Golf Joint Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

In Attendance:

GJAC Members: Dave Armstrong, David DeGraf, Jim Estes, Jerry Foster, Ruth Hatcher, John Houser, Brad Lawrence, Clay Merritt. Absent: Kimela Mullen.

Golf Operations: Graham Kornmeyer, Alex Sanford, Darryl Muldoon.

POA Administration: Jessica McCrary and Tom Judson.

Board Liaisons: Bob Brooks, Jackie Gain, David Brandenburg

Meeting Overview

- Ruth Hatcher opened the meeting.
- Kim Mullins was absent; proxy provided.
- April 8 meeting minutes approved with no corrections.
- General sentiment: courses are in strong condition across the system, with several areas identified for continued improvement.

Facility Reports

Dogwood

- Pro shop and staff performing well; carts in generally good condition with some aging units.
- Greens and fairways reported as excellent.
- Positive member feedback overall.

Tanyard Creek Practice Center

- Extremely high usage; all hitting bays full.
- Sidewalk poured; road-crossing construction pending weather. Closure expected for four consecutive days once scheduled.
- Merchandise well stocked; only recurring complaint is desire for later hours.

Highlands

- Greens rolling well and improving.
- Turf quality described as “dream-like”; expected to peak mid-June.

- Topdressing helping smooth divots and bare areas.
- Directional arrows added for tee navigation.
- Carts allowed off-path except on Hole 2 due to persistent wetness.
- Several carts showing front-end/steering issues; members encouraged to report cart numbers.

Kingswood / Berksdale

- Pro shop well stocked and well presented.
- Carts showing wear but serviceable.
- Greens in strong condition; fairways filling in.
- Holes 14–16 receiving extra attention due to slower recovery.

Country Club

- Pro shop inventory consistently maintained.
- Course in good shape; bunkers raked and playable.
- Fairways need heat to fully recover.

Scotsdale

- Fairways filling in; greens rolling well.
- Driving range open and in excellent condition.
- Mulched tree beds and recently raked bunkers noted.
- Issues:
    - Deep rough (6–8 inches) slowing pace of play.
    - Hole 15 slope causing lost balls and safety concerns.
    - Pitching area sandboxes were empty on one visit.
    - Hole 13 fairway growth issues due to slope and shade.
- Sand bottle shortages continue due to theft; POA exploring solutions (color-coding, emblems, etc.).

Golf Maintenance & Agronomy (Graham's Report)

Course Conditions

- Winterkill/thin Bermuda primarily affecting Kingswood and Scotsdale due to late-March cold snap.
- Extra fertilizer, cultural practices, and limited sod replacement underway.
- Testing Astro-Bermuda sprigging (from Tanyard Creek) as a long-term solution.

Projects & Infrastructure

- Fire department approved boulder installation on Country Club #8 roadside (planned for fall).
- MAC Team assisting with erosion repair on Highlands #1 and other projects.
- Root pruning nearly complete across all courses.
- Autonomous mower now maintaining all turf (except greens) on Country Club #14; feedback requested later in season.
- Green-speed and smoothness metrics improving across all courses; Kingswood nearing target.
- Second pre-emergent applications nearly complete on Kingswood, Berksdale, and Country Club.

Cart Path & Capital Updates

- Asphalt grinder ordered; may allow earlier-than-planned cart-path repairs.
- Brittany #1–5 already improved after grinding.
- Country Club #13 sod replacement scheduled (weather dependent).
- Kingswood fan installations progressing (Holes 8, 10 complete; 7 and 2 next).
- Tanyard Creek sidewalk grading ongoing.

Operations & Revenue (Darryl's Report)

- Outstanding year driven by weather, course conditions, and strong member play.
- April rounds: **22,226** (up 5,700 YOY).
- Year-to-date rounds: **54,539** (up 13,210 YOY).
- Member rounds increasing faster than guest rounds.
- Weekends now book out quickly—members must reserve early.

- Range bucket sales up **12,699** YOY; Tanyard Creek is the busiest range in Northwest Arkansas.
- Pro shop sales strong due to strategic merchandising.

Tournaments & Programs (Alex's Report)

- Tournament season underway:
    - Dogwood 3-person scramble: 28 teams.
    - Folds of Honor at Highlands: 29 teams registered.
    - Alzheimer's Tournament (June 20 at Kingswood) now open for registration.
    - Friends of Highlands July 4 event forms available.
- Junior programs (PGA Jr. League, Operation 36, Futures Academy) all at high participation.

Member Feedback Themes (Survey Review)

Top recurring issues across member groups:

1. **Cart path conditions** (root heave, uneven surfaces).
2. **Tee box leveling** (turtle-back and concave surfaces; heavy wear on red/white tees).
3. **Bunkers** (size creep, contamination, inconsistent raking).
4. **Pace of play** and **cart-rule violations**.
5. **Zoysia expansion**—strong desire to continue after Highlands success.
6. **Signage needs** (cart-distance markers, directional signs).
7. **Restaurant coordination** during shotgun events (missed revenue opportunity).

Committee Discussion & Prioritization

- Broad agreement that **cart paths**, **tee boxes**, and **Zoysia expansion** are top capital priorities.
- Bunkers important but secondary given cost and ability to "rake and place."
- Committee will document specific tee boxes needing leveling during next course reviews.

- Budget planning begins next month; committee will rank priorities for management and board consideration.

Committee Membership

- Dave DeGraf and Jim Estes rotating off; thanked for service.
- Brad Lawrence and Kim Mullins approved to continue for new terms.
- Two additional committee seats (potentially a third) will be filled next month following interviews.

Closing Notes

- Courses are in the best condition many long-term members have ever seen.
- Continued focus on member experience, safety, and responsible budgeting remains central.