

Sunflower Hills Golf Course Advisory Board

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday, June 11th, 2019

Sunflower Hills Golf Course Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order by Roger Miller, Chairman

Roger introduced Katy Devlin from the Unified Government of Wyandotte / KCK

Members Present: Al Ramirez, JD Downs, Bob Runnebaum, Matt Palcher, Kevin Jones, George Hurtado, Dennis McWilliams, Jeff Manning, Mark Mohler, Dan Duncan, Chris Bergman

Members Absent: David McLain

Staff Present: Jonathan Bennett, Jeff Johnson

Kevin Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2019 meeting. A second was made by Jeff Manning.

Jonathan Bennett opened the meeting by reviewing spring maintenance procedures. Jonathan stated that the broadleaf weed control that was applied in the fall has worked very well. The clover population has been reduced significantly. Jonathan replied to Mark Mohler's question that the product he used was a chemical called "Defender".

Jonathan stated that the fairways have been slow to come out of dormancy and are still not growing a lot. Jonathan stated that there was very little winter kill in the fairways compared to many area golf courses. Jonathan explained that winter kill happens to areas with no drainage that face the north. Jonathan stated that perhaps more French drains are needed in the areas affected. Most notably holes #5 and #11.

Jonathan stated that the greens were aerated in March and was successful and it was done in two days. The greens are doing very well even with the wet spring. Jonathan continued by stating that he has top dressed them twice to help ball marks recover faster and to keep the greens smooth.

Jonathan reported that the tornado that hit the area on Tuesday May28th did very little damage to the course. It did uproot 3 large trees: one by the parking lot, another on #5 tee and one behind #16 green. Two of those have been removed with the third scheduled to do so soon.

Jonathan stated that two summer time positions would start next week and would help with trimming and light machinery operations. Roger Miller asked what part timers can do on the course and Jonathan responded that each individual is different in what duties they can perform.

Jonathan stated that funding for the bunker renovation project is in the proposed budget and hopefully will be approved by the commissioners at the final budget meeting. Also, included is funding for a study about a new clubhouse. JD Downs asked what kind of study would take place. Jeff Johnson stated that it would probably include a feasibility study, and cost estimates.

Jonathan concluded his report by stating that the ash trees on the course are not going to be treated for the ash bohrer bug. Jonathan stated that it is very expensive and only protects the tree for about a 2 year period. Jonathan stated that Kansas State University has recommended that the trees be cut down as opposed to treating them.

Roger Miller asked at what height was the rough being mowed at and Jonathan replied that it is cut at 2-2.5 inches high. Jonathan stated that is as low as you can go without damaging the turf.

Jeff Johnson began by stating that the first ten days of June have been busy and hopes the trend continues. However, the month of May was affected by the rainiest May on record. Rounds were down by 800 or 21%. Greens fee revenue was down 14% and cart revenue down 20% as compared to May of 2018, which was a very good month. Total revenue for the month was down 16%.

Jeff continued by stating that there were 21 rain events in May and the carts were on the paths 23 of the 31 days which impacts play significantly. Jeff also stated that the course was closed for 6 days in the month due to rain which is the most in the month of May since the course was opened.

Jeff reported that for the year rounds were down by 1100 or 13%, Greens fee revenues are down by 9%, cart revenue down is down by 15% and total revenues down by 11%. Jeff stated the course has been closed due to weather 81 times, 9 more days than the same time period in 2018.

Jeff explained that because of the bad weather during the winter and spring he has been more aggressive in booking tournaments and outings for the remainder of the season in order to try and catch up with 2018.

Jeff concluded his report by stating that on the nice days business is good. He also reported that junior golf has experienced a slight uptick over 2018 and the beginning lesson program for both juniors and adults is ahead of 2018.

Al Ramirez asked Jonathan about the sink hole in #10 fairway. Jonathan explained that the hole appeared after one of the heavier rain days and it is a location for an overflow pipe from #18 pond. The pipe is 18 inches and the sinkhole is approximately 6 foot deep. Jonathan stated that he will need help from the street department to repair it.

Al also asked about the sign on Highway 7. Jeff and Jonathan explained that the state highway department has fenced us off the location of the sign in preparation for the expansion of highway 7. The area around the sign is grown over with tree limbs and weeds.

Jeff informed the board that the next meeting is Tuesday, September 10th at 10 am.

Dennis McWilliams made a motion to adjourn and a second was made by George Hurtado. All members voted "aye".

