



GOLF ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, August 4, 2020 ~ 8:00 am
Municipal Building
4000 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the Golf Advisory Board meetings will be held via teleconferencing. The public was provided an opportunity to submit comments for a specific agenda item or general comment through citizen email address.

PRESENT (Remotely): Chair Brent Dorenbecker; Vice-Chair Brad Marshall; Members George Harris, Michael Daffin, Larry Glick, Barbara Holst, Jerry Daniels
Alternates: Becky Sebastian, Jonathan Andron, Jeff Feyerherm

ABSENT: N/A

VISITORS: Sandy Queen

STAFF: Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation; Aaron Cleaver, Parks and Recreation Business Manager; Shelly Monroe, Parks & Recreation Sr. Administrative Assistant; Paul Stevens, Deputy City Manager; Andy Bailey, Waterview Superintendent; Trey Gainous, Waterview General Manager; Matt Grubisich, City Council liaison

1. Brent Dorenbecker called the meeting to order at 8:00am. Quorum Present.
2. Consider action to approve July 7, 2020 minutes.
 - A. Brad Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
 - B. Larry Glick seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 7 - 0.
3. Citizens Input
No citizen input.
4. Updates from Waterview staff.

Andy Bailey reports the course was fertilized last month; therefore, the greens now have better color and there is more definition on the course. The greens were recently aerified and top dressing was added which will help the greens get smoothed out a little better. Staff is working on weed control. There has been water reduction on the greens by hand watering.
5. Maintenance Master Plan and Tree Plan update.
 - A. Sandy Queen shared that the process for this master plan is ongoing, but there hasn't been much change since last meeting. There is still an interest to meet with board members to review and discuss the tree plan once COVID19 restrictions are lifted.

At present there are approximately 1200 trees identified on the course. The first draft of both plans should be ready for the October meeting.

- B. Angela Smith added that as soon as city staff feels comfortable gathering everyone for an “in-person” meeting this can be arranged. Brent Dorenbecker inquired if any visuals of the tree plan can be sent to members for review. Angela Smith answered she will communicate with Sandy Queen in about possibly fulfilling this request.

6. Remediation plan update.

A. Sandy Queen stated his last visit was the weekend of August 1, 2020 and there appears to be some improvement since the previous site visit on May 15, 2020. Waterview Golf Course is starting to look like a respectable municipal golf course. There is good definition between the fairways and the rough, although work still needs to be done with the areas of deficiency. Deficiency areas:

- a. Greens: Bumpiness of the greens are a big issue, although the grass is growing well. It will still take another 4 to 6 weeks to get the greens in good condition. Recommendation is to continue to add additional top dressing.
- b. Bunkers: The condition of bunkers are still poor. The sand is fine, but getting the bunkers raked daily and edged appropriately appears to be a challenge. Billy bunkers can't be edged with an edger due to the design of the bunkers. Recommendation is increased labor of a skilled person to work on the bunkers.
- c. Fairways: There is a lot of player traffic on the course which helps with revenue, but it causes much wear and tear on the surface. Recommendation is for continued fertilization.
- d. Tee Boxes: The quality of the cut is better although still deficient. American Golf made indication to fill divots daily which is not consistently occurring. Aerification and top dressing were to be applied in June, but this didn't occur so now it is scheduled for this month.
- e. Lakes: The deficiency still exist, and assumption is this is likely a lower priority since golfers do not play on the ponds. The lake nearest to the club house needs attention which will take time and money. Pond by #18 green needs to be addressed for algae control, trash removal, and fountain repair.
- f. Trees: The deficiency still exist, and an assumption is that trees are a lower priority since playing surfaces are more critical. Trimming of trees still needs to be done and stumps removed.
- g. Irrigation and drainage: Much progress has been seen in this area with the work done to resolve the main line leaks. There are only a few leaks remaining. The drain line was clogged by #8 green for an extended time and now corrected.

The overall recommendation is to extend the deficiency timeline for another 60 days so Waterview staff can finish addressing the remaining deficiencies. Sixty days may not be adequate time to complete the list that was provided in the Deficiency Letter and Waterview Golf Club more needs resources such as funds, staff and better equipment.

- B. Larry Glick received three calls this week and he understands there is an executive session tonight about the golf course. He inquired if Sandy Queen and the Golf Advisory Board (GAB) Chair will be attending. Angela Smith responded that Sandy Queen will be present to report the findings from his site visit but

because it is a City Council executive session the GAB chair is not invited. Matt Grubisich clarified the process and if members need him to share additional information then the member should send him an email in which he will convey the information during the session. In addition, there will be an executive meeting scheduled with this board to provide a further update. Larry Glick asked about verbiage used by S. Queen while he was updating on the remediation plan and referenced “respectable municipal course” vs “high end daily fee” because in the deficiency letter the term “high-end daily fee” is used, therefore he suggests a decision needs to be made as to the expectation. Sandy Queen clarified the course looks like a municipal course, but the goal is for it to be a high-end daily fee course. Emphasis was made that American Golf needs to apply the funds to bring this course where it needs to be.

- C. Brent Dorenbecker voiced he will send M. Grubisich notes because there are 9 items on the deficiency letter and at present it appears 60% of these items are still deficient. He acknowledges that 60 days is a short time frame to complete the tasks, but is challenged to understand why the bunkers are in the condition they are in. Certain aspects of renovations last year were never really finished, although weather played a role in this delay. The American Golf (AG) Action Plan provided to the city does not appear to be fully implemented and this comes from the lack of resources. Pond on #10 is also not in good shape, like the one at #18. Continued concern expressed about the cart paths not being repaired. The greens are not in shape tournament status due to the bumpiness which makes it not playable.
- D. Sandy Queen extended support and encouragement to A. Bailey, because issues have to do with lack of resources and not about the willingness of Waterview staff. Brent Dorenbecker concurred with S. Queen. Andy Bailey said that a municipal course isn’t their goal nor is this where the staff want to be with the course. Andy Bailey feels AG is supporting Waterview staff’s efforts, but things aren’t happening as quickly as would be liked. The bunkers were being raked every day, but that staff person contracted the COVID19 virus. Some staff are working long hours and an explanation of how COVID19 pandemic is affecting the business, but it is not for lack of effort. Everyone is having to learn a new process and they are feeling the growing pains. They are seeing record number of rounds.
- E. Update from Matt Grubisich, City Council liaison.
 - a. As previously mentioned, there is an Executive Session this evening and there will likely be a special meeting scheduled with this board. The concerns are being heard.
 - b. The CARES for COVID funding will be discussed during the Council meeting tonight.
- F. Golf board annual golf tournament.
 - a. Angela Smith explained that City Boards and Commissions are still meeting virtually and with the COVID case counts high and the Governor’s orders with no groups over ten, the decision has been made to postpone any in person meetings of any sort at this time. Members were encouraged to start looking at dates for a tournament in late October or early November.
 - b. Jeff Feyerherm suggests the tournament be held on a weekend. Brent Dorenbecker indicated that potential dates and availability can be done

through email contact with members. Angela Smith suggested a program called Doodle and possibly a primary and backup date can be set up in this manner.

G. Feedback on golf course conditions from board members.

- a. Jerry Daniels played with the senior league and basically the feedback is the wet places in front of the greens have been an issue, as well as the bunkers not being raked. The greens could be a little more receptive and explained how the wet areas affect play. He expressed appreciation to Trey Gainous for helping get the Senior League rolling and there are now 24 players.
- b. Jeff Feyerherm played golf with his son and mentioned that other golf courses are using spacers in the hole as a COVID19 protection tactic and suggested it may be an idea for Waterview. He spent much time in areas on the course he doesn't normally spend time, so it provided him with other observations such as no trash cans on course, therefore there was no sand bottles in the carts. He agrees the course is slow, bumpy and not real playable, although there is a good amount of grass on the greens. The couple carts that were available were not in good condition such as 2 were missing the rubber on the pedals and the other didn't drive well. Bunkers had about 12 inches of liners exposed to sun and concerned about the long-term effects. Surprising how many weeds around the water areas. None of the penalty areas were marked. Tee boxes are fairly level but seem sparse in the way of grass possibly from not receiving enough water or fertilizer. The fairways are in excellent shape and described as being firm and fast. The snack bar was closed by 7pm. Praises expressed regarding the speed of the cart girl, staff using more roping on the course and the overall friendliness of everyone on the course.
- c. George Harris played golf with a friend who used to be an ambassador and they both noticed the definition of the fairways in much better condition. They had similar issues with the traps which has already been explained. On two occasions they encountered A. Bailey in which he asked questions about how the course was and this customer service was appreciated.
- d. Brent Dorenbecker voiced confusion about the COVID19 protocols for golf courses because it seems different strategies are being implemented such as some courses have trash cans or rakes on the course for bunkers. Compliments were given to Trey Gainous related to the recent tournament, because the actual event was great.
- e. Michael Daffin played golf with his grandson and supports what has already been stated. Sometimes the greens are in good shape but at times the greens are bumpy. He explained that due to the COVID19 mandate trash cans aren't allowed on the course.
- f. Angela Smith voiced in regard to Governor's COVID19 mandates each entity interprets the mandates. Waterview is now following the PGA guidelines. Andy Bailey says there is no ball markers and usually the trash cans are attached to the ball markers. Trey Gainous added that he has contact with the PGA Task Force which provides the recommendations for COVID19 and right now it includes removal of the sand bottles, ball

washers, trash cans, water containers and rakes. A few tables are now set up inside, the outside tables continue to be set up and tables were cleaned several times per day. He doesn't want Waterview Golf Course to be the course to get shut down.

H. Discuss condition and overall rating on courses played other than Waterview, with emphasis on favorable and unfavorable comparisons to Waterview. (Michael Daffin exited meeting)

- a. Jeff Feyerherm played at Dalton Ranch Golf Club in Colorado which is a high-end daily fee course and it was a true pleasure playing there. The greens were smooth, and it was an excellent course. He played the Masters/Tradition at Firewheel and their greens were about the same condition as Waterview.
- b. Brent Dorenbecker played at Firewheel Bridges Course and the bent grass greens were struggling. The bunkers need more maintenance although there is a great definition. Staff was attentive in aspect of finding him on the course to return his lost wallet. Barbara Holst agreed with the good customer service because she has had similar experiences, as well as heard from others through their women's league who has 100 plus members.

I. Public Announcements.

- a. Angela Smith shared that the August events have been rescheduled to spring. Rowlett Community Centre is opened at 50% except gyms at 25%. Wet Zone will close on Sunday.
- b. Larry Glick said GISD opens August 10th although the first couple weeks will be remote learning followed by some at school. The school system has spent a significant amount of funds on cleaning supplies and needed materials to follow the COVID19 guidelines. School buses will be cleaned multiple times per a day. There are still unknowns.
- c. Becky Sebastian asked if Pooch Plunge event will be held. Angela Smith explained how this event is a fundraiser for Friends of Rowlett but unable to hold this event due to the limited number of persons according to the COVID19 regulations and this is first time in 18 years this event is cancelled. Becky Sebastian mentioned volunteers have been participating in providing food for Rowlett Police and it ends this week but so far have put together about 140 food gifts.

J. Member of the Board or Commission may request topics for future agenda meetings.

No topics requested.

K. Adjourned at 9:28am.



Brad Marshall, Vice Chair



Angela Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation