

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Hillcrest Golf Club Board of Directors Tuesday Jun 15, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Hillcrest Golf Club Board of Directors was held at the Hillcrest Golf Club on Tuesday, June 15th, 2021. President Brian Dommer called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. All Board members were present: Bill Warren, Bob Therrell, Brian Dommer, Britt Bassett, Elliott Fitz, Jeff Thompson, Jesse Larson, Michael Anziano, and William Gwinn.

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

A. MINUTES

President Dommer asked if there were any revisions to the May minutes. With no changes, the minutes were approved.

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members present. President Dommer noted that the Board had received fewer email messages this month but are still receiving a few comments about the difficulty in obtaining morning tee times.

C. FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT

Amy Moody was not in attendance this month, so Treasurer Bob Therrell presented the report.

At the end of May 2021, the income statement compared to budget, the balance sheet, and the cash flow are all in good shape. The cash balance was \$314k, the long-term debt balance was \$725k, and \$69.3k in capital expenditures have been made so far this year. Merchandise and Food & Beverage are both performing well with higher returns than projected. More annual memberships are continuing to be purchased.

D. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Michael McCloskey provided the report.

Covid operations continued in May, but transitioned as needed to follow CDC guidelines. Less precautions are in place and a return to near normal operations may occur in June.

The first public health inspection for the kitchen since covid onset was carried out. Only 2 minor issues were reported having to do with signage and paperwork.

All 3 of the PGA Junior Golf Camps have been sold out with 30 on the wait-list. PGA Junior League practices are underway with 14 players. Competition will be held against other Junior League teams including Dalton, Cortez, Piñon Hills, and Riverview.

Seventeen adult clinics have been held by Randy Kahn so far, and all have been sold out.

The new social events (9 & Dine and Sunday Live Music) have been well attended. The most recent Sunday music was more lightly attended likely due to the heat. Some more shades will be purchased to provide additional protected seating areas.

The 4th of July holiday weekend (7/1 to 7/5) is coming up. The first golf shop sale will be held then. If the fireworks occur, the grill will be kept open for food and beverage service for those who come up to Rim Drive to watch the City display.

The Key Performance Indicators are looking good. Food and beverage along with merchandise sales were the biggest losers last year due to covid. So far this year they are performing well. The revenue-per-round numbers are trending in a favorable direction for all segments of the business. Rounds are down slightly from 2020 to a more comfortable level. Tee time utilization is still high - 91% for May after 89% for April. The slight decline from 2020 levels is in afternoon play.

E. GOLF SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

The entire course was fertilized during the last week of May. There are still some fairways not looking good because of the winter freezing, but they are improving. The golf course has finally "come to life" with the improving weather. The rough is really growing so staff is now finding a lot of golf balls! Greens are now fully recovered and "hitting their stride." Staff will work to speed them up for upcoming tournament play.

A leak at the restroom on #17 has been repaired again and hopefully will not be a recurring problem. The cause was a defect in the poly piping.

We are in the process of trimming all sprinkler heads again which takes a couple weeks of intense labor.

We are currently down 1 rough mower and are doing our best to keep up with the growth. The Toro will likely have to be sent out to a specialist shop for repair. We were able to borrow one from the City to help fill in.

With help from the City, we planted 10 new trees. These are placed mostly near #4 and #8 tees so that as they grow, they will help block errant tee shots. These trees were provided by the City of Durango as part of the Tree City U.S.A. program.

Further discussion was held on the more difficult tufted areas around the par 3's because of the differing growth rates of the species of grasses at those locations, and that better etiquette is needed in filling fairway divots and ball marks on the greens.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Golf Operations Committee

Michael Anziano provided the report.

Obtaining ideal tee times is still challenging, but somewhat more have been available. Lots of club fittings for various vendors have taken place and more are scheduled. Responses to the survey have been good with over 550 responses so far. The survey will close on June 20th.

There have been a couple of incidents of rude and unsportsmanlike behavior on course. The Board may need further discussion to develop a policy or protocol to address this. We don't have a policy to handle repeat offenders who get initial warnings and then repeat.

The replacement to the lightning alert system is still being researched. A new system may require an annual subscription fee of some kind and will need an Internet connection to tie into net services and club computers.

2. Grounds Committee

Initial research is underway on cart path replacement and repair to parking lot and clubhouse paved areas. Some discussion was held on how to replace the cart paths while keeping much of the course open. Discussion of forming a Cart Path Committee to finalize design and get construction bids.

3. Policy Committee

Bob Therrell reviewed and answered questions on the new Cart Shed Lease Agreement. A motion was made and seconded to approve the new Cart Shed Lease Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob then reviewed and answered questions on the new Private Golf Vehicle License Agreement. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Private Golf Vehicle License Agreement with a \$25 annual license fee starting in 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

4. House Committee

The exterior furniture has received many compliments and is being well used. There is money in the budget for a few more furniture pieces so specific needs are being considered. The patio deck carpet has now been installed.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Improved Broadband Connectivity

Fasttrack has provided a draft of the service contract for review by staff and Verizon. The contract price came in lower because of less construction than planned. Monthly service costs for a 5-year term will be lower than with current, lower bandwidth service. Some initial planning for cutting over to the new service is underway with the club's IT consultant. Public wi-fi is being planned as part of this new service.

2. Upgraded Liquor License

The completed liquor license upgrade application has been submitted. La Plata County will review the application before sending it on to State.

H. UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

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

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session to discuss proposals received for leasing a solar electric system for the clubhouse roof. The motion passed unanimously. The Board was in executive session from 7:25 to 7:50pm.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Submitted by Britt Bassett, Board Secretary