Golf Joint Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

In Attendance:

GJAC Members: John Fritz, Drew Hendren, John Houser, Keith Ihms, Brad Lawrence, Clay Merritt, Kimela Mullen

Golf Operations: Graham Kornmeyer, Hannah Hellyer, Darryl Muldoon

POA Administration: Jessica McCrary and Tom Judson

Board Liaisons: Bob Brooks, Kim Carlson, Dave Armstrong

1. Committee Business

- Brad Lawrence opened the meeting.
- Ruth Hatcher and Jerry Foster absent (Brad has proxy)
- Welcomed a new committee member:
    - **Keith Ihms** – brings approximately 45 years of turf experience and expressed desire to give back to the golf community.

2. Futures Golf Academy / Junior Golf

- Hannah Hellyer presented an update on the 2026 Futures Academy Invitational, held July 25.
- The Futures Golf Academy provides a progression of junior golf programs, including classes for young children, introductory golf, homeschool students, high-school development, Operation 36, PGA Junior League, and scholarship/ambassador opportunities.
- The Invitational had 65 participants representing area junior golf programs.
- The event was well received, with strong community and sponsor support. Participants received tournament gifts, food, and other items donated by sponsors.
- Committee members praised the staff and leadership for the growth of the junior golf program and emphasized the importance of investing in future golfers.

3. Course Condition Reports

Highlands

- Fairways, greens, tees and bunkers in excellent shape.
- Pro shop always good

- Cart paths deteriorating; carts aging

Tanyard Creek

- Pro shop well-stocked; staff helpful
- Tee areas well-managed

Kingswood/Berksdale

- Greens in good condition; main issue is players not fixing ball marks
- Pro shop has great selection of merchandise; staff is great

Country Club

- Fairways and tee boxes *"as good as I've ever seen them"*
- Pro shop is the gold standard
- Staff praised for helpfulness and cart preparation

Dogwood

- Strong conditions throughout; bridges on holes 14-15 need long-term replacement planning
- Pro shop has good selection of merchandise; staff very friendly

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4. Superintendent's Report (Graham)

Maintenance Update

- The bentgrass greens are performing well despite the transition from a wet spring to extreme summer heat.
- Additional watering is necessary during the heat, which is contributing to softer greens and increased ball marks. Conditions are expected to firm as temperatures cool.
- Kingswood greens, particularly Nos. 7 and 10, are currently in good condition. Cicada-killer damage has been significantly reduced from last year.
- Aeration work at Scotsdale and Brittany was successful.
- Fall aerification/verification dates are scheduled for:

    - Highlands – September 14–15
    - Country Club – September 21–22
    - Dogwood – September 29–30
    - Kingswood/Berksdale – October 5–6
- Continued goose-grass breakthrough despite additional pre-emergent applications.
- Tee and collar aerification will also be conducted to reduce compaction and improve turf health.
- Zoysia establishment has been particularly successful at several locations and may provide an opportunity for gradual expansion over the next two to three years.
- An elm tree on Scotsdale No. 10 has been diagnosed with Dutch elm disease and will likely need replacement. Replacement is anticipated in the **2027 budget**.
- Tree trimming needed on Kingswood holes 11, 17, & 18; contractor required for two of the three.

Capital Projects

- Kingswood fans are operational.
- The asphalt grinder is now expected in **mid-September**, with asphalt overlay work at Country Club and Scottsdale scheduled to begin in September.
- A replacement tree for a dead/diseased tree is being evaluated. A 15–20-foot tree can be planted for approximately **$4,900 including a one-year warranty**, or approximately **$3,900 if planted by staff without the warranty**.

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5. Golf Operations Report (Darryl)

Rounds & Revenue

- July rounds totaled **25,850**, approximately 620 above the prior year.
- Year-to-date rounds reached **130,444**, up approximately **17,383 rounds over last year** and **7,538 above 2024's record-setting pace**.
- Membership and guest rounds are both significantly ahead of prior years.
- Cave bookings and driving-range activity also remain very strong.

- Year-to-date range activity was reported at approximately **55,945 buckets**, more than 17,000 above last year.
- Staff noted the exceptionally high level of play and credited the maintenance team for keeping the courses in excellent condition despite the heat.

Golf Ball / Range Equipment Issue

- A concern about scuffed range balls was investigated and determined to be caused by damaged guards on the automatic mowers—not poor-quality golf balls.
- New guards were fabricated and installed, resolving the issue.
- New range balls have arrived and are being phased into circulation as damaged balls are removed.

Upcoming Events / Member Engagement

- The **AJGA tournament** is approaching, and volunteers are still needed.
- Members were encouraged to participate in the "Play with the Top Junior" scramble and volunteer during the event.
- A **TaylorMade Tour Trailer fitting event** is scheduled for October 3, with professional club fitters and custom-order capabilities.

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6. Dress Code – Old Business

- A subcommittee consisting of **Kimela Mullen, John Fritz, and Brad Lawrence** reviewed dress codes at numerous golf facilities in the area and developed a proposed standard for Bella Vista golf courses and practice facilities.
- The recommended policy requires appropriate golf attire on all golf courses and practice facilities.
- Recognized golf-brand apparel is acceptable.
- **Not permitted:** swimwear, cutoff shorts, and tank tops for men.
- Golf shoes and athletic sneakers are permitted; metal spikes are prohibited.
- Golf staff will have authority to determine compliance and address issues with members and guests.

- The committee emphasized **education and communication rather than immediate enforcement** during the transition
- The recommendation was approved by the committee and will move forward to management for implementation.
- Jeans remain acceptable.
- A concern regarding inappropriate attire among junior golfers was already addressed with the high-school coaches.

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7. Additional Items

- Bunker rake placements and decals
- Discussion on winter cart-path restrictions: committee supportive of expanding to three courses if feasible.
- Develop a long-term plan for deteriorating bridge surfaces.
- Continue monitoring cart-path deterioration and upcoming asphalt work.
- Complete fall aerification and tee/collar verification.
- Evaluate 2027 tree replacement and tree-removal projects.
- Continue monitoring zoysia establishment and potential future expansion.
- Address ball-mark repair through continued member education.
- Implement and communicate the updated dress-code policy.
- Recruit volunteers for the upcoming AJGA tournament.
- Promote the October 3 TaylorMade fitting event.

Next Golf JAC Regular Meeting - Wednesday, September 9th at 4:00pm, Boardroom