



GOLF ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - Amended

**Tuesday, November 5th, 2013 ~ 8:00 am
Waterview Golf Course Club House
9509 Waterview Parkway, Rowlett TX 75089**

PRESENT: Brad Marshall, Barbara Holst, Geoffrey Nichols, Charles Alexander, Vincent Leal, Larry Glick, Jerry Daniels, Michael Daffin and Brent Dorenbecker

ABSENT:

VISITORS: Eric Hatch, Steve Wolford

STAFF: Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Don Tennant, Waterview Superintendent; Shelly Monroe, Parks and Recreations Sr. Administrative Assistant, Dru Bolen, General Manager of Waterview Golf Course; Brian Funderburk, Interim City Manager; Debby Bobbitt, City Council member.

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1. The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m.
 2. Brad M. was not present therefore Charles Alexander will be the voting member for this meeting.
 3. Introduction of new board member Michael Daffin.
 4. Geoffrey N. made a motion to approve the October 1, 2013 minutes and Brad M. seconded the motion. Approved 5 – 0. (Brad M. was present at 8:08 am)
 5. Former GAB member, Eric Hatch, shared some brief comments about the golf course.
 - a. Eric H. thanked members for all their time and all that is done for the golf course. He stated he tries to remain updated by reading the minutes and having dialogue with Larry G. He plays at Waterview approximately 3 to 4 times a week. Eric H. mentioned the fairways have been a little rougher this year than previous year. He voiced he has been playing some at Los Rios golf course and he can see they have been putting money into their course for improvements such as new greens and changed the design of some greens. He mentioned he likes the idea of the lake because hole #2 is one of the most boring holes on the course and would like to leave an impression on those who play. As a player he would play more cautiously with the lake there and doesn't feel there would be issues with the houses nearby. Cart path improvement has been discussed for some time now and haven't seen results but there have been trees put in at hole #18 which helps people refrain from hitting towards the homes. He expressed it is a beautiful course and he is willing to help out such as cleaning out the lake. He is willing to adopt a pond. He feels all could contribute a little more to help out.
 6. Discuss concerns and issues surrounding the design of the lake on hole #2 and consider other possible options and alternatives.
 - a. Brian F. explained he received an email from Steve Wolford regarding the design of the lake concept at hole #2 and he expressed concerns of golfers will start hitting towards the nearby



- homes on the right in an attempt to not hit balls in the lake. Brian F. and Jermel S. met with Larry G. and Brad M. to review the email content and discuss another option for the lake such as it being in front of the hole. Since that meeting Steve W. responded in regards to the other option and has concerns in relation to the design of the lake. Brian F. asked Steven W. to be present at this meeting so he can express his thoughts and ideas.
- b. Steve W. addressed forced carries being something to fear and if that forced carry has water included it is like double jeopardy. He agrees hole #2 is a boring hole but would like to know what the goal of this board is such as beautification or bring more people to the course because if this is the case he feels there are other ways to make the hole more interesting. He cautioned that water is one of the few things that creates fear in golfers of today and thinks there are other things that can be done rather than putting in a forced carry. He mentioned that at old Chase Oaks they had to spend a couple hundred thousand to correct their issue with their lake. Steve W. voiced if this board does not want to move the green left, remove the trees from the left and buffer the property on the right then the design is not recommended. He is glad to see this board is making efforts to be competitive in improving the course because many courses are interested in methods of improving their courses. He believes there should be a master plan to show the improvements wanted and to focus in an organized way.
 - c. Brad M. inserted this board has been trying to have a master plan but as far as hole #2 he asked Steve W. how he would change the hole. Steve W. responded that there would need to be earth work to create some drama and distance, change the route of the hole with bunkers to frame in order to have a sense of target but wouldn't necessarily use water. Brad M. asked if the type of earth needed can be done with the existing drainage of the course. Steve W. replied with a yes. Brad M. continued to say that on hole #16 there is a decent visual hole but if one goes up high on the mound the visual is much better than from the low of the tee box. He asked if there is any way to create a visual on #2 to see swoops of the fairway. Steve W. stated the reason to move material around is to create relief and cause a visual interest.
 - d. Larry G. reminded this is a topic of discussion due to an agreement between him and Craig K. The agreement is that the city will provide the funding to enclose the pavilion and then American Golf will allow for a lake to be put in at hole #2. Larry G. described there are no forced carries on this course therefore doesn't see why there should be an issue with having one hole that will be a forced carry. The pond doesn't need to be big. The design of bunkers look like the same bunkers at hole #6 and he doesn't care to see two holes so similar. He understands the aversion but this is the only opportunity to put in a pond to make the hole into a decent hole. If this opportunity is passed there may not be another time to improve hole #2. Larry G. asked Steve W. if he is was still asked to put the lake in would he still do the job even though he doesn't agree with the placement. Steve W. responded that there still isn't enough money to do the job appropriately.
 - e. Brian F. clarified with putting the pond on the left there are natural contours that make it more simple but placing it in front will be more expense to make it look right. He questioned if funding was not an issue could a pond be placed in that location. Steve W. said yes. Steve W. voiced he feels the bunkers will set contrast and make the hole more interesting and will be within the budget he has was told. He hasn't considered the cost for irrigation and that part will be expensive. Don T. believes the irrigation is on the left side. Steve W. also suggested while thinking of possible changes to keep in mind about all types of players including the poor player because a way needs to be provided for that type of golfer too.



- f. Larry G. mentioned there are different courses and some courses have lakes or obstacles and it brings attention to those holes. He would like to see the golf course have one hole that is made better, a little harder, and more interesting. He further expressed that now is the opportunity and it may not come again. Brian F. said it appears Steve W. is saying the pond is possible if there is more funding so it becomes a matter of resources. Brian F. stated he needs to know if this board wants to pursue this project since the cost will be more than anticipated. Steve W. said he will have to research and look at some figures as to the possible cost for a pond up front and fairway to the left.
- g. Brian F. said he will need a recommendation from this board as how to proceed with hole #2. Larry G. wants to know if members are in agreement to have Steve W. make a design. Vince L. asked if Steve W. was involved at the beginning of this course being designed. Larry replied that he was not but did come into the picture about 4 to 5 years later. Vince L. asked if Steve W. was here during the re-irrigation and drainage in which Larry G. responded he was involved at that time.

7. Golf Course Conditions

- a. Brad M. commented on the overall condition of the course in that there are no defined roughs on most of the fairways. He recognizes there are limitations for keeping up with the maintenance on fairways but in the spring could there be an effort to increase the rough about ½" to 1". Don T. inserted that some of it has to do with the soil and the rough gets beat down due to traffic but it takes a lot of money to increase the length of the rough. Brad M. reminded that the contract says the golf course should be kept in near tournament conditions so work should begin on this even if it is one hole at a time. He further explained that when one is standing at a tee box the golfer can hit anywhere but there should be a designed fairway. He would just like to know that there is a process to improve this aspect of the course.
- b. Steve W. asked if there are other courses that have better conditions with the design of their fairways than Waterview. Charles A. mentioned Buffalo Creek and Brad M. mentioned Pecan Hollow. Barbara H. expressed she doesn't believe those courses have as much traffic. Don T. offered that due to the amount of time and money it would be to do this that it would be more realistic to go around the edges of the fairways with aerification to help define the fairways.

8. Discuss condition and overall rating of courses played other than Waterview, with emphasis on favorable and unfavorable comparisons to Waterview

- a. Barbara H. played at Firewheel Bridges course and it does have a definable rough. She played at Pecan Hollow and it has definable rough and the greens were fast. She played at Eastern Hills and the fairways were okay and the greens were good but the bunkers were overgrown. Heritage Ranch and Bridlewood courses were really good and the greens were fast, hard, and hard to land on. Barbara H. added that she holds the position of Director of Events with the Executive Women's Golf Association Dallas Chapter which consists of approximately 150 women. She says there are certain courses that women will not play such as Sky Creek Ranch and Coyote Ridge because of the playability. If a group will not go to a particular course to play then there is a problem so as members we will need to keep this in mind with the changes made to Waterview.



- b. Michael D. played at a course called Newport Dunes in which he described as an excellent course; the greens were mini-verdi and bermuda, and well defined rough.
 - c. Eric H. played at Coyote Ridge and Los Rios.
 - d. Jerry D. said Firewheel Bridges has too high of a rough.
9. Review status on the plans for the redesign of the tournament pavilion.
 - a. Brian F. informed the plans should be completed this week. Once these are received and he has the specific costs for all the phases the information will be presented to this board and City Council to determine exactly what will be done in regards to the different options. There may need to be a special meeting rather than waiting until the December 3rd meeting.
 - b. Larry G. stated he believes they could have a quorum if a special meeting is needed.
10. Discuss plans for drainage on the side of hole #10
 - a. Larry G. voiced the quote from the city is \$50,000 for repairs and we have the money for this but not sure what the next step is.
 - b. Brian F. said it is up to this board to make recommendations for this and if the board would like to follow through on this he can bring it back to City Council.
 - c. Brad M. suggested waiting until all the numbers are received in regards to the pavilion before making an educated decision. Larry G. said we should have all the numbers by December 5th meeting.
11. Discuss and consider approving the flipping on the two nines at Waterview such as holes 1 – 9 become holes 10 – 18 and holes 10 – 18 become holes 1 – 9.
 - a. Dru B. said the idea to switch the numbers on the holes was addressed with the golfers and ambassadors. He tried it on a Saturday and a Sunday and said there were no complaints. Charles A. voiced he played during that time and it appeared to help speed up the play going in this different direction. Dru B. would like to continue testing it before making any final changes.
 - b. Brad M. remarked the only downside is in having to start at hole #1 because it is so long.
 - c. Larry G. reminded that he sent a memo to members about discussing whether we need to make a recommendation on this change. Larry G. questioned if American Golf can make this change. Brian F. mentioned he will need to review the contract but believes this change is an operational decision and American Golf is able to make the change without approval from the city.
 - d. Larry G. asked members if they are in agreement if this change takes place. Charles A., Barbara H., Michael D., and Geoffrey N. replied with a yes. Brad M., Jerry D., Vince L., and Larry G. have a neutral opinion.
 - e. Don T. suggested if the change is approved then possibly the markers can be replaced with classy wooden signs. Larry G. said he would like to see new score cards and retain the monument signs in the future. Jerry D. asked if the change is decided by American Golf then they cover the cost of new signs. Brian F. concurred this would be American Golf's responsibility.
12. Discuss cost-sharing aspects of wall replacement on #18, between City and HOA.
 - a. Larry G. said in order to move forward with this project contact needs to be made with Scott Peck to schedule the work for it to be done in a certain time frame. Brian F. said this board



needs to make a recommendation in order for him to take action so he can communicate with American Golf and the City Council.

- b. Brad M. said if the wall is to be repaired the lake will need to be drained in a significant amount so wouldn't it be best to do this in the hottest part of the year. Don T. agreed that possibly July would be the best time for this project. Due to this Brad M. suggested not making a recommendation at this time. Larry G. said in order to secure the money for this project. Brian F. said this will start with a recommendation from this board.

13. PGBT signage on the golf course.

- a. Brian F. questioned why this topic is on the agenda again because at the time there was a response in regards to a sign not being able to be placed for Waterview those rules were provided to the board. Geoffrey N. asked if those guidelines could be clarified. Brian F. explained about the one mile rule.

14. New Signage on the golf course.

- a. Dru B. he did get approval to place warning signs and is making templates to be placed on the beverage cart in the plastic containers but he is still waiting on a response in regards to being able to put signs by tee boxes.

15. 21st Century story about PGA Tour.

Larry G., while traveling, encountered a passenger who had played in a tournament. Jason Allred was the traveler's name so Larry G. looked up information on the internet. In 1987 won the 1997 US Junior Amateur and beat Trevor Immelman who later won the masters. Sometimes you may be as good as you think you are.

16. Public Announcement. Members of the Board and/or staff may make announcements of local civic events. No member of the board or commission may discuss nor take any action with regard to the announcements.

- a. Larry G. announced the Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held November 11, 2013 at 4:30pm located at Veteran's Park.
- b. Brian F. informed that at the City Council's meeting tonight there will be 118 employees recognized for going Above and Beyond. Due to the large amount of persons the meeting has been relocated to the Rowlett Community Centre.
- c. Jermel S. announced Main Street Fest and Holiday Parade is December 7th. The event begins at 3:00pm.

17. Members of the board may request topics for future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.

18. Adjournment was at 9:20 a.m.

Larry Glick, Chairman

Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks & Recreation