



**CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – GOLF COURSES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
November 4, 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 Chairman John Francey at 6:30 p.m.

1. All present gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. The following members and staff were:

Present:	John Francey	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
	Lynn White	Asst. Mgr. Crane Creek Reserve
	Ed Barbour	Pro/Mgr., Mallards Landing
	Barbara Smith	Principal Secretary

Absent:	Gubbi Sachidanandan	Vice-Chairman
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3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 9, 2009

Motioned by Murray/Goode to approve September 9, 2009 minutes.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Mandatory Cart Policy – Winter Months

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Robert Nachreiner relayed a message from Gubbi Sachidanandan; he apologized for not being able to attend, due to a medical procedure. Mr. Nachreiner stated the reason the cart policy was back on the agenda was due to several people speaking to City Council.

Staff wanted to re-address it to make sure this was still the way the board and staff still want to go. Staff recommends no change to the policy.

Penny Goode advised that several people have contacted her and asked why the people who want to walk just can't pay a surcharge. Mr. Nachreiner replied that it would not be enough revenue, however, they can pay the cart fee and choose to walk. Ms. Goode inquired as to how much authority does the advisory board really have. Mr. Nachreiner stated, plenty; City Council not only listens but also relies on their recommendations. Ms. Goode inquired that if the policy doesn't work can they revisit it. Mr. Nachreiner replied absolutely. Chairman Francey asked what the criteria was to go back and re-do the policy. Mr. Nachreiner responded that the criteria would be if the policy were not producing any additional revenue. Chairman Francey asked about a time limit, Mr. Nachreiner stated at least 60 days. Mr. Nachreiner stated that this policy is strictly revenue driven. The golf courses had to borrow about \$125,000.00 from the general fund to cover cash shortages. This shortage has to be made up this year plus meeting the budget. Paul Murray asked why it was on the agenda. Mr. Nachreiner replied it was due to several people showing up at the Council meeting and staff thought it should be addressed again. Eric Martin asked if the golfers could walk if they paid the cart fee, Mr. Nachreiner responded yes. Mr. Martin commented that it is not about speeding up play. Mr. Nachreiner reiterated that it was strictly revenue driven. Walkers can also walk the back 9 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday and after 11:00 a.m.

James McDonnell, 2247 Woodlawn Circle, stated to the board that he was at the last meeting. He wanted to apologize because he stated that Cocoa Beach had a policy in the winter that allowed golfers to walk 18 holes before noon. This was wrong. He went to Cocoa Beach and talked to someone in authority and now knows the policy. Mr. McDonnell recounted that Leisure Services has made statements that the walking restrictions will be re-considered if reserves were built up and if it was found to be a bad decision it could be reversed. Mr. McDonnell inquired how they would know if the reserves were built up. What is the income going to be compared to? It would be wrong to compare it to last year, since Mallards Landing had temporary tees. He feels the comparisons should be made to two years ago and not last year. Mary Ann Bowman and Mr. Nachreiner both agreed. However the main concern is to generate sufficient funds to cover the operations. Revenues have not been adequate the last three years; therefore the reserves were used to make up the short fall. The problem now is that there are no more funds in the reserves to offset the budget.

Mr. McDonnell expressed concern that all the other courses in the area have implemented this policy and they aren't making any money. Why would we want to do something that no one is making money from? Mr. McDonnell inquired about a rumor he has heard and wanted clarification. It's being said the rules may not be implemented the same at both courses. Ms. Bowman said that was definitely a rumor. The same rules will apply to both golf courses.

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5. Staff Report

Mr. Nachreiner advised that both courses were doing well and the conditions of the courses are good. In lieu of having a winter special they are implementing a Brevard County rate. Advertising has been pretty aggressive with ads in Space Coast Magazine,

Travel Host, area hotels, several calendars and radio stations. On November 10th purchase of the cart batteries will go to Council for approval and 7-10 days after that the batteries will be installed.

Discussion followed.

6. Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communications

Chairman Francey suggested that when an increase in fees is done at the courses, they should all be done at one time. Mr. Nachreiner stated that the increases are at the same time. Carts and balls went up October 1st, however on November 16th the winter green fee and surcharge goes into effect.

Ms. Goode offered to donate golf balls that she has collected to the Junior Golf Program. Mr. Nachreiner said he would pick them up and take them to Tracy Wright who teaches the Junior Golfers.

Chairman Francey inquired about the concessionaire. Mr. Nachreiner responded that he had a lengthy discussion with them. They are going to address the problems and get back with him. Chairman Francey inquired if the City is prepared to jump in and take over, Mr. Nachreiner responded yes.

Ms. Bowman explained that the Council Chambers would not be available for the January 13th meeting. Would the board like to change the date or meet at Crane Community Center? The board decided to meet at Crane Community Center on January 13, 2010.

7. Adjournment

Motioned by Goode/Murray to adjourn.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05.

Barbara Smith, Recording Secretary