GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

REGULAR MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M.

A regular meeting of the Golf Advisory Committee (GAC) was convened by the Chairman, John McDonnell, at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 7, 2015, in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.

Present, in addition to the Chairman, were Donald A. Terry, Vice Chairman, Lydia F. Bolinger, William L. Herrick, Susan Williamson, and Mary Lou Delpech, ex-officio member and GRF Board representative. Mary Hufford and Stephen D. Roath were absent. Also attending were Mark K. Heptig, Director of Golf; Blake Swint, Golf Course Superintendent; Dickey Nitta, Chief Marshal; and several residents.

The report of the Committee’s regular meeting held on July 10, 2015, was approved as written.

The Chairman reported that visitors from The Villages in San Jose came to Rossmoor to discuss how the golf course managed guest play and general golf course policies. The group also toured the facility and were impressed with the quality of the operation. The Chairman reminded everyone that there is a dress code for the golf course.

During the Residents’ Forum, Marty Foster spoke about his use of the golf course.

Ms. Delpech updated the GAC on the Del Valle Complex renovation project and the search for a new CEO.

In Ms. Hufford’s absence, it was reported that the Women’s 18-Hole Club’s championship tournament will be played this month and that the Club is currently scheduling its activities for next year.

Mrs. Bolinger, Warren’s 9-Hole Club representative, announced that the Club’s Tournament of Champions is this week.

In Mr. Roath’s absence, Mr. Nitta gave the report for the Rossmoor Men’s Golf Club and reported the following: 1) the Club’s membership is up to 386; 2) the July Twilight Event was one of the Club’s largest events with 204 players and 223 attending the dinner afterwards – a good time was had by all; 3) the GRF room reservation process for 2016 is underway; 4) the directory components (member listings and calendar) should be ready for processing by the end of November. Please send the name of each Club’s directory contact to Mr. Roath so the RMGC can coordinate efforts, information, etc. The Club will confirm directory pricing and the tentative production schedule ASAP; 5) the RMGC’s 2015 Stroke Play Champion is a repeat winner, Curtis A. Mitchell, and the 2015 Match Play Champion is David Bosley. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Bosley will receive their green jackets at the 2015 RMGC Awards Ceremony in November, and all members of the Club are invited to attend. For more information, go to the Clubs’ website: www.thegolfclubsatrossmoor.com; and 6) the Directors Cup will
be played over two days in August.

Ms. Williamson, Happy Hackers Golf Club representative, reported the following: 1) the Club currently has 215 members; and 2) the last scramble event was overbooked. 72 players stretched to £2, putting a strain on the after-golf venue for dinner.

Mr. Terry, reporting for the Golf Hosting Program, said that program information will be presented before the Contra Costa Board of Realtors at its meeting in the coming month. Information about the Golf Hosting Program is intended to raise the awareness level of local realtors about Rossmoor.

Mr. Heptig presented the financial report and the Golf Management report (see Staff Reports attached), which included number of rounds played, receipts from golf as well as Pro Shop receipts for merchandise, car rental, club repair, golf lessons, and driving range tokens. He reported that the courses have been extremely busy with several instances of multiple tournaments held in one day. He also reported that rounds of golf played and revenues are both up over last year and that he will be proposing to the GRF Board that annual fees be raised $25-$50 for next year.

In addition, Mr. Heptig announced that Chris Andres in the Pro Shop has entered into the PGA Program and is now able to give lessons. Mr. Andres started working on the range at Rossmoor during high school and is currently an assistant in the Pro Shop. Congratulations Chris!

Mr. Swint presented the Golf Course Superintendent's report, which is attached. The subject of most of Mr. Swint's report centers on the reduction of water usage while saving the critical infrastructure of the course itself. The course continues to suffer as the weeds try to take over and the earth cracks as the moisture leaves the ground. Both conditions require additional measures to prepare for recovery. In the meantime, the course remains vulnerable to any unexpected occurrences, an example of which was a pump station failure so that sections of the already dry areas did not receive the reduced amount of water.

Mr. Nitta reported that a number of people who start playing before the official start time of 7:30 a.m. are causing backups when the official start time begins. Players are currently allowed to start early by signing in on a posted sign-up sheet at the Pro Shop. The problem is being investigated by the Marshals, who will work with Mr. Heptig to find a solution.

The Clubs were reminded to provide names to Mr. Heptig to volunteer for the golf portion of the Rossmoor Games. The GAC will sponsor the putting contest, which was popular at last year's games.
The idea of adding a combination tee component to the golf course was introduced to determine if it would merit further discussion. Combination tees are a part of the overall encouragement by the USGA/NCGA to “play it forward”. The idea is to allow golfers to choose a length of course that would allow them to “reach the green in regulation”. Combination tees are found at many golf courses and “combine” using existing teeing areas to manage the course length. Richard Scheffer from the RMGC Handicap Committee gave a presentation to explain how the new combination tees will work.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday, September 4, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.

John McDonnell, Chairman
Golf Advisory Committee