



**CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – GOLF COURSES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
September 9, 2009
Melbourne City Hall – Council Chamber
900 East Strawbridge Avenue
Melbourne, Florida**

A meeting of the Golf Courses Advisory Board was held at the Melbourne City Hall, 900 E. Strawbridge Avenue, and this date, called to order by Vice-Chairman Gubbi Sachidanandan at 6:30 p.m.

- 1. All present gave the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. The following members and staff were:**

Present:	Gubbi Sachidanandan	Vice-Chairman
	Robert Paquette	Member
	Jack Bryant	Member
	Penny Goode	Member
	Paul Murray	Member
	Eric Martin	Member
	Mary Ann Bowman	Leisure Services Director
	Robert Nachreiner	Golf Director
	Mark McDavitt	Pro/Mgr., Crane Creek Reserve
	Lynn White	Asst. Mgr. Crane Creek Reserve
	Ed Barbour	Pro/Mgr., Mallards Landing
	Barbara Smith	Principal Secretary

Absent:	John Francey	Chairman
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- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 13, 2009**

Motioned by Goode/Paquette to approve May 13, 2009 minutes.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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NEW BUSINESS

4. Mallards Landing Scramble Request

The Mallards Landing Scramble Committee requested a change to the starting tee time to 8:32 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Paul Murray asked staff why this request was coming before the board. Robert Nachreiner responded that this decision was made several years ago. It was decided that when any group wanted a reserved block of time that it would come before the advisory board to eliminate any perception of staff showing favoritism.

Motioned by Murray/Martin to approve the Mallards Landing Scramble request to change their starting tee time to 8:32 a.m.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. November 11th Meeting – Veterans Day

The board discussed an alternate date to meet since November 11th was a holiday. Board members agreed to change the meeting date to the week before on Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

6. Staff Report

Mr. Nachreiner updated the board on what maintenance has been performed at the courses. At Crane Creek the repair of the bridge has been awarded to Santa Cruz Construction and they have 120 days to complete the project. They are hoping not to remove the bridge but to just jack it up which will have minimal impact on play and should only require a couple of weeks to complete the project. They are waiting for engineering's approval and once they receive that they will proceed forward. He reviewed the maintenance practices that have occurred at both courses. He advised the board that the drainage on the driving range at Crane Creek is working very well.

Mr. Nachreiner announced that Mark McDavitt would be retiring after 31 years, the end of September. Also retiring from Crane Creek will be Butch Latullippe after 28 years, the end of September. Both of these positions will be sorely missed since they have been instrumental at the courses. A part time maintenance worker at Mallards retired August 31st. None of these positions will be replaced in the budget in order to build up the reserves. A reorganization will occur at Crane Creek when Mr. McDavitt retires.

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Mr. Nachreiner informed the board that the online tee-time system will be up the end of the month with a link off the City's web page. This should be a big help and will have the same booking restrictions as there are for phoning in for a tee time. Patrons will have a choice of either using the phone-in or online process for obtaining a tee time.

7. Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communications

James McDonnell, 2247 Woodlawn Circle, thanked the members of the Advisory Board for volunteering their time and talent to help the courses. Mr. McDonnell conducted a survey and believes that if the walking restrictions are implemented it is going to cost the golf courses money. He had 56 golfers take this survey and 15 out of the 56 said they would not be renewing their memberships. He thinks the better way would be to increase the fees for walkers during the four months. He also believes that if you keep walking on the courses and advertise that golfers are allowed to walk, this would bring in more revenue, especially for the annual fee players.

Mr. Nachreiner stated the survey was thorough but that he does not agree with everything. Most people know that walking is allowed but revenue has not picked up. There is also no way to allow the annual fee players walk and not the green fee players. Bottom line, we have to collect revenue somehow or the courses won't survive. Mr. McDonnell doesn't disagree, just disagrees with how it is being done.

Penny Goode asked if the golfers leave where will they go? Mr. McDonnell responded that they would not play at all. He will drop down to once a week from four times a week.

Charles Meeks, 2018 Sierra St. stated that he plays three times a week, can't afford a cart and walks for medical reasons. Mr. Meeks recently paid his annual membership and does not feel that he should be held responsible for that since he will not be able to play if he has to ride.

Gary LeBlanc, 1001 Wildwood Dr. advised that he and his wife became annual members 11 years ago, simply because they could walk. He stated that they would join another course that lets you walk and not renew in Melbourne. He also stated his concerns with the lack of golf carts.

Tom Peceny, 2201 Royal Poinciana Blvd. wanted to relay to the board that he is in complete support of Mr. McDonnell's survey/report. His concern is with the Men's League and said that in their file there is a letter from the City guaranteeing walking permission.

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Vice-Chairman Sachidanandan stated that all comments would be taken into consideration. Robert Paquette asked if reserves were built up, would they consider reversing this decision. Mr. Nachreiner responded absolutely. Mr. Murray asked if they found it to be a bad decision could it also be reversed. Mr. Nachreiner stated absolutely. Jack Bryant inquired if the back nine was available for walkers. Mr. Nachreiner stated yes from 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. This can only be for an hour since the golfers riding will run into them.

Penny Goode is sympathetic and understands with the economy a lot of people have had to give up things that they enjoy and wonders if there is any other way to increase revenues. Mr. Nachreiner responded that they have looked this over greatly and this had the least impact. Also, the walkers can still walk after 11:00 a.m. Ms. Goode stated that she doesn't want to see the golf courses be anything but golf courses.

Eric martin questioned if there was a day during the week that has a slow period in the mornings that could be designated for walkers. Mr. Nachreiner responded not in the winter.

Mr. Sachidanandan reiterated that the board and staff are very flexible and if it is found that the revenues do not increase like they want them to, the situation will be revisited.

8. Adjournment

Motioned by Paquette/Bryant to adjourn.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Mary Ann Bowman, Recording Secretary