



City of Longview

Recreation Office,
2920 Douglas
Longview, WA 98632

Minutes - Final

Mint Valley Golf Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

4:00 PM

Mint Valley Golf Course

1. Roll Call

Board Members: David Sathe, Rick Parrish, Ken Pence, Chuck Bergquist, Brenda Athey

Staff Members: Jennifer Wills, Scott Knapp, Nick Van

2. Approval of Minutes

Rick Parrish made a motion to amend the minutes to read Rick Parrish and not Rich, Dave seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ken made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Dave seconded and all were in favor.

[MN 17-0372](#)

MVGAC Meeting Minutes 01.18.17

Attachments: [MVGAC Minutes Draft 01.18.17.pdf](#)

3. Constituent Comments

There were no constituents present.

4. Board Member Comments

Ken Pence discussed the course maintenance staff's decision to slice the greens versus aeration. He was pleased with the way it turned out with the understanding that with the current weather aeration was not a possibility. The choice of slicing allowed for quicker playing and healing in the wetter weather.

5. Reports

5a Golf Course Superintendent

Scott Knapp, Superintendent spoke more about the choice to solid tine the course versus aeration as they were able to still get machines on the greens to sand and drag. They continue to put sand out on the course but the wet weather has not shown any noticeable progress towards hardening the fairways, especially on 16. Mowing has been difficult as the machinery will sink in the wet course. Cutting the grass when it gets too long is causing long delays in picking up the clippings which will cause a thatch issue come this summer if we are unable to get on a more regular schedule. We have put out 458 yards of sand so far this year with the goal being 1500. The new roller has been in use on the greens which has been very helpful. There was a pipe that burst underneath the maintenance shop and caused the restroom on #4 hole to be shut down. A porta-potty was brought in while the pipe was being fixed.

5b Golf Course Manager

Nick Van, manager noted that the first two person scramble of the year had 25 teams which was successful despite the weather. Nick let the board know that there are three fast approaching events: May 18 Ladies only Tournament, Memorial Day weekend Cowlitz County Amateur, and June 9th is Ladies Night Out on the Range. Nick said that we are down in pass sales and cart storage leased spaces due to members who are no longer with us or who are experiencing health concerns. He said when the weather picks up we should see an influx of those who have been waiting for better playing conditions. The Washington State Golf Association visited the course and gave new slope measurements. It had been many years since the last visit and there have been a few changes to the course. The updates will be added to the new score cards. Nick also noted that there were zero playable days in December, 1 in January, 1 in February, and 12 in March. A golf playable day is defined as a day where more than 50% of the golf playable hours (GPH) are present and the daily rainfall does not exceed a climate sensitive regional threshold. Our threshold for GPH is less than .02 inches, wind speed below 19 miles per hour, and temperatures between derived climate sensitive regional thresholds.

5c Director of Parks & Recreation

Jennifer Wills, Director provided an overview of the first quarter play and revenue report. The cold wet weather has had a direct reflection on the ability of players to get out on the course. Hopefully things will change when the weather gets warmer and drier.

[17-4826](#)

Qtr. 1 2017 Play & Revenue

Attachments: [2017 Qtr. 1 Play & Rev Report.pdf](#)

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

7a Pass Sale Options

Jennifer Wills, Director brought up three options for the board to review and recommend to move forward. The first pass was a Snow Bird Pass for those individuals that do not live here year round to purchase a discounted rate. The rate would be such that if they were to buy the Snow Bird Pass and the winter pass it would be more than an annual pass. The second pass was the young professional pass trying to target individuals under the age of 40 who are typically busy with family and work and are unable to get out as frequently as they would like. The third pass was the Corporate Pass which would enable a business to have four transferable passes to give to employees or clients to use as an incentive for hard work, employee wellness programs, or just as a benefit to their business.

All members were in favor of the three options to try out. The board also supported any new pass holders that wanted to bring their cart with them to Mint Valley that their first year of lease would be free. The hope would be that this would entice players from other courses to join Mint Valley Golf Course. Staff said they would explore all options and evaluate their success.

7b Discussion - Gaining 40 & Under Patrons

The board really liked the discounted pass for younger patrons as they feel that someone who works and has a family may not see the worth of paying for an annual pass if they are unable to get out often. The group also talked about the different options to get families out playing golf and golfing as a couple. They pointed towards the Ladies Night Out on the Range and the Friday "Big Night Outs" as great ways for people to connect to the course. The board supported any more of the non-traditional golfing ideas as ways to draw interest.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:58pm. Next meeting scheduled for July 19, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m.