GALE KLEINKOPF	PATTY LEE	MATT NELSON	DOUG PIPER	ED PRATER	BRETT SEMPLE	RAY WIGHT
	CHAIR PERSON			VICE CHAIR		

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

TOM COURTNEY	**CITY MANAGER**
GREG LANTING	**CITY COUNCIL LIASION**
MIKE HAMBLIN	**PGA PROFESSIONAL**
DENNIS BOWYER	**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR**

TWIN FALLS MUNICIPAL GOLF ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

April 8, 2009* * * * * 11:00am * * * * * City Council Chambers

Members Present: **Gale Kleinkopf, Patty Lee, Matt Nelson, Ed Prater, Brett Semple and Ray Wight**

Members Absent: **Doug Piper**

Council Absent: **Greg Lanting**

Staff Present: **Dennis Bowyer and Mike Hamblin**

MINUTES

Patty Lee called the meeting to order at 11:15 am. A motion was made by Gale Kleinkopf to approve the March 10th, 2009 meeting minutes. Ray Wight seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item # 1 Welcome New Members – Staff & Commission

Dennis introduced the new Commission members to the Commission. Matt Nelson and Brett Semple are our two newest members to the Commission.

Item #2 Twin Falls Municipal Fund Raising Tournament – Commission & Staff

On Friday, March 13th, the Community Foundation Board approved the request to allow the tournament to use the Community Foundation as a funding mechanism so all entry fees, sponsors and donations can receive a tax credit for their donations. Ray, Mike and Ed had met to go over what improvements need to be done and will be funded through the Fundraiser. The sub-committee recommended that the following improvements for this year's funds to be spent on : 1) repair of cart paths; 2) improve #18 tee box; 3) plant more trees; 4) install concrete pads at driving range; and 5) purchase tables and chairs for the clubhouse, only if the City contributes 50% of the cost. Mike suggested going out to the course so the Commission can look at the recommended improvements and get their ideas on any improvements before making a recommendation and presenting to Council. Gale thought that would be a good idea.

Matt Nelson asked if the Commission has formed a long range plan for the Golf Course. This plan could include entrance fees, clubhouse facility, etc.. It would sift out the areas of priority for the Course and goals

can be set for opportunities for revenue. Mike mentioned that a strategic plan was created at one time and feels that it would be beneficial to have someone come in and do another one for the Course. Ray commented that he feels a strategic plan is a good idea and mentioned to Matt that the fundraiser was new last year and now we have an idea of how much money can be raised. Matt stated that a facilitator would ask what the Commission would want to see done anyway so he feels meeting as a Commission to come up with a plan would be the most beneficial.

Dennis informed the Commission that if they want the City to contribute 50% of the cost for the chairs in the clubhouse, the Commission will need to make a recommendation to present to Council. Due to the budget cuts, Dennis stated that he is unsure if it would be approved or not.

Ed commented that he wants the Course to be profitable and asked about the junior golf and having the City subsidize it. Dennis stated that the City wants to see the Course breaking even without the subsidizing of junior golf. There will be some savings with having one full-time employee at the golf course. Mike mentioned that the school district and City have an agreement so the City can use gym space at the schools for free and the schools get to play free at the Golf Course and have use of the fields. Dennis stated that the Recreation Department does get use of the gyms for free but has to cover the cost to pay for a janitorial service to clean up after the games.

Gale suggested getting recognition in the budget process for the high school play, senior play and City employee play that doesn't get accounted for so we can verify that we aren't losing money. The City doesn't account for this in the budget process. Mike mentioned that Twin Falls and Filer High Schools are playing for free and with the new high school coming on board, it's going to put a damper on the course being used. He would like to see the high school golf season being changed to fall for the high schools to play. Matt suggested having a fee structure in place where the kids that play high school golf will have to purchase a season pass. That would bring in some revenue. Dennis commented that if we start charging the kids for a season pass, the school district may end up charging a fee for the use of the gyms. Ed wants the City to realize that the figures at the end of the year are not valid figures due to the kids playing.

Item #3 Golf Management Proposals – Staff

Dennis updated the Commission on the status of the contract with Mike and the City. The City and Mike are still in the process of negotiating a new contract. Mike has proposed that the maintenance crew will report to Mike, have one full-time employee and the City shop will assume the majority of the maintenance work on equipment and vehicles. Dennis reported that Kevin Packard will be transferring to the Parks and Recreation Department on April 13th and Dario will take Kevin's place at the Course. Bids will be going out on the new maintenance building. It won't be very big but will be heated and have enough room to work on equipment. The old shop can still be used for storage.

Mike commented to the Commission that he feels Dario will do a great job at the course and has quite a bit of experience after working at the course for 13 years and also working on a golf course in Boston for 10 years.

Item #4 New & Old Business

Tom Burnikel presented his idea of having memorial plaques on the tee boxes and also asked the Commission if they have thought about his idea of buying his boxes for broken tees. Mike mentioned including this in the strategic plan if one is created. Matt mentioned that there is a course that has a tree

management fund for memorials and donations. It is a fund that cares for the trees that are already at the course instead of always planting new ones but honors those that want to donate.

Mike presented to the Commission the idea of having Dollar golf. He has heard a lot of good feedback from a Course that has been doing it. Golfers would pay a dollar per hole from 6pm-close and honor it every day of the week. This has produced a lot of revenue for that course and he feels it would do the same for us. There would be no green fee but the carts would be an additional fee. It is a way to get people out to the course and generate more revenue. Mike is gathering more information and will keep the Commission updated.

Ray brought up the meeting time. He is not opposed to changing the time to make it easier to have lunch delivered or to not have lunch at all. The Commission discussed the different options and times and decided that they will keep the meeting time at 11:00am but have lunch at noon.

Mike mentioned that he has been talking with Travis Rothweiler and Tom Courtney about changing the name of the Golf Course. This was part of Mike's proposal and Travis and Tom asked for Mike to discuss it with the Commission. Mike would like the Commission to give him ideas on a new name. Mike also would like a different logo for the Course. Matt suggested renaming it Twin Falls Golf Club. Ed likes the idea of renaming the Course but feels the Commission should think a little more on the name. Ray also likes the idea and feels we should put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Brett brought up the cost involved to change the name.

City staff is looking at how they want to handle advertising at the Course. Forest LeBaron proposed advertising on tee box signs but the City hasn't decided yet if they want to handle the advertising internally or hire out for the advertising. They are waiting until the contract is finalized with Mike.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at the City Council Chambers, 305 3rd Ave E, at 11:00am.

Christi Green

Christi Green
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation