through March 20th.
- This information will aid in refining the conceptual plan and develop cost estimates

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

Lane Waddell proposes the board keeps the agenda general/broad to just Glass Clippings at Rolling Hills and Ken McDonald. The board could choose to have itemized issues to touch on individually instead of fragmentary.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Prepared by: Shelbie Meyer, Management Assistant II, (480) 350-8353

Reviewed by: Alex Jovanovic, Deputy Community Services Director- Parks, (480) 350-5811