

Sunflower Hills Golf Course Advisory Board

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday June 13, 2017

Sunflower Hills Golf Course Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order by Tom Roberts

Members Present: Tom Roberts, Jesse Rocha, Tom Cooley, Kevin Jones, Roger Miller, Jeff Manning, Mark Mohler, David McLain, Dennis McWilliams, Al Ramirez, Chris Bergman

Members Absent: Matt Palcher (excused), Clyde Townsend (excused)

Staff present: Jeff Johnson, Jonathan Bennett

Kevin Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2017 meeting. A second was made by Mark Mohler.

Jeff Johnson informed the board that original board member, Gene Reynolds, passed away 2 weeks ago due to complications from a surgery. Gene had been a board member since the boards inception representing the City of Bonner Springs. Al Ramirez has been appointed to replace Gene by the Mayor of Bonner Springs, Jeff Harrington. A moment of silence was held in Gene's honor.

Jonathan Bennett reported that long time employee, Scott Saragusa, had accepted a position as the third assistant at Indian Hills Country Club. Scott has worked in a variety of positions at Sunflower Hills for over 25 years. Currently, Scott was replaced by a junior college golfer who has worked with machinery before and has done a very good job in replacing Scott. Parks and Recreation has also provided two part time workers for the summer.

Jonathan stated that the course is holding up very well. His major concern this time of year is with the irrigation system. Jonathan stated that he monitors it daily. With the weather turning hot it is important that the system works efficiently.

Jonathan stated that the greens will be softer and slower during the hot months in order to keep them from burning. It is critical that they are kept in this condition for their overall health. Jonathan also stated that over 60 acres of the course were treated in the fall for clover infestation. He also stated that a few weeks ago he sprayed additional clover spots in the fairways.

Jonathan stated that the wall project on #13 is currently on hold until the fall when there will be more time to remove the old rail road ties and drain the pond down so the new rocks can be put in place.

Jonathan reported that a major hailstorm hit the golf course and damaged #6,#7,#8,#9 greens and the putting green. Those greens were top dressed with sand and healed within 5 days. The maintenance building took the most damage with all of the sunlight panels in the ceiling all being broken. Bids are currently being taken to replace them.

Jonathan reported that at least 35 trees were removed during the winter and early spring. Over 70% of the trees were dead. The others were ash trees that had not previously been treated and were starting to die. Jonathan did state 91 Ash trees had been treated in the month of May. He also stated that at least 20 more trees need to be taken down this coming winter.

Tom Roberts asked if the treatment on the trees was working and Jonathan remarked that he believed that the treatments are doing some good.

Dennis McWilliams remarked that the course is in outstanding condition and the groups he plays with all agree.

Tom Roberts commented on the drainage projects on holes 1,6,11 and 12. He felt that what was done has done the job. The rocks around the drains also make it look better.

Jeff Johnson reported to the board that new golf carts arrived the first week in June just in time for the busy tournament season. Jeff reported that during the months of January and February all of the old golf carts were inspected and tested to see if the old fleet could make another year. It was determined at that time that there would have to be approximately \$20,000 spent on the fleet to make them functional for the season.

Jeff reported this to Mike Tobin and suggested to Mike that we look into leasing the next fleet and do it right away. Mike concurred and budget and administration approved as well. Jeff contacted EZGO and the process was begun on March 1st. After a few delays because of language in the contracts, everything was finalized and the carts have now been in operation since June 5th.

Jeff reported that rounds and revenue for the first 5 months were down slightly compared to the same time frame in 2016. Jeff stated that there was 11 straight days of rain to start the month of April and a total rainout on the last Saturday of the month. The month of April was down the most of the 5 months.

Jeff reported that there were 6 significant rain events that impacted the numbers for the golf course. There were 4 senior league days, (3 were total rainouts), Good Friday when it rained until 11 am and the Friday before Memorial day, which is traditionally a very busy day.

Jeff continued that the month of June has been off to a very good start and if there are no rain events then it will help push round and revenue past last years.

Jeff reported that junior golf has started and enrollment is slightly down compared to last year. All of the area courses have junior programs now and that has impacted the enrollment numbers.

Dennis McWilliams made a motion to adjourn at 10:20 am and Roger Miller seconded.

Jeff informed the board that the next meeting is Tuesday September 12th at 10 am.