

## **MINUTES**

City of San Diego  
Municipal Golf Committee (MGC)  
January 15, 2015

### **Meeting held at:**

Public Utilities Metropolitan Operations  
Complex (MOC II Building)  
9192 Topaz Way  
San Diego, CA 92123

### **Mailing address is:**

Torrey Pines Administration Building  
11480 N. Torrey Pines Road  
La Jolla, CA 92037

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Members Present**

Albert Bruton  
Susan Casagrande  
Doris Cronkhite  
Ann Dynes  
Megan Mahoney  
Marc Sorensen  
Paul Spiegelman  
Michael Zucchet

#### **Members Absent**

Kurt Carlson  
Christian Clews  
David Korty

#### **Staff Present**

Scott Bentley

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Michael Zucchet called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2014 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Doris Cronkhite and seconded by Ann Dynes to approve the November 20, 2014 minutes.

Motion:           **MOVED / SECONDED            MS. DORIS CRONKHITE / MS. ANN DYNES**

The vote was unanimous.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Mr. Zucchet thanked Scott Bentley for the follow up on the items that were discussed in the previous meeting.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Bentley reported that the Balboa Park Golf Course had started its cart path project. Cart paths had been completed on holes 1 through 4. There have been consistency problems with the quality of work and pressure is being applied to the contractor to perform to the expected quality level.

Mr. Bentley announced that Golf Division representatives attended a San Diego County Health event promoting its three golf courses and introducing its new P.L.A.Y. Golf (Play Laugh Appreciate Youth Golf) initiative by letting juniors experience the Division's new SNAG Golf equipment.

Lastly, Mr. Bentley stated that on January 24, the Golf Division will have its first public appearance utilizing its P.L.A.Y. Golf program at a City rec center. The Golden Hill Rec Center is holding the finals for a youth video golf tournament. Several booths and activities, including the P.L.A.Y. Golf program, will be featured for the contestants and spectators.

### **COMMITTEE COMMENT**

Paul Spiegelman mentioned that because of the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, twilight times for January are not available on the South Course and stop at 3pm on the North Course. The cost of closing/limiting the twilight times is not included in the cost analysis for lost revenue related to the Farmers Insurance Open. The lack of twilight times and closing for 2-weeks due to the Farmers Insurance Open, impacts the residents ability to play golf at Torrey Pines and he expressed the views that resident golfers should be compensated for the imposition.

Mr. Spiegelman also stated that he is in favor of Ms. Dynes' idea of means testing the senior rates. He also supports finding ways to help people that cannot afford golf play golf, but raising golf fees is the opposite direction that the City should be going in terms of keeping golf affordable and available. He feels municipal golf is about making golf affordable for residents that cannot afford country clubs. Therefore, he is much opposed to raising golf fees generally.

Albert Bruton reported that the practice green on the Torrey Pines driving range is currently closed. The putting green has been expanded, doubling its size, but that has left little area for short game practice. Since players cannot go to the North end of the driving range, there is no place to practice. Mr. Bentley responded that the north end of the driving range is open to the public and Mission Bay Golf Course has a new practice green under construction.

### **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. John Early discussed not charging students the \$25 for the Resident Golf Card. He contended that, if the City could afford \$65,000 for the bag drop service at Torrey Pines Golf Course, the City could afford to not charge the \$25 to students. Students could use their school ID's instead. No action was taken.

Janice Stewart stated Mission Bay Golf Course is a great condition and thinks we should promote the waterfall and patio area encouraging people to come and enjoy it.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

None

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**201. North Course project update**

Mr. Bentley reported that the North Course renovation project has been postponed until 2016 because there were no qualified bids.

Mr. Zucchet stated that the project is slightly out of his comfort zone in terms of the price tag and for the justification for doing it. He expressed his concerns over the possible cost increase as well as possibly settling for a project that was value engineered and not meeting expectations. Mr. Zucchet is also concerned about the proposed native areas.

Mr. Sorenson asserted that the Golf Division needs to define the "gotta have" improvements for the North Course and bring the North Course renovation back down in-line with budget so the other courses don't suffer.

Mr. Bruton urged that the Golf Division get practical and reassess all of its capital improvement plans.

Mr. Zucchet expressed the view that the MGC should have a chance to weigh in on the North Course renovation project before new changes are made, if any, as a result of the failed bidding process just completed.

Mr. Sorenson asked two questions: (1) Was a new irrigation system in the North Course renovation budget and did the bids for it come in within budget? (2) Would the Golf Division rate the greens in groups of six from best to worst on the North Course? Mr. Sorenson feels the North Course renovation will not get done within the 6-month project window and would have to be completed in phases.

Summarizing the comments of her colleagues, Ms. Dynes stated that the MGC feels it is not an option to increase the budget for the North Course renovation project because of concerns for a lack of fund money for improvements at Balboa and Mission Bay, which are actually in worse shape than the North Course. If the rebidding process projects a cost increase, the North Course project should be scaled down to keep the funds needed at or below its previous budget.

## **202. Golf Course update - Mission Bay Golf Course**

Mr. Bentley gave a report on the Mission Bay Golf Course including a brief history, current conditions, rounds, revenue, promotions, capital improvement plans and future projects.

Ms. Jan Stewart spoke on behalf of the Mission Bay Ladies Club. She commented on the wonderful conditions and courtesy of the staff. Ms. Stewart stated that we should promote the waterfall and patio area. She expressed concern over the existing clubhouse, golf carts and restrooms. Ms. Stewart asked if someone can sponsor the golf course.

Ms. Dynes suggested we look at having charitable donations or corporate sponsors to help support the facility.

Mr. Sorenson questioned why the Golf Division doesn't have better golf cars. He also asked for a plan of action and timeline for the planned improvements at Mission Bay.

Mr. Spiegelman stated that he is in favor of having the community assist in financing improvements at Mission Bay Golf Course.

### **203. Farmers Insurance Open**

Mr. Bentley gave an update on the Farmers Insurance Open. His update included contract information, course preparation and information about the Junior Clinic.

Mr. Zucchet requested a copy of the Farmers Insurance Open contract by email to the MGC when available.

Mr. Sorenson commented on the need for shuttle service from the main entrance on hole #11.

### **204. High School Golf**

Mr. Bentley discussed high school competitions occurring at the City golf courses. He mentioned that there are nine girls teams and thirteen boys teams that call the Golf Division's courses home. The Golf Division is proud to support the high schools.

Mr. Sorenson requested a report detailing how many regular resident golf cards the Division sell each year and how many are purchased by students and seniors.

### **205. City owned Golf Courses Properties/Manage or Lease**

Mr. Bentley reported that, as requested, he has researched the topic and could not find out the reason why the City operates three courses and leases out the other properties.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **March 19, 2015, 6:00 P.M.**  
**Public Utilities Metropolitan Operations Complex**  
**(MOC II Building)**  
**9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123**