

ARTHUR CARTER AMSTERDAM MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Golf Commision Meeting Notes

July 27, 2021 Pavilion at 4:00 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL Bo, Skip, Bill, Chris, Tim, Kevin, Brendan
3. APPROVAL OF 07-06-2021 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - a. Motion to approve Tim, Second. All in favor
4. PUBLIC COMMENT-none
5. Discussion Items based on last meeting's action items:
 - Continue discussion of new tee signs
 - Options-The company sells the sign
 - Bo-do we want them to be a revenue generator? Bo wants the nicest ones we can get with no cost.
 - **Motion by Bo Allow Kevin to research companies that do all the work with no cost to us**-seconded by Skip. All in favor **Motion passed**
 - Decide how to use letter to golfers
 - **Motion by Skip to have Recreation to print the letter and Chris to pursue the cart signs**-second by Chris-all in favor **Motion passed**
 - Possibility of new positions at the course. Bo presented what he gave to the Mayor (attached)
 - Skip asked about a 1099 position. Bo said the city is not willing. They will pay 20-25 hours for assistant and ranger. \$13-\$15 per hour.
 - Tim suggested that the ranger send a picture of offenders to Kevin if they don't comply with requests to follow rules.
 - We will wait to see if the position is approved and hope to hire soon.
 - Marketing Committee report. Chris, Skip, Kevin (notes attached)
 - Recreation wants to do promotion for the restaurant. Facebook and deals. Sal would like to get his feet wet before he runs any promotions.
 - The Recreation department is willing to post our activities on their Facebook pages and websites.
 - Chris suggested that Kevin and Sal work together for promotions without council approval. Everyone agreed that was part of his management role.
 - Liquor license is not approved as of today. The Mayor and Assemblyman Santabarbara's office is involved. Sal's lawyer is involved in moving things along. Sal hopes that it will be approved soon.
 - As soon as SLA approves the beverage cart it will be out. Chris suggested that he go out now with water, gatorade, coffee etc.
 - Kevin does not feel that marketing is needed at this time. Business has been steady without it.
 - We want to give Kevin the latitude to run whatever marketing he wants to when he feels it would be beneficial ie. during green spiking and in the fall.

- Skip brought up an untapped revenue source in a driving range. He believes that one can be built for \$25K. Discussion about how to pay for this including a raffle. Marketing committee will work on this and report back next month. We may have this money already from insurance money and we would like it to be used for this as it will be an enduring money generator.
- Maintenance committee report. Bill, Kevin, and Superintendent (notes attached)
 - Pieced together the old sprayer. New sprayer is on the way. Paid for out of insurance money.
 - 2 per cart seems to be difficult for some. We need to get the word out that it is better for the course and environment.
 - Bright view is staffed appropriately
 - Bright view wants to put computers in the pro shop. They may need a repeater if the signal is not working well across the course. Another solution might be to take some trees down. The signal is not getting back and forth to all of the boxes. It connects to a field interface unit. Toro is coming Friday to assess the situation.
 - We have all the materials for the divot mix to be added to each cart. This will help filling in divots. Replace divot and add mix and smooth.
 - Dead trees-in the fall, may need an arborist (for ones more than they can handle). For every tree they cut one should be planted.
 - Hoping to start root pruning-cut back roots to the drip line of the tree help turf so they aren't competing.
 - An additional rough mower is really needed. Kevin thinks this should be the next piece of equipment that needs to be purchased next year. We should be replacing one piece per year. Discussion about financing options. Skip would like us to look at purchasing now.
 - Kevin also suggested creating more areas of fescue to reduce mowing.
 - We have 2 tractors that gang mowers could attach to but the Toro machines are far better.
 - Kevin-we have to get 3 quotes. Bright view is the largest purchaser of Toro. We should start looking and new and used.
 - **Motion by Skip** to pursue finding a 5 deck rough mower and go to council. We might be able to find a used piece from a large course. The money is in the budget. The one we have is more than 12 years old. Seconded by Tim-All in favor-**Motion passed**
- Grants Committee report. Bo, Tim
 - Meeting coming up to find out what is available.
 - \$250K for cart paths. Can we get a grant for this or use insurance money?
- Cart rules and signs. Chris, Skip, Kevin
 - Print these and put them on the carts. Chris will get this done.

Motion to adjourn-Chris second Bo-All in favor **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted by Christine Sherlock

Committee Reports for July

Meeting 1

Brendan, nice meeting you this past Wednesday afternoon, I look

Forward to meeting with you weekly to discuss munis condition and expected maintenance. At our meeting we discussed the following topics and how to address them:

1. We intend to inform members that carts will and should be occupied by two golfers when possible, in an effort to preserve the course and cut down on compression.
2. The contract calls for bunkers to be raked and maintained 4 times a week, which with current weather conditions is impossible however when appropriate, will return to a normal care schedule.
3. You informed us there is no shortage of staff but this is a transition period for your company and you will maintain the proper level of personnel to supply proper care of the course.
4. Greens should be rolled 3 times a week however not possible with current weather conditions but will return to normal once weather cooperates. Golfers have commented on inconsistencies in speed of greens, we discussed trying to keep them more consistent.
5. Kevin, discussed setting up a communication program with you and early golfers to notify them of your work schedule so they can plan accordingly.
6. We discussed the possibility of Brightview putting there computer in the pro-shop, in conjunction with activating the WiFi Sprinkler system.
7. We agreed on weekly meetings each Wednesday at 1:PM, except 7/14.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding contract performance issues, as you know Kevin handles the day to day control and operations.

Best Regards,

Bill Dzierson

Meeting 2

Meeting with Brendan course supervisor and Bill liaison.

1. Discussed the addition of Divot mix and adding containers to all city carts. Brendan said no problem for them to supply the mix and the bottles are in storage in the maintenance area can be cleaned up and supplied with no problem. Best scenario would be divot mix only with no seed and a container for storage placed near the gas pumps. Dimensions for the container would be 40" high and 60" wide; other options should be explored as well.
 2. Discussing some of the dead trees being removed, Brendan said best to do in the off season or winter. Best practice to plant a tree for each tree removed. The Commission may have to figure this into their budget . May require an arborist in conjunction with his crew.
 3. Brendan mentioned root pruning on number 9 and elsewhere for better fairway growth. Trench along the tree root line to prevent trees from sapping the nutrients from the fairway.
 4. Brendan mentioned they could use another, rough mower to stay on top of rapid growth. Fertilizer Is releasing growth chemicals do to the excessive rain, historically during this dry period it is not a problem but this is an exceptionally wet season.
- Respectfully submitted.

Bill Dzierson

Meeting with City Recreation Department
Skip, Kevin, Chris

Rob has offered to help for years but never got anywhere.

Rob said they will only support promotion within the city instead of a program with Rivers and hotels perhaps at Microtel and Castle

Build the package and bring it to the hotels

They have a flyer that they had previously worked on and never used. That can be reworked. Michele will send to us

Kevin would like to find a water sponsor. 1000 cases needed for the season. They could advertise each bottle.

Chris wants to increase online presence. The city and recreation will post anything that we want. They have MANY followers. Michele suggested that Kevin do some Facebook lives at the course. People watch those.

Kevin suggested partnering with AHS groups to offer a special rate for a 4some...give back \$5 to a group. They group would sell it as a fundraiser. This would be good promotion and goodwill with taxpayers.

Michele will help with the Tee Signs online sales

They use My online camp to get people to buy things like memorial bricks and signs. It seems to work well. People like to click to buy.

They will put Specials on their site. Chris thinks that the council should give Kevin the green light to run specials when he sees fit and put them on all Facebook pages that we have available. How about something fun like...Bring a losing ticket from Saratoga and get \$5 off greens fees...

Justification for 2 temporary positions at Amsterdam Muni

=====

==

Ranger and Pro Shop Assistant Positions

Reasons we need a ranger:(Could this be a volunteer position? Agree with reasons

- As a general statement course rules are not being followed by members, kids and out of town players.
- Perception of the value of a greens fee is higher when a ranger is visible
- Golfers become more at ease with a ranger present to keep pace of play moving
- Golfers tend to obey rules/must obey rules
- Cart traffic is managed properly around tees & greens thus providing better playing surfaces
- The thought of a ranger will lower horseplay on the course
- Any emergency situation can be attended quicker by someone already on course
- Potential miss use of the course can be stopped with a ranger's presence

alternative, should It be an independent contractor on a 1099 so we don't have to pay benefits which can amount to 25%-35% of wages. Would there be Union issues?

- Position would be 20-25 hours/week at a rate of \$13.00 to \$15.00/hour.
- This is \$260.00 to \$325.00 to \$300.00 to \$375.00 per week.
- Estimated need for 2021 is August 1 to October 31.
- The total cost would be between \$3,380 to \$4,875 depending on starting pay rate.
- Estimated saving on required maintenance is .75% of total contract which equates to \$2,287.50 savings. (\$385,000.00 *.0075)
- Estimated amount of return play because of a ranger is 10 additional rounds. This equates to an increase in revenue of \$1,400.00 (\$35.00/round * 4 players * 10 additional rounds).

Reason we need a Pro shop assistant: Believe this should be on a 1099 for same reasons as Ranger.

- Having a responsible person present in my absence is a huge plus...we will look more professional to all golfers
- Answers to questions or solutions to problems will be available throughout the day
- Better supervision of part-time staff at night when a variety of problems occur
- Value to members and public having 2nd responsible person on staff
- Currently no one on staff to handle city business in the absence of GM...whether it be sickness or family obligation
- Assistant would be great if it was a PGA affiliated person but in our case just a responsible adult who is looking for 20-25 hours per week would help.

Budget for a Pro shop assistant: Not sure how these figures equate to actual costs, benefits, contractor or employee.

- Position would be 20-25 hours/week at a rate of \$13.00 to \$15.00/hour.
- This is \$260.00 to \$325.00 to \$300.00 to \$375.00 per week.
- Estimated need for 2021 is August 1 to October 31.
- The total cost would be between \$3,380 to \$4,875 depending on starting pay rate.
- The savings would come from better cash management and collection of all appropriate fees from all golfers. It is estimated that .0070% is lost due to inappropriate charges, non-charges or other related inappropriate activity.
- Based on revenue of \$600,000.00 for 202-2021 season this would equate to a savings of \$4,200.00/year.