GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

REGULAR MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017, 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 10, 2017, in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.

Present, in addition to the Chairman, were Donald A. Terry, Vice Chairman, William L. Herrick, Robert L. Montgomery, Susan Williamson, and Mary Lou Delpech, ex-officio member and GRF Board representative. Mary Jane Hargrove and Mary Hufford were excused. Also attending were Leslie Birdsell, President, and Stephen D. Roath, Director, GRF; Timothy O’Keefe, CEO; Mark K. Heptig, Director of Golf; Blake Swint, Golf Course Superintendent; Dickey Nitta, Chief Marshal; Teddi M. Swanson, representing the Women’s 18-Hole Club; and Karen F. Wener, representing the Women’s 9-Hole Club.

The report of the Committee’s regular meeting held on February 10, 2017, was approved with the following correction to the seventh paragraph on page 1 (correction in italics):

“Ms. Hargrove, presenting the Women’s 9-Hole Club, reported the following: 1) the Club has 141 members; and 2) during the Club’s “meet and greet” general meeting, the featured speaker will be Timothy O’Keefe, CEO. Wayne Wackerlin from the Pro Shop and Cathy Steen from the Fitness Center will also demonstrate how to prepare for the golf season.”

The Chairman reported that he, Dennis Bell, Public Safety Manager, and Messrs. Heptig and Nitta, met recently regarding an emergency plan for medical incidents on the golf courses. Details will be discussed later in the meeting.

Ms. Delpech reported that the GRF Board of Directors approved the proposed revised golf rules at its meeting on February 23rd. She also provided an update on the Del Valle Complex Renovation Project and the pending Del Valle pool closure.

In Ms. Hufford’s absence, Ms. Swanson gave the report for the Women’s 18-Hole Club, and reported the following: 1) there are currently 125 members, with 17 new members added since January; 2) the Club has instituted a mentor program to pair an existing member with a new member. The purpose of the program is to help with a new member’s orientation to the Club; and 3) Linda D. Pingatore developed a new member packet that Club members have found helpful.

In Ms. Hargrove’s absence, Ms. Wener gave the report for the Women’s 9-Hole Club and reported that the Club has 141 members.

Mr. Montgomery, representing the Rossmoor Men’s Golf Club, reported that the Club currently has 353 members.
Ms. Williamson, representing the Happy Hackers, reported the following: 1) the Club currently has 135 members; 2) there was a bump in membership since the beginning of the year, with 70 new members added; and 3) the Club's first scramble will take place on March 18th.

Mr. Terry, representing the Golf Hosting Program, did not have a report this month.

Mr. Heptig presented the financial report and the Golf Management report, which are attached. The story, of course, is the unrelenting rain, which has kept the golf course closed throughout much of January and February. This has impacted revenue and sales for golf and the Pro Shop. Unfortunately, work time was reduced for the Pro Shop’s hourly employees. Mr. Heptig said that he has also been kept busy with a number of planning meetings which are detailed in his report. Lastly, he said there will be an increase in activity as soon as the weather improves and the tournament season begins. The first outside tournament is scheduled for March 20th.

Mr. Swint presented the Golf Course Superintendent’s report, which is attached. He reported that the weather station near the pond at Creekside records the amount of rain. He checks the weather station's records daily. Lately, the water accumulation has been enormous. Water drainage and water irrigation are two ongoing projects around the golf course. The grounds crew has put in additional drain lines throughout the golf course to help keep water from sheeting across the fairways and to get the water off the surface and redirected into the creek.

Mr. Nitta gave the Chief Marshal’s report and said the Marshals have reported to him that play on “cart path only” days could be improved if there was a reduction in the number of carts players used. At its last meeting, the GAC voted to recommend two carts per foursome on “cart path only” days. Carts can do substantial damage when the course is soggy and staying on the path is critical. Leapfrogging (i.e., driving around a cart stopped on the path and going onto the course) is strictly prohibited.

Mr. Heptig opened discussion on the Emergency Plan Review and reported on the results of the meeting with Messrs. McDonnell, Nitta, and Bell regarding concerns that the GAC wanted to address: the emergency response plan for medical incidents on the golf course and the protection of the course during off hours and days.

Mr. Heptig presented maps for both the Dollar Ranch Course and the Creekside Course, which showed collection points and access routes for both golf courses. The maps also included the phone numbers for the Pro Shop, Securitas, and the Marshals. Considerable thought and effort was put into the emergency plan. There will be a follow-up meeting with the Marshals, the Chairman, and Messrs. Bell, Heptig, and Nitta to complete the plan. The Marshals will have a copy of the emergency plan on their cell phones as well as a copy in the Marshal’s cart. The Pro Shop will also keep a copy. Discussion followed.
The second issue discussed was regarding protection of the capital investment of the course when the Pro Shop or course is closed or minimally staffed, and a Marshal is not available. Though somewhat rare, it has been noted that there are odd things that residents or guests do on the golf course which can damage the course in substantial ways. This is especially true for the greens, which are very vulnerable to damage. Securitas is very willing to respond to incidents when the course is closed or if the Marshals need help during the day. Discussion among the Committee members followed. It was agreed that the routine order of response to incidents on the golf course is: first, call the Pro Shop who will manage the situation; and second, call Securitas if the Pro Shop is closed.

Mr. Heptig reported that he met with the Chairman and Mr. Montgomery to review the long-range budget plan. This was primarily for the continuing education of the Committee members, who received a report of the meeting.

A discussion of future water needs as part of the long-budget plan led to a discussion of recycled water. Messrs. Heptig and O'Keefe presented a recap of the experience Diablo Country Club has had instituting its recycled water plan, which includes a small onsite treatment facility. They reported that the process of getting approval from the various agencies is a daunting task and the costs involved are considerable. Rossmoor would seem to be suitable place for a recycled water plan when consideration is given to the amount of water that is generated in such a condensed area.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday, April 14, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at Gateway Complex.