

Golf Joint Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 4:00 pm, Boardroom

Attending: David Brandenburg, David DeGraf, Jan Hagan, Ruth Hatcher, Jeff Hendren, Sheila Heward, Mike Houston, Keith Ihms, Tom Judson, Jason Loyd, Corinne Morin, Gary Mertz, Darryl Muldoon, Susan Nuttall, Alex Sanford, Jan Simms, Jerre Barron

Absent: Mark Deihl, Jason has Mark's proxy

Votes and Important Topics:

- The committee passed the following recommendations:
 - Select the flattest area within the USGA guidelines for (our) Gold Tee Markers. Install 2 permanent markers in the ground approximately 20' apart. The distance from the hole may change.
 - Conduct marketing campaigns for 2 weeks to explain the new markers with Golf Group Leaders, in the Golf Newsletter and with Golf Cart Signage.
- The next Golf Committee Meeting is Wednesday, October 13th at 4:00pm, Boardroom

Meeting Notes

Call to Order – Jason Loyd called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Course reports are available in the meeting packet

New Business: moved to the beginning of the meeting

- Recognition of the Friends of Highlands with their assistance for the AJA Tournament
 - Thanks go out to the Friends of the Highlands for providing lunch to the players, officials and volunteers for the recent AJJA Tournament. Phil Spencer accepted on behalf of the group. 78 volunteers participated. The tournament officials have indicated they will return next year.
 - The Friends of Highlands donated \$500 for the AFA tournament. They donated an additional \$500 to assist with the upcoming 4A High School tournament to be held on September 21st. This Tournament will be for both boys and girls.
- Ruth Hatcher was recognized for her help with the volunteers for the Tournament.
- Gold Tee Areas and related topics
 - This topic was moved to the beginning of the meeting due to members in the audience that had a specific interest in this topic.
 - Darryl Muldoon's report
 - The amount of play from the different tee boxes was analyzed. Red is the most popular followed by White, Blue, Gold, Yellow and Black.
 - The Gold Tee Markers present challenges with visibility and maintenance. We are looking into options that are more visible and less time consuming to maintain.
 - Darryl reviewed the Gold Tee Areas for level playing areas. There are 8 holes that leveling/relocating may be beneficial.
 - Changes in the Handicap System

- In the next year, we will be shifting to the Golf Handicap Information Network (GHIN). This system is the USGA system to manage handicaps and also offers other services such as Tournament Management, Course Rating, etc.
- Bella Vista membership in the GHIN system will open up services such as course rating teams - which have been sporadic over the last few years. Darryl will be meeting with GHIN principles in the next few months.
- Red Tee Box expansion: Budget approvals to expand tee boxes on each of BVCC and Highland will carry over. The Committee recommendation to have tee boxes expanded on other courses are in the review process for 2022.

Proposal by Sheila Heward related to actions for the Gold Tee areas (See Appendix for the document)

- 5 points were discussed by the committee

#	Original	Final	Actions
1	For each Gold Tee marker, install an additional marker 20 feet from the current marker no closer to the hole.	Select the flattest area within the USGA guidelines for (our) Gold Tee Markers. Install 2 permanent markers in the ground approximately 20' apart. The distance from the hole may change.	The original motion was withdrawn. The final language was moved by Sheila Heward, seconded by Susan Nuttall and passed unanimously.
2	Establish a local rule: When playing from the gold tees, the golfer may use any space between the markers and up to 2 club lengths back (consistent with current USGA and R&A rules).	NA	The motion was withdrawn since it is covered in rule _____ in the USGA rule book.
3	Conduct marketing campaigns for 2 weeks to explain the new markers with Golf Group Leaders, in the Golf Newsletter and with Golf Cart Signage	Same as original	Sheila Heward made the motion/Gary Mertz seconded. Unanimously approved as written.
4	2 months after the new markers are installed, a cross functional team of Golf Operations, Golf Maintenance, interested Golf Committee members and selected golfers will tour/play the course and determine which tees should receive priority for developing a flatter space within the teeing area. The recommendations will be presented to the Golf Committee for further action.	withdrawn	The motion was withdrawn. The assumption is this discussion will take place with the USGA representatives.
5	When performing other work that will close a course, or a portion of a course, for an extended period, take into consideration the work needed to provide a flat teeing area.	withdrawn	The motion was withdrawn. The assumption is that this will be considered in the normal course of determining the scope of work for the closure.

Staff Reports:

- Maintenance – Keith

- The short videos have been very well received. The video on the correct way to repair a ball mark was shown.
- Additional winter damage repairs will start on September 13th at Highlands and Kingswood. May require usage of temp greens and/or relocating tee markers while work underway. No more than 2 weeks to complete. This information will be communicated in Friday Golf Update
- The sprigging at Scotsdale is coming along very well. Scotsdale is scheduled to reopen October 1st.
- Our experiment with hydroseeding didn't work. We may try again next spring and will need to adjust the pre-emergent/fertilizer program in the impacted areas.
- Golf Operations – Darryl Muldoon
 - Rounds
 - August round ended at 20,726, down by 1,842 over last August
 - YTD rounds ended at 155,504, up by 2,929 over last year.
 - Member rounds ended at 83,435, down by 1,006 over last year
 - Guest rounds ended at 32,069 up by 3,935 over last year.
 - Range buckets ended at 6,940 down 1,010 over last year, YTD Range buckets ended at 41,914 up by 3,276 over last year
 - BVCC Rerouting
 - The highway project has started and it will be several years. Watch for the detour signs as there are likely to be changes in cart routing as the project progresses.

General Management – Tom - none

Board Liaisons

- Jan Hagan - thanks to all for the success of the AJJA tournament

Comments/Emails from the Public:

- Karen Owens representing the WGC asked when the action on the gold tee areas would be taken in light of the new information about changing to the GHIN system and subsequent rating activities?
 - Darryl - We won't be able to determine this until after meetings with the USGA and scheduling of the activities. Likely it will be in 2022. Darryl agreed to put together a plan outlining Interim Steps and the Long Term Plan regarding Gold Tee Area improvements.

Old Business:

- Gary asked about any changes that may be imminent due to the resurgence of COVID. Changes may have an impact on the planning for the upcoming Courtesy Van Tournament.
 - Per Tom Judson: we are closely monitoring the guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. There are no changes planned by the POA at this time.

Announcements:

- Golf JAC Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 13th at 4:00pm, Boardroom

Adjourn – Jason Loyd adjourned the meeting at 5:23 pm.