

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Hillcrest Golf Club Board of Directors Tuesday March 16, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Hillcrest Golf Club Board of Directors was held at the Hillcrest Golf Club on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. President Brian Dommer called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. The following Board members were present: Bill Warren, Bob Therrell, Brian Dommer, Britt Bassett, Elliott Fitz, Jeff Thompson, Michael Anziano, and William Gwinn. Jesse Larson attended via a video conference link.

The following Hillcrest staff members were present: Amy Moody, Ken Kirby, Lindsay Mattison, and Michael McCloskey.

A. MINUTES

President Dommer asked if there were any revisions to the December minutes. With no changes evident, President Dommer asked for approval of the minutes by general Board consent, which was given.

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This is the time set aside for members to ask questions, share concerns or give ideas to the Board and the Hillcrest staff. There were five members who joined the meeting via the video conference link.

Two members made comments, Rich Hohlhein and Mark Goldfarb. Comments included kudos to the newsletter, clubhouse upgrade, and the simulator. Most of their comments were related to the proposed bylaw change to Section 22 "Directors will serve on the Board without compensation" to add the word "monetary" in front of compensation. They expressed various reasons why this would not be a good idea. (See the New Business section below for Board action on the proposed change.)

C. FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

Amy Moody presented some highlights from the financial report she provided as part of the full board packet.

At the end of February 2021, the cash balance was \$251K, the long-term debt balance was \$774K, and \$46.9k in capital expenditures have been made.

The project to bring fiber internet service to Hillcrest has been slowed after CenturyLink/Lumen added an unexpectedly high amount to the installation costs. We are awaiting new project cost estimates from FastTrack Communications and possibly Verizon.

D. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Michael McCloskey presented details from the report he provided for the monthly board packet.

1. Season Opening Update

Depending on the severity of the predicted storms, Hillcrest may be able to open within a week or two, and almost certainly by the end of the month. The driving range and top 2 putting greens are now open. The lower practice park should open in the next week or two. Because of continuing health limitations due to the Covid pandemic, the initial opening will be a "lite opening" with "grab and go" foods and a 50% max occupancy level.

2. Indoor Golf Simulator

The simulator has continued to see good usage with 371 bookings so far. With the new projector and blinds installed, members are pleased with how it looks and works.

3. Tee-time Ad-hoc Committee

The March Newsletter included a link to the [March Data Dashboard](#) with details and statistics on the very busy 2020 golf season. A Committee meeting has been scheduled and Michael McCloskey has talked with everyone on the committee.

4. Golf Events Schedule

The 2021 [Hillcrest Tournament Calendar](#) has been completed. Last minute sponsorships have been obtained so that all events are now fully sponsored. An additional "Cross the Border" event is still to be scheduled, which will be one day at Pinion Hills and the next at Hillcrest.

Clinics and junior programs are being set up with registrations to be opened soon. With a 5/1 student/teacher ratio, the size of classes meets health restrictions.

5. Season Passes

Through the date of this Board meeting, 472 passes have been purchased which is 44 more passes than at this time last year.

E. GOLF SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ken Kirby presented details and answered questions on the report he provided for the board packet.

Tree removal planned for this off-season has been completed. Final cleanup of the removed trees and stumps is underway. The trees removed will not only help bring back impacted turf but also clear the way for planned cart path renovations.

Aeration of the course is underway which will be followed by sweeping the plugs (cleanup) which helps to break up the winter crust caused by snow cover. Tees and greens will be aerated later this spring when the temperature is more favorable to help speed up the recovery process.

More staff will be starting soon for course cleanup (limbs, cones, etc.) and bunker maintenance.

We have begun receiving water to refill the lakes, and will charge the irrigation system in the next couple weeks prior to reopening.

As a whole the course came out of winter in decent shape, but it did go into winter with a moderate amount of wear from not only the drought but the abundance of play late in the season.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee

Bob Therrell highlighted a few items from the report he handed out that was a "deep dive" into the 2020 financial results that were reviewed in the Finance Committee meeting held on March 13th. The items of note were categorized by financial codes with most of the changes related to Covid restrictions. The largest changes due to Covid were revenue loss from tournament cancellations followed by Merchandise declines and Food & Beverage declines because of clubhouse closure.

2. Grounds Committee

William Gwinn provided a handout from the USDA on Colorado Average Precipitation. While we don't expect any water restrictions this year, the Colorado climate has been drying so that there is concern that water shortages may occur sometime in the future. Ken Kirby discussed how irrigation water comes into the course and is stored in the lake by holes 12, 13, and 17. The lakes by holes 1 and 4 are for esthetics, not storage. Water in the storage lake is shared with FLC, and both the College and Hillcrest have pump-houses between hole 17 and the storage lake.

All are aware that the cart paths have reached their end-of-life. There was a course master plan put together years ago that will be reviewed as part of the design work to determine a new cart path plan. This large renovation project will require bank financing and the Board has targeted 2023 to get the work done. Renovation of the parking lot and other paved areas will likely be done at the same time.

3. Golf Operations Committee

Michael Anziano discussed some items from the report he provided in the board packet such as the need to continue Covid Protocols as required, golf cart usage impacts from single-rider requirements, and the increase in rounds played.

The Committee and Board recognize the frustration experienced by members as they struggle to obtain suitable or desirable tee times. Hillcrest capacity is fixed at 380 players/day. Data has been gathered and ideas collected as to how best to address this which will be reviewed by an ad-hoc committee made up of members, staff, and directors.

Michael Anziano has reviewed the 2021 ASGA Golf Facility Market Trend Watch survey to identify areas of interest to our members and the public which will help in putting together the Spring 2021 Hillcrest Survey.

4. Policy Committee

Bill Warren reported that 37 formal objections were received to the proposed bylaw change which was to add the word "monetary" before the word compensation in Section 22 which currently reads "Directors will serve on the Board without compensation". Most of the comments were received by email and a few by letters dropped off at the clubhouse. The 37 objections fall short of the 20% of membership threshold which would require a vote of the members, therefore it is incumbent on the Directors to decide what to do with this bylaw change recommendation via motion, discussion, and vote.

Jeff Thompson made a motion that the board accept the bylaw changes as proposed. The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued as to how and why the proposal for this change came about, which seemed to be that the transition to the new business structure had been a large amount of work over the last couple of years by the Board which now seems to be levelling off. Discussion was held on the 37 comments received which had been combined and distributed to all Directors by Secretary Bassett in the week before the meeting. Following the discussion, a vote was held with 0 Directors in favor, and 9 opposed. Therefore, the bylaw change is not approved and Section 22 will remain as it is.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Liquor License Modification

Michael McCloskey reported that the paperwork is underway for this change and that all Board of Director Executives will have State of Colorado and City of Durango paperwork to fill out.

H. UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

The next board meeting will be held at the clubhouse on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 at 5:30pm.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill Warren moved to go into executive session. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Submitted by Britt Bassett, Board Secretary