

**ALAMEDA GOLF COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jane Sullwold called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex, Ladies Lounge, 1 Clubhouse Memorial Road, Alameda, CA 94502

1-A ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jane Sullwold, Commissioner Ray Gaul, Commissioner Betsy Gammell, Secretary Jeff Wood

Absent: Vice Chair Bill Schmitz and Commissioner Bill Delaney

Staff: John Vest, General Manager, and Matt Wisely, Superintendent

1-B APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1-C ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Commission adopted the agenda unanimously.

2 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

3 COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Sullwold spoke about a memo she wrote to Interim General Manager Ann Marie Gallant regarding what has happened historically since she became a member of the Golf Commission, and her evaluation of the various options available for a long-term lease of the Golf Complex. She reminded the Commission that Ms. Gallant was intending to include three scenarios in the Request for Proposals, but that the Golf Commission would not see the RFP until it was close to final form. Chair Sullwold also noted that City Council had on its July 7 closed session agenda item 3-B, Conference with real property negotiators involving the property located at 1855 Northloop Road (the Ron Cowan Village Six parcel) and 1 Clubhouse Memorial Road (the Mif Albright Course) for purposes of negotiation for price and terms for an exchange. Jane and Bob both intended to speak before the Council retired for its closed session, but the City Clerk came out to announce that the matter had been put over until July 21 because Ms. Gallant had to go out of town that afternoon due to a family emergency.

4 AGENDA ITEMS

4-A Golf Complex Financial Report through June 2009

Bob Sullwold stated that rounds and revenue decreased in June 2009 compared to the same period last year. During the first seven months of fiscal year 2008/2009, play on both courses was up 8.8%. Play on both courses was down for the last five months. Total rounds decreased by 3% over the same period last year, although revenue for both courses was up by 3.29%. The financial statement received from the City showed income from Golf last year in the amount of \$500,000, whereas last year's number was a wash. The Enterprise Fund was drawn down by \$400,000, as opposed to the \$700,000 that was anticipated. From an income standpoint, the fee increase had a positive effect on the bottomline. Nine-hole rounds increased from September to June for both courses. 18-hole rounds decreased on both courses, more on the Clark than the Fry. Tournament rounds were up especially for Tournament Senior Weekdays. Monthly passes sold were down, but revenue was up.

4-B Discussion/recommendation re long-term management of Golf Complex

Commissioner Sullwold stated that Ann Marie Gallant would be consulting with NGF in the preparation of the RFP. She also described the points she intended to make at the closed session on July 21.

4-C Review of Request to slightly expand the area of the current Cell Tower Lease

John Vest stated that the area of the current cell tower was to be slightly expanded to allow for the addition of a generator. A representative from the company that would be installing the generator was present, and confirmed that it would not be expanding into an area that would disrupt play on the Mif Albright course. The Golf Commission concurred with John that this expansion was reasonable.

5 ORAL REPORTS

5-A Golf Shop and Driving Range activities report by John Vest

General Manager John Vest announced a major demo day coming up on July 18, and indicated that the event is being promoted with email blasts and cart signs. He stated that recently a lot of carts have been failing as a result of battery problems. Each cart needs six batteries, each of which costs \$102. Although these arguably are under warranty, the paperwork necessary to document claims has not been adequate to this point. Staff training is underway concerning preventive maintenance. Someone asked how the course handles large tournaments that require more carts than we have -- extras are rented on a temporary basis and the cost is passed on to the tournament. On Sunday morning, a cart was found abandoned in a lake, but they located the identity of the renter. John also stated that

staff has advised golfers who show up before the Pro Shop opens that they need to wait and check in with the shop before starting play. Commissioner Gammell asked whether the new policy of allowing carts to go between the ponds on the 8th hole of the South Course has been a problem; John indicated he would look into it. He also informed the Commission of the internet survey that was sent out to the golf community, and said he would notify the Commission of the survey results. Since the Mif course reopened on May 22, 4,074 rounds have been played, generating revenue of \$25,606, plus more to come from NCGA when it reimburses junior rounds. Connie Wendling asked why the dogs have been discontinued, as the goose population seems extremely large right now. Superintendent Matt Wisely said he doesn't think the dogs work very well, so he is looking into other solutions.

5-B Golf Complex Maintenance activities report by Matt Wisely

Matt Wisely stated they have eradicated the daisies and have put seed on all the tee boxes. They have been topdressing tee boxes. Two weeks ago EBMUD notified the Complex of a main line water break, which meant that we were not able to get any recycled water. The Complex was forced to fill the ponds with potable water. EBMUD gave us a non-drought surcharge grace period because it was their issue, but the higher cost of water meant that we were only able to water one course per day. Staffing has been limited recently due to the fact that the City employees had to start using their vacation before June 30 or they would stop accumulating vacation days. Both courses were aerified last week and greens will be topdressed next week. EBMUD notified the golf course that the backflow devices need to be dealt with or they will turn off our water. Overseeding of fairways will be started shortly. Commissioner Gammell requested that boxes be put on the tee boxes for the broken tees. Matt stated that they have been looking into replacing the NCGA plaques, but they cost \$35.00 each.

5-C Beautification Program and Junior Golf Club by Mrs. Norma Arnerich

Mrs. Arnerich stated that she had spoke with Matt Wisely and that he wanted to put more trees along the entrance to the golf course opposite the first green. She has another group waiting for a tree planting. She also stated that the East Bay Junior Golf tournament was a huge success this year and she thanked the staff for all their help.

5-D Golf Complex Restaurant Report, Jim's on the Course

None

6. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

6-A Marketing and Promotions, Commissioner Gammell

None

**6-B Maintenance, Buildings, Security, Albright Course and Driving Range,
Secretary Wood**

None

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Included in the Commission packet was a memorandum to the Finance Department showing a surcharge payment for July 2009 of \$13,965. The year-to-date total to the General Fund is \$13,965 for the fiscal year 2009/2010.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

- Update on Golf Complex finances
- Discussion regarding long-term planning for the Golf Complex

Because Chair Sullwold will be on vacation until August 24, the Commission decided to hold its August meeting on Wednesday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting was posted 72 hours in advance in accordance with the Brown Act.