

IRONHORSE
Golf Club



GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes- June 23, 2020
5:30 P.M. – Vista 154

Members attending: Chair Dick Fuller, Gary Bussing, Mark Bodine, and Leo Morton

Member absent: Tommy Davidson and Scott Picker

Troon Management/Staff: Ryan Eckroat and James Kennedy

Council Liaisons attending: Chuck Sipple and Mary Larson

Staff attending: Chris Claxton and Camille Sumrall

Chris Claxton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Leo Morton motioned to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes, Gary Bussing seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Discuss Potential Compensation for Triple Crown Pass Holders (RE: Covid-19)

Ryan stated that the feedback from players and pass holders was mixed for closing the course during the early stages of COVID-19. While many players and pass holders were happy with closing the course for an abundance of caution, some players and pass holders were upset as other courses in the area were open. When the staff was able to open the course they played on eighteen minute intervals to adhere to social distancing protocols. They also operated with reduced golf cart capacity, which again, some patrons appreciated and others did not. Ryan added that opening up the Vista 154 event space has been a big help in capacity for players who would like to sit inside and have food and beverages.

Chair Dick Fuller asked if eighteen minute tee times were standard for other courses in the area.

Ryan responded yes, that is standard to allow for single rider carts that at the time was being recommended for social distancing from other players.

Leo asked what percent of Troon courses were closed during the time Ironhorse was closed.

Ryan responded that very few were closed, only 7 out of over 300 courses.

Chris stated that of the 7, three were reopening next week.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if any corporate golf events have taken place since the closure.

Ryan replied that unfortunately there have not been any large gatherings due to social distancing guidelines.

Ryan stated that financial restitution letters have been drafted to Triple Crown Pass holders regarding a refund for the time the course was closed. The proposed refund rate is based on 83 days of impacted golf availability over a 275 day golf season. This resulted in a proposed refund percentage of 30.18%.

Gary asked who drafted the letter and calculated the refund rate.

Chris responded that herself, the City Administrator, and Ryan reviewed the letter and agreed upon the refund rate, initially however, it needed to go to the committee for review and recommendation.

In explaining the method of calculating the refund rate, Ryan stated that the 83 days were comprised of the 48 days that the course was actually closed, plus 35 total days where tee time availability was reduced to support single-rider carts. The 275 day golf season was based on pass holder feedback that the golf season in Kansas City is only 8 months (March-October) and with the course being closed in April, the impact to the pass holder was more magnified. A four year analysis of rounds played by month showed that the preferred season of golf was March – November, which is a total of 275 days.

Gary asked if they subtracted the average amount of days it rained into the refund.

Ryan responded that they did not subtract rain days.

Gary asked what the total amount of the refunds will be.

Ryan responded that it would be around \$65,000.00

Chris added that a large amount of pass holders are residents.

Gary asked if Troon or the City would pay for the refunds.

Chris stated that the City would pay the full cost of the refunds.

Gary stated he did not agree with refunding pass holders.

Chris added that Dr. Peppes reached out to her prior to the meeting and stated he did not agree with refunding the pass holders.

Council Liaison Sipple added that COVID-19 was an act of god occurrence, but Ironhorse remained closed when other courses were open.

Council Liaison Larson also added that she believed some kind of refund is fair for the days we remained closed while other courses operated with safety guidelines.

Leo agreed that he believed some kind of refund would be fair as well.

Ryan suggested a compromise of including days with delayed tee times in the refund calculations as pass holders were able to play on those days. This would bring the total amount of days Ironhorse remained closed to 48 days versus 83 days.

Gary stated that the pass is valid for 365 days and any refund should be based on the entire period that the pass is valid.

After further discussion, it was determined to use 48 days as the basis for the refund/credit vs. 83 and to base it on the full 365 period that the pass is valid, resulting in a revised percentage of 13.15

Mark Bodine made a motion to credit 13.15% of Triple Crown Pass holder's total fees towards their second payments or a 13.15% refund for members who paid in full, who have not already accepted a refund, due to the 48 days of course closure due to COVID-19.

Leo Morton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and all present members voted in favor of the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Greg Peppes was on the phone and was also in agreement of the motion.

II. Course Maintenance/ Project Report

James reported the following:

Work completed during closure

- Greens aerated twice and top dressed weekly. This was a rare opportunity to do additional aerification to greens. This spring the condition of green surfaces have been much firmer.
- Fescue sod laid on #8 rough to finish up irrigation project.
- We reduced the size of the zoysia target greens and sodded. The yellow and red target greens were moved closer to the middle to range to reduce balls lost in timber. The remaining portions were sodded with fescue. The rough areas in middle of range were tilled with soil conditioner and seeded.
- Repair flood damage from March 30th storm. Debris from storm was cleaned up the day following storm. Bunkers were repaired closer to planned time to open course.
- Aerated all Zoysia areas, fairways, tees, and surrounds.
- Aerated all rough.
- Tee boxes on 12 and 7 were laser graded by contractor to prepare for sod.
- Tree contractor removed dead trees during closure. Golf course staff cleaned debris.
- Drain installed in front of P1 and sod installed.
- New signage purchased and installed on 7, 10, 16.
- AB3 installed on walkway to 4 Black tee and compacted. The tee is now in play.

May Opening

- Began bringing on seasonal staff and training.
- Mowing and detailing course.
- Receiving new equipment.

III. Review Kitchen/Grill Space for Possible Updates

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Miscellaneous

Chris stated GBA inspected all bridges at the course. We are waiting for the report. Thanks to Public Works Director, David Ley for setting this up.

James added that several bridges have concrete erosion, especially near the creek. He stated that holes #5, #3, and #9 have significant undermining.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the bridge replacement projects are in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Chris stated we may have money to replace them from the Capital Improvement Fund but will need to get cost estimates first.

Chris stated that the Ironhorse parking lot will be resurfaced in February of 2021. They will be adding trees to the islands and also fixing some small grading issues.

Ryan added that almost all of the parking lot cameras are up and running.

Mark Bodine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Gary Bussing seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department