



Bella Vista POA  
 Joint Advisory Golf Committee  
 Minutes – June 10, 2015

Members Present: Bill Barr, Jake Grasmick, Gale Harder, Harris McKee, Terry Predl, Tom Stephens, Kirk Van De Walle, Members Absent: None

Others Present: POA Golf Ops Manager: Andy Mar; POA Maintenance Manager: Keith Ihms; POA General Manager: Tommy Bailey; POA liaisons: Ruth Hatcher, Ron Stratton; The Vista Reporter, Lynn Atkins; Visitors: POA Board Member John Nuttall, Mary Riordan, V.P. 18 Hole Women's Golf

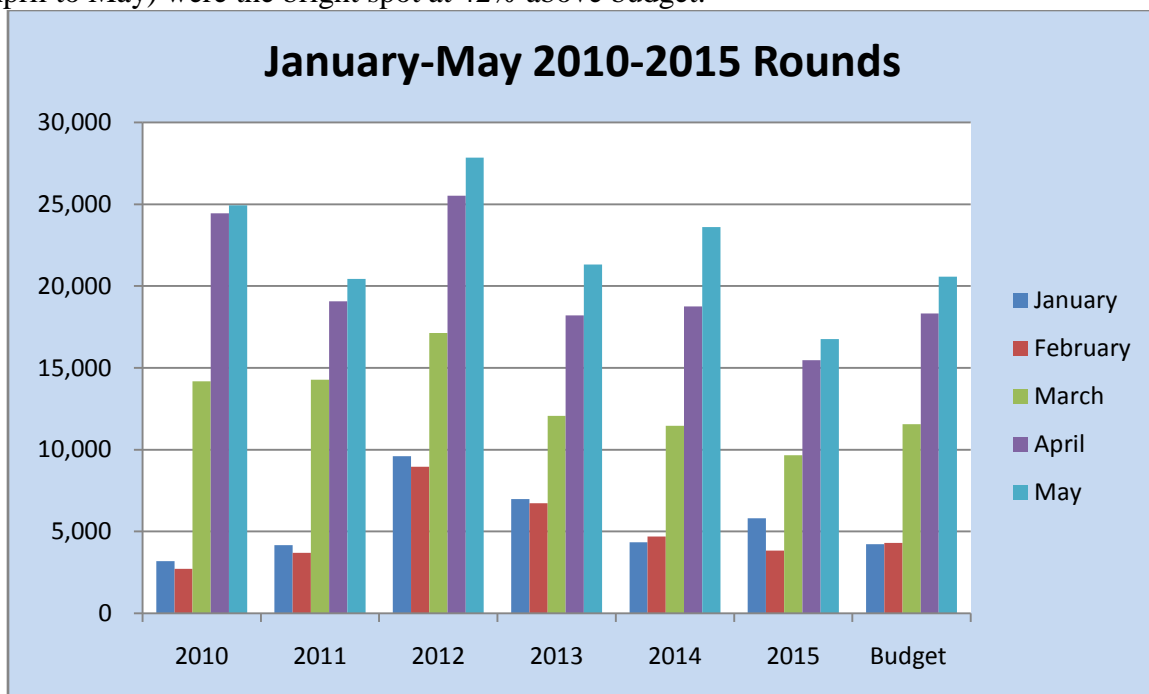
1. Chair **Jake Grasmick** called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. **Introduction of Ron Stratton, POA Golf Liaison**

3. **Approval of May Minutes: Approved without additions**

4. **Regular Business.**

a. **Golf Rounds—Andy Mar:** May Rounds were 3,828 below budget (19 %) and lower than any May from 2003 onward. Rain days numbering 17-18 were cited as cause. Even rounds for those with Annual Green Fees were 24% below budget. Sponsored Guest rounds (some moved from April to May) were the bright spot at 42% above budget.



### b. Maintenance Keith Ihms

Keith reinforced Andy's rain comments and shared a copy of the May 2015 XNA weather data confirming 18 days of measurable precipitation. Our courses received about 13-15 inches, somewhat more than twice the normal amount. He noted that the new well at Brittany sustained a lightning strike; damage, which is substantial, is still being assessed.

Recent efforts have concentrated on placing sod on course bare spots.

Some vandalism has occurred on the Metfield courses, including flag pole theft and some damage to greens. Residents are being asked to be watchful and report problems to the police. Vandals will be prosecuted.

Keith's monthly reports are posted on the POA website. Click on [Golf Maintenance](http://bellavistapoa.com/golf/maintenance/index.asp) or copy and paste: <http://bellavistapoa.com/golf/maintenance/index.asp>.

It was noted that the fairways on the Highlands and Scotsdale courses have evolved much more slowly than the other courses. This is associated with the type of Bermuda used. At Highlands and Scotsdale, the fairways are 80-90 percent Common Bermuda; at the other courses, Common Bermuda only makes up 10-20 percent of the turf. April's low temperature and May's lack of sunshine have further inhibited the turf development.

A package is currently out for bids to repair Dogwood cart paths. The steep path on #16 will require rebuilding and placing rocks along the side to control the water flow.

### c. Course Reviews

- i. **Highlands--Gayle Harder**--As noted above the condition of the Bermuda fairways lags the courses with lower percent Common Bermuda. Much sod has been laid. (The 3/4 truckload cost about \$3,500.) Friends of the Highlands will again host a 4th of July tournament which will be a morning event this year.
- ii. **Berksdale--Bill Barr**--There are still some bare fairway areas but greens are in great condition and wild flower beds are outstanding
- iii. **Dogwood--Tom Stephens**--Course is in great shape. One of the part-time workers has been away three weeks. New full-time worker is starting soon. Shirley in pro-shop requests that large out-of-town groups be advised that no food service is available.
- iv. **Scotsdale--Kirk Van De Walle** who's still constrained by his broken bone observed that Scotsdale fairways look great from the cart paths!
- v. **Country Club--Jake**--#9 fairway is getting sod. Excessive water has demonstrated some drainage problems on #12.
- vi. **Kingswood--Terry Predl**--Course is in great shape. Sod has been placed on #1 Fairway. Beds around tee yardage markers are developing weeds in the mulch. Plans are underway to replace the mulch with rock underlain with plastic to present a more attractive arrangement that will require less maintenance.

## 5. Reports from Management

### A. Andy Mar

- 1) Tournaments are in full force. 220 participated in the Rally for the Cure on June 9th. This weekend the Cancer Challenge will be conducted on Friday and Saturday; and the Poultry Festival is next week. The first weekend in September there will be a tournament honoring veterans.
- 2) The Group Schedules for Winter Golf will be out in July
- 3) Demo Days are planned on June 20 for Mizuno and LPGA star Lexi Thompson will stop by for Cobra-Puma equipment on June 24.
- 4) In next two months expect to complete the course marking reported in last month meeting.

### B. Tommy Bailey

- 1) An Engineer has been engaged to study Scotsdale #13 where sloughing continues to erode the left side of the fairway. He also will examine the Kingswood maintenance entrance road.
- 2) A lease has been signed for operation of the Highlands Clubhouse by Red's Hill Burger Time of Pineville with reopening scheduled for July.
- 3) Plans are under way to establish a grill in the Metfield Club and move member services to another location.

### **C. Board Liaisons**

- 1) **Ruth Hatcher**--Nothing to report.
- 2) **Ron Stratton**--Ron laid out a vision for Bella Vista Golf, the only significant source of revenue other than assessments. He noted that the number of retirees who play golf will be greater in the next few years than at any time in history and Bella Vista needs to attract them to move and play here! With all the cultural activities Bella Vista possesses a significant advantage over Hot Springs Village and is a more desirable place to live.

### **6. Guest Comments**

- A. Mary Riordan**--The Women's 18 hole group has embraced Play it Forward and are using the forward tees for those over 80 and those with a handicap greater than 35. Cart paths are marked with the locations where temporary tees are placed and removed for their events.

### **7. Old Business**

#### **A. Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Membership Growth and Marketing**--**Bill Barr and John Nuttall** reported that the Golfing Group Facebook page now has 135 members. The Nine-hole women are posting their results there. Bill and John urged all golfers on Facebook to share the Golf Group postings as a way to spread our activities more broadly.

### **8. Other Issues**

1. **Driving Range Hours**--A need for longer hours, perhaps to sunset, for the Driving Range expressed to accommodate workers. The range is currently open until 7:00 and longer hours can't be conducted currently because of a shortage of labor.

**8. Volunteer Hours for May:** 50 hours

**9. Adjournment:** 6:26 p.m.

**10. Next Meeting:** July 8, 2015 - 5:00 p.m. Riordan Hall

**Submitted by:** Harris McKee, Advisory Committee Secretary

### **Appendix I. 2015 Golf JAC Tasks**

1. Continue to develop marketing programs to increase play on Bella Vista Village golf courses with POA Marketing and Communications Manager.
2. Develop a program with golf group leaders to ensure earliest availability of unused tee times.
3. Continue to support course support groups like "Friends of the Highlands" and "Lads and Lassies of Scotsdale" with fundraising events.
4. Develop programs for increased play on Bella Vista Village golf courses during afternoons and evenings.

5. Continue monthly course inspections, documenting repairs and maintenance issues.
6. Assist with the 50th Anniversary Three Skill Challenge event to be held on May 30.
7. Participate in and promote activities for the POA's 50th Anniversary.  
Continue to participate in GRIP.