GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

REGULAR MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016, 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, March 11, 2016, in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.

Present, in addition to the Chairman, were Lydia F. Bolinger, William L. Herrick, Mary Hufford, Stephen D. Roath, Donald A. Terry, Susan Williamson, and Mary Lou Delpech, ex-officio member and GRF Board representative. Also attending were Leslie Birdsall, President, GRF; Timothy O’Keefe, CEO; Mark K. Heptig, Director of Golf; Blake Swint, Golf Course Superintendent; Dickey Nitta, Chief Marshal; and one resident.

The report of the Committee’s regular meeting held on February 12, 2016, was approved as written.

During the Residents’ Forum, Clair S. Weening brought to the Committee’s attention the 12% discount offered by Verizon Wireless to members of the Northern California Golf Association.

Ms. Delpech reported that the GRF Board approved the repairs needed for the Hillside Clubhouse and also approved a Request for Proposals for a Project Manager/Owner Representative for the Del Valle renovation project.

Ms. Hufford, representing the Women’s 18-Hole Club, reported that the Club has 120 members, and the first tournament of the season will be later in March.

Mrs. Bolinger, representing the Women’s 9-Hole Club, reported the following: 1) the Club currently has 151 members; 2) the Club’s general meeting is scheduled for March 17th; and 3) the Spring Fling, a combined Club event, will be held on April 7th.

Mr. Roath, representing the Rossmoor Men’s Golf Club, reported the following: 1) the Club’s first tournament of the year will be a four-man scramble on March 16th; 2) the email blast notification of events now includes an activity calendar, which shows the next month’s events as well as the one being announced; 3) there is a new webmaster, as the current one is set to retire; 3) all of the Clubs will be asked to participate in the cost of upgrading the website. The Happy Hackers have already approved its share of the upgrade cost.

Ms. Williamson, representing the Happy Hackers Club, reported the following: 1) the Club currently has 150 members; 2) the first Scramble Tournament of the year was rained out; and 3) the Club’s Bylaws have been updated.
Mr. Terry, reporting on the Golf Hosting Program, said that there was an influx of interest in Rossmoor as a result of the golf fair held last fall in Pleasanton. 100 people signed up to participate in the Golf Hosting Program, which is about four times the normal volume. The Pro Shop is coordinating play schedules and, although many people signed up and expressed interest, few actually played. Mr. Terry said he will try to find out why the number of actual players was lower than anticipated.

Mr. Heptig presented the financial report and the Golf Management report, which are attached. He reported that 4,450 rounds of golf were played in February, which is up from the 1,822 rounds played in January. The increased rounds are a result of a break in the weather. Golf course revenue was $62,000, and Golf Shop sales added $50,000. Mr. Heptig also reported that the Pro Shop offered 12 clinic sessions and all of them sold out in 48 hours. A second set of clinics will likely be offered.

Continuing his report, Mr. Heptig said that “The Launch Monitor”, a device that provides feedback to the golfer on how well a ball is struck, has been a huge success and is available for use through the Pro Shop at a nominal cost. He also announced that he is putting together a bus trip to Poppy Hills in Pebble Beach scheduled for August 22nd. Details to follow.

Mr. Swint presented the Golf Course Superintendent’s report, which is attached. Phase Two of the program to reduce watered areas of the golf course is in progress per the Staff’s plan. Though the primary turf area will be maintained, mulch on the course periphery will continue to be used. Even with the rain, water reduction will continue to be a priority going forward. Mr. Swint also reported that two trees were lost on the Dollar Ranch Course during the recent storms. Fortunately, both trees missed the irrigation control boxes that were close by.

Continuing his report, Mr. Swint said that decomposed granite will replace grass in some of the tee box areas. Work is continuing on the cart paths to remove tripping hazards. A concrete pad has replaced decomposed granite by the ball machine at the driving range, which will improve the area where residents use the air hose to clean off debris from equipment.

Mr. Nitta reported that the Marshals are monitoring the “cart path only” rule during heavy rain days. He reminded everyone that players are not to pass one another by going off the cart path, which damages the course. This is known as “leap frogging” and is not permitted. He also reported that the marshals have had to help each other out as two of the Marshals had medical issues that interrupted their scheduled time on the courses. Continuing his report, Mr. Nitta announced that he has donated extra sand bottles that the marshals will be carrying to give to players on the cart paths. The sand bottles, which contain sand and seed, are on the carts at all times. Players are encouraged to use the sand bottles to replace any divot with sand and seed.
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, April 8, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.

John McDonnell, Chairman
Golf Advisory Committee

JM/kv