GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
REGULAR MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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, October 2, 2015, in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.

Present, in addition to the Chairman, were Donald A. Terry, Vice Chairman, William L. Herrick, Mary Hufford, and Mary Lou Delpech, ex-officio member and GRF Board representative. Lydia F. Bolinger, Stephen D. Roath, and Susan Williamson were excused. Also attending were Mark K. Heptig, Director of Golf; Blake Swint, Golf Course Superintendent; Dickey Nitta, Chief Marshal; Fran McDonnell, representing the Women's 9-Hole Club; and Karen F. Wener, the Captain-elect for the Women's 9-Hole Club.

The report of the Committee's regular meeting held on September 4, 2015, was approved as written.

The Chairman reported on the order of the agenda and that the Pro Shop did a great job of setting up the putting contest for the Rossmoor Games. Several brand new residents, also new to golf, tried the challenging course layout and enjoyed the day. The Chairman also thanked those who volunteered to help make the day a success.

Ms. Delpech reported that the GRF Board approved the operating budget for 2016. Ms. Hufford's return was welcomed by the Committee. Representing the Women's 18-Hole Club, she reported that the Charity Tournament raised $9,000 for Hospice. She also reported that the tournament is looking for a lead Club to organize and run the tournament next year as Peggy Yamada will be unavailable to serve as chairman.

In Mrs. Bolinger's absence, Mrs. McDonnell gave the report for the Women's 9-Hole Club and announced that the Club has 167 members. She also introduced Mrs. Wener, the Club's Captain-elect.

In Mr. Roath's absence, Mr. Nitta gave the report for the Rossmoor Men's Golf Club and reported the following: 1) the RMGC membership is 390; 2) there are two Home and Home tournaments remaining for the season, as well as the Beat the Pro Tournament; and 3) the Club's annual meeting will take place on November 9th.

In Ms. Williamson's absence, Ms. Delpech gave the report for the Happy Hackers Golf Club and reported the following: 1) the Club currently has 219 members; and 2) the membership window is now open. Those joining by October will be able to attend year-end events and memberships will extend into the 2016 year.

Mr. Terry, reporting on the Golf Hosting Program, reported that 40 people attended the local Council of Realtors meeting and heard the Golf Hosting Program presentation. He also reported that two families were hosted during the month and that the hosts are
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still a positive group who like introducing potential new residents to Rossmoor.

Mr. Heptig did not have the financial report since the numbers were not available in time for the meeting. The Golf Management report, which is attached, reflected several big tournaments during the month. Mr. Heptig also reported that, at its September meeting, the GRF Board approved all of the budget suggestions that came from the Golf Department, including modest increases in guest fees and annual fees. Proposals for the continuing turf reduction program and funds to fix the cart paths were also approved by the Board, which could be the first of a three-year program to rehab the paths and bring them up to walking path quality.

Mr. Swint presented the Golf Course Superintendent’s report, which is attached. The subject of most of Mr. Swint’s report centered on the reduction of water usage while saving the critical infrastructure of the course itself. He explained that there is a new term to add to our vocabulary, “Primary Turf Area”. This is a designation for when the focus will be on saving turf during the drought, and the need for increased spending on areas that will need long-term adjustments was noted. Mr. Swint explained that the plan focus is beyond the immediate drought and continuing to prepare the course in such a way as to minimize future water use while maintaining a quality facility. The Committee commended Mr. Swint on his comprehensive and effective approach to water management and turf reduction, and his adaptive approach to a very serious combination of problems caused by the drought.

Mr. Nitta reported that Mr. Heptig and the Marshals have noted a player issue that is on watch status. He also reported that the vast majority of the players are cooperative and complimentary of the assistance the Marshals provide.

The Committee reviewed a narrative long-range plan that was developed in 2010 as part of an overall community wide effort to provide input regarding particular areas of interest. The appendix listing for golf described a number of items. It was noted that many of those items were completed. The appendix to the long-range plan should not be confused with the Long-Range Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan that also has line items the golf program is likely to need in the future. The Committee will review the Long-Range Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan and budget in the near future.

The Committee requested that future meeting dates be changed and that meetings be held on the second Friday of the month rather than on the first Friday of the month. Changing the date of the Committee’s monthly meetings would allow time for the financial reports to be available. The Chairman said that he will make the request to the GRF.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.
The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday, November 13, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.

John McDonnell, Chairman
Golf Advisory Committee

JM/kv