

Southern Hills Golf Course Advisory Committee 4/8/2024

Committee members present: Colette Miller, Dave Merrill and Kathy Vollmer. City employees present Jason Happe and Jill Loe. City Hot Springs Mayor Bob Nelson also present.

Meeting started off with Superintendent Jason Happe's report. Jason talked about turf growth potential throughout the season, course repair is priority during the spring, spring cleanup is being done as fast as possible, signs will be going out, aeration dates of July 22nd and 23rd, poa seedheads 1st application has been applied, needles and pine cone management, irrigation system startup preventive maintenance, and prepping for the retaining wall after the contractor is done.

Jill Loe gave her report on the clubhouse. Jill reported rounds to date and by month. Jill also mentioned the communication platform that she's working on to use text messages for announcements and marketing.

The committee then moved to the discussion of the role of the advisory committee. Mayor Nelson stated the committee was an advisory committee and has no supervision role. Supervision is through the city administrator, Bob Nelson Jr, as well as the mayor position.

The retaining wall project was discussed and they're questions about it that could not be answered at the meeting. These questions are being looked into and hopefully we'll have more information ASAP. The contractor is scheduled to be done by the end of April. After which the revegetation will take place by the golf course maintenance staff. Positive comments were also made on the wall. The advisory committee advised on having Don Olstad attend future meeting with the contractor.

Concessionaire at the clubhouse was briefly discussed. Mayor Nelson stated that he conveyed to the interested party that no concessionaire is going to happen this year. It has been talked about that some golfers would like more food and beverage. There has been no official recommendation from the golf committee to the council to consider.

Getting Southern Hills Golf Course re-rated was another discussion. Superintendent Jason Happe stated that we are waiting to get the course re-rated by the SDGA. SDGA is several years behind.

Superintendent Jason Happe brought up the discussion he had on the cart use policy during the winter/off-season. This was brought up again is because people keep asking if they can use carts during the winter when the weather is nice. Superintendent Jason Happe asked the committee for advice on two proposed options

- 1) keep it the way it is and close the course to carts during the winter (Dec-Feb.), or
- 2) Open to carts all winter BUT, charge an additional fee \$25pp or \$35pp w/ 6-pack during winter.

Committee advised, at this time, on option one.