

**CITY OF COPPERAS COVE**  
**GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD COURSE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 7, 2016**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Regular Meeting was called to order at 1:31 P.M. by Sandy Vegh, Chairperson

**B. ROLL CALL**

Matt Russell – City Council Liaison –Present  
Dan Yancy - City Council Liaison –Present  
Joe Brown- Dir. Parks & Rec. - Present  
Mike Chandler, GC Staff Liaison - Excused  
Sandy Vegh - Present  
Cody Fox - Present

Donna Sadd - Present  
Gordon Irwin - Present  
Craig Foster – Present  
Frank Somera Jr. - Present  
Marc Payne– Present

**C. ACTION ITEM-**

1. **INTRODUCTIONS-** Ed Thompson, the new president and his wife Peggy Thompson, the new secretary of the Golf Association, were introduced.

Nic Cantrell, from Stephenville, was introduced as our new Superintendent of Recreation.

Dan Yancy was introduced as a second City Council Liaison.

Public Works Director, Daryl Uptmore, was also introduced.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-** Once a typo in paragraph 1 of page 2 was changed to read: "The fiscal year is October 1 to September 30th", Frank motioned to accept the minutes of November 5, and Gordon seconded. Minutes approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS-** Matt mentioned that the By-Laws of Recreation Services were approved by the Council, and asked if the Golf Course By-Laws were, or whether it was attached with Parks and Rec. Joe will check as to whether they were approved by a rider.

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **EMERGENCY BUDGET ITEM- DAM #8- Joe Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation,** Dam #8 is still a point of contention. Joe met with superintendants James Mullin from the Streets Dept., and Daryl Uptmore of Public Works. Based on the last meeting, he spoke with Andrea about getting the bridge fixed through the Economic Development Corp. (EDC) as a staple to the City, and it was well-received. It's going to have to go on the ballot and we will have to work with Andrea to look at emergency monies to get these thing executed and then it possibly would go on the ballot as an EDC item, and City Council would vote on it as a resource to the city.

The #5 bridge is also going to be fixed, by sticking with what was previously used and emulating the repairs. Within the next month, and with Public Works help, you will see that bridge cut in half to get it up and running again.

Craig asked whether the bridge at the #6 tee box would also receive repairs, but Joe replied that the footers are solid and in good shape, and to cut it out and re-do would cost \$1500.00.

Regarding repairs on #8, Joe said that he's coordinating with James Mullin to set up cameras under the dam to find out what type of failure we have. James has good ideas on pulling off the cap and filling it with stone. We'll get more details over the next few weeks.

April and May will find much more cart traffic, so it's imperative to pinpoint the problem. Certain golf course projects will be addressed in certain months. In July and August we'll collaborate with Public Works to have the two ponds dug out. Because it will be dry, it may be a good time to do #8 as well. Based on the camera footage, an excavator will be brought in to pull out the one cap and backfill it to make it safe.

James pointed out that #8 also doesn't have safety rails on either side, so additionally; side walls will have to be built up 1-2 feet to serve as cart boundaries.

Marc mentioned that we should get it engineered. Daryl stated that they had an expert come in and, just to start, we'd be spending \$40,000.00. However, we have already been provided the intelligence to do it in-house and Joe, Daryl and James feel confident they could do the job at far less cost.

Marc mentioned perhaps using a reinforced earthen wall, where the bridge and dam would be separate. That might not be needed however, once a crushed water tube is replaced with a larger one to keep a constant water level. Cameras will be set up to find out where it's crushed and to what extent.

## 2. **PRIORITIES LIST-**

**a. Signage Committee Report- Marc Payne, Member-** Marc deferred to Donna. In speaking with James Mullin, we can get the locations close to where we wanted. A total of four signs: 1) at the intersection of Wolfe and Joe's Road pass the RR tracks; 2) at Joe's Road and Hawk Trail, near Southern Nights on the right grassy side; 3) at 1118 Hawk Trail, across from Golf Course Road (because a sign could not be added perpendicular to the yield sign); and 4) James is adding to an existing sign at Golf Course Road.

There is no cost for signage, but 3 poles, 3 posts locations, cement, and 8 clamps will cost \$171.64. We can choose either blue or green backgrounds

with white lettering. Green complies with TxDOT state requirements. Lead time is about 1 1/2 weeks.

The Solid Waste Department will also make arrangements with the nearby apartment building on Golf Course Road to have bulk trash placed elsewhere, so as not to be seen en route to the golf course.

Joe mentioned that James is doing a great job with signs for the Parks Department. Approximately 5,000 old stickers were found that say "Parks & Recreation" (and "Golf Course"), which will be attached to their Parks signs branding them with the logo. Joe suggested that we do the same with the golf course signage for consistency.

The idea of selling the stickers in the pro shop was declined; however, we can use them as giveaways.

Frank moved for a vote to approve the signs, and Sandy seconded. The signage was approved and will be charged to the Golf Course.

**b. Short Game Report- Cody Fox, Assistant Chairperson,** Cody has had a difficult time trying to get Dave or Eddie Pelz on the phone regarding a cheaper way to go than the \$22,000.00 quoted for turf padding. However, he and Mike might have a way to do it and save a lot of money. A spot could be located and then stakes can be run at 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 yards and hit to a green. It's not very expensive and Mike advised that we could easily build it up.

Currently in spring, a lot of kids' golf teams come out and use 9 or #1 holes and pound away at them.

Joe added that's another reason why we've got to get some youth golf here, and reported that Davis has been tasked to produce a quarterly golf program.

Having a 6-8 week youth golf initiative, will help us in grant work. Currently, we are missing the boat in attracting families to the golf course. There's a lot of stuff on the Metro Parks in Cleveland where they do something quarterly, like a parent caddy, and it gets the entire family involved in golf. It doesn't have to be the Junior Pro-am, but we could very easily have recreational introduction to golf, what's a golf league look like?

Cody mentioned the Beltway Juniors tours and asked whether we could bring a tournament here in the summer and fall, using the Lampasas course as well. There are so many tours out there of which we don't take advantage.

Cody remarked that all we needed was a piece of green, and Craig added that it could even be driven to by cart past the water tank. The only dead space mentioned was by the cart sheds right where you drive up. A net

would be needed for hook shots. Cody also said that in Missouri City they had a little green next to the driving range one could chip up to, and that even Cottonwood in Waco has one.

Because range balls would be used, Gordon asked whether we could put a green at the right side of the driving range, and suggested having 2-3 tee boxes specifically earmarked for it. Cody thought the idea would be perfect.

## **E. NEW BUSINESS-**

**1. City Manager Report, Joe Brown, Director of Parks & Recreation, [Handout: November's City Manager Report]** This report, which gets sent to Andrea, is a summary, one month at a time look of Parks and Recreation and the Golf Course. The report was started in the beginning of the fiscal year in October, which breaks down line by line. For instance, the golf course shows revenue by month, special projects that are golf course related, activities projected for next month, and volunteer support.

Ninety percent of staff of Parks and Rec. and the Golf Course was not certified in CPR or first aid. Everyone will be certified now.

Every time this board meets, Joe will have a City Manager Report for us to track as the year goes on. Expenses on financial highlights for Parks and Rec. and the Golf Course are merged, but they're working to have a break out for the golf course.

**2. Fence/Hedge Improvement to Farm on Golf Course Road, Frank Somera, Signage Committee,** We are still working on this project. It is a blighted area and doesn't bespeak to a city for family living. We will need to put in some hedges to screen the frontage in fall and winter.

Joe mentioned using Austin stone and planting crepe myrtles at the entrance sign, and will be ready for Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful's planting mission already scheduled for Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. KCCB will get in touch with the golf course.

**3. Watering of Greens, Daryl Uptmore, Director of Public Works,** Daryl stated that the NE Plant had recently undergone a state inspection and passed with perfect marks. With the golf course as a customer, the plant produces an even higher standard effluent, day to day, than the state requires and the parameters are different. For instance, the NH<sub>3</sub> level in the effluent to the golf course, which measures very critical pH and ammonia, pH is around 7.3-7.4. Public Works is bothered by an ammonia level over a 1.0, and usually pulls in numbers such as .127 or .390. The state allows a 1.7, but a 1.10 level will burn the golf course greens. Our ammonia can change a bit because of what's coming in the plant, aeration and such.

This treatment plant is a batch plant, which produces a new batch of effluent every 6 hours. That then goes into an equalization basin, which is 450,000 gallons, and before it goes to the pond to be delivered to the course it is diluted even further.

Public works does a great job in producing a great product 99% of the time. But — because the plant is not manned 24 hours a day, for about \$7,500.00 we could install an instrument as a process control to make sure that the NH3 level never spikes. If it did spike to a Level 1, that bad batch would be pumped into the creek, completely negating the 1 percent chance of burning the greens. Other things cause issues to the greens, but this is one safety measure we can take.

The meter has a set of dry contacts that sends a voltage to the relay and interrupts the pump so it wouldn't let it pump to the golf course, and it would auto-call chief personnel to say there's a high ammonia volume.

Currently, Public Works telephones the golf course if a batch is questionable.

## F. REPORTS-

**1. Joe's Report-** A couple of things are coming up that will affect the golf course immensely. A 13-week advertising campaign will be conducted in movie theaters in Harker Heights and Killeen advertising just the golf course. We'll get sixty screenings of 60 second ads for 13-weeks. [Joe passed examples of the ads that will be shown on the movie screens.] The movie ads are something we've never done before, but could be enormous. Viewers will be instructed to mention a code for a free bucket of balls so that the ads will be quantified for what works. Andrea needs to sign off on the contract.

A meet-and-greet will be held on Fort Hood on January 13<sup>th</sup>, where speed golf will be advertised, along with price points from a golf course perspective.

A Fee addendum was done for the council for Speed Golf. It hasn't been advertised, nor has anyone played it yet.

Talks are in the works for having a Parks & Recreation/ Golf Course Facebook page, which should be enormous and very active. Posts will be added when we fix or change things like the stone that was added to the front or the new playground mulch. The Golf Course will be able to communicate with the community in real time.

The City posted Speed Golf on Facebook.

Between the movie ads, the youth program, and Facebook, it will be cumulative efforts that will get folks to come here, and we still haven't tapped into Ft. Hood yet.

Bids on the restaurant are due on January 11<sup>th</sup>. One well established concessioner in the area should be bidding, and will be able to take the city's liquor license and move forward that way. This should be another huge piece to the whole evolution of getting people here.

Sandy asked about the progress on the restrooms. Two construction companies have come and looked at re-doing them and they have another coming in within the next 2 weeks.

The fence at #10 is gone and it will be raised to 9 feet high so folks don't get hit, and it's going to wrap around the entire restroom. The bottom of the fence will have a space where planter beds of Austin stones will be built and concrete will wrap around the side so no one will step in water or mud.

Sandy mentioned that ladies are uncomfortable using the restrooms, so maybe the EDC can help push repairs through, promoting 'quality of life'. Frank suggested that maybe Monica Brady could help.

A digital magazine will be budgeted for next year, "The Cove Buzz", a quarterly piece that informs about what's going on in Parks and Rec. and the golf course was created. It's posted on Facebook and will be passed out to folks on Ft. Hood on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

With Nic on board to get more involved in the aquatics and the recreational pieces, Joe is working on improving the golf course by setting long and short range goals and objectives by determining what needs to be done on a hole-by-hole basis. He's already spotted many projects that can be done within the budget now such as painting, the front entrance, and replacing the nasty, overgrown bricks and curb stops with Austin stone for consistency. There is much to be done and it will be a matter of prioritizing the tasks.

There was a concern about losing the greens again this year. Mike's efforts will be directed to the course itself.

Youth golf will be a top priority. Cody will give Joe's contact information to the tournament tour people. We could also advertise through the schools. Joe suggested that Cody sit down with Davis because he's got a good handle on kids' golf and what it will take to attract them to the course.

## **G. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

1. City Council's approval of the By-Laws
2. Progress Report on Emergency Budget Item, Dam #8/Bridge #5
3. Progress Report- Short Game
4. Youth Golf Program
5. Living Legacy Program- Trees program for the front 9

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Sandy adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm. The next meeting will be February 4th at 1:30 pm.