

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Municipal Golf Committee (MGC)
May 17, 2018

Meeting held at:

Mission Bay Golf Course
2702 N. Mission Bay Drive
San Diego, CA 92109

Mailing address is:

11480 N. Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, CA 92037

Attendance:

Members Present

Colin Walshok
Paul Spiegelman
Kurt Carlson
Doris Cronkhite
Marc Sorensen
Larry Barron
Susan Casagrande

Members Absent

Ann Dynes

Staff Present

John Howard
Matty Wayne Reyes

CALL TO ORDER:

Kurt Carlson called meeting to order at 6:05 PM

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2018 MINUTES:

A motion was made by Marc Sorensen and seconded by Doris Cronkhite

Motion: **MOVED/SECONDED** **SORENSEN/CRONKHITE**

All in favor of the motion.
The vote was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

No adoption was made.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No chairperson's report

INFORMATIONAL ITEM 101: Brown Act Training

John Howard offered the first item on the agenda to be presented as the introductory. Mr. Howard introduced Deputy City Attorney, David Powell, to train and refresh committee members on the State of California's 1953 legislation, the Ralph M. Brown Act. Mr. Powell went over the purpose of the act in the PowerPoint slides produced by his office. "Public agencies exist to serve the public, and for that reason the work that they do needs to be open in two ways: first the public can know what decisions are being made and how they're being made, and secondly they can participate on the decision-making process." Mr. Powell urged that meetings must be open and made public. The public has the right to attend and participate. Agendas must be made available prior to meetings, and any item not listed in agenda must be excluded from discussion. He cautioned that the definition of "meeting" is a broad term and defines it as "[...] any congregation of a majority of the members in the legislative body at the same time and location, [...], to hear, discuss, deliberate or take action on any item that is within its subject matter and jurisdiction." He noted that no action needs to be taken, if the group is discussing a topic within a jurisdiction, it is considered a meeting under the Brown Act. In addition, the group should not conduct business or discuss informational items if there is not a quorum. Mr. Powell urged committee members to caution when forwarding e-mails regarding information that relates to items that fall within the committee's scope. "Generally, the rule of thumb is you shouldn't be providing information to others if it isn't readily available to the public." The public must have access to documents pertaining to the meetings, which includes the agenda for each meeting. Mr. Powell reminded committee members that agenda items must be posted at least 72 hours prior to a meeting. He noted that if there is an error on the agenda (date, item), the City must make reasonably effective efforts to notify the public or agenda could be rescheduled and carried over to the next meeting.

STAFF REPORT: JOHN HOWARD

John Howard welcomed new committee member Colin Walshok. Mr. Walshok introduced himself as an attorney who was born and raised in San Diego. He grew up playing golf at all three of the municipal golf courses, worked as a golf teaching professional for 5 years, and spent time teaching children. "With changed careers and working as a lawyer now, I'm trying to remain active within the golf community. I play Torrey Pines once a week if I'm lucky, and I'm glad to be part of this committee."

John Howard moved the staff report to an update about the maintenance program. The North Course aerification was completed on May 9, "The course is healing pretty quickly." Mr. Howard addressed the south course, "After we finished the Farmers Insurance Open, we're really trying to make a quick transition from the cool season rye grass to Kikuyu grass [...] and are making this transition for the U.S.

Open; we're really looking to have a full stand of Kikuyu in June." He concluded that, "The course is going to be continuously changing, and will be a regular occurrence as we go forward leading up to the U.S. Open. We're having regular communications with the USGA." Paul Spiegelman had a question about the north course as to why the grass hasn't looked green and made a comment about the patches of poa. Mr. Howard explained that the salt in the sea breeze and rainfall stresses out the plant—even potable water wouldn't be able to flush it. Superintendents are aware and maintenance crews have been putting iron into the soil.

John Howard announced that revenue and golf rounds are doing well due to fair weather. At Mission Bay Golf Course, revenue is projected to go up 6% by the end of the fiscal year, with 3,200 rounds played. At Balboa Golf Course's 9-Hole, projected 2.8% increase from the year prior, which equates to about 1,000 rounds; 18-Hole is projected to reach a 4% increase, which equates to 1,800 rounds; and the Torrey Pines South Course is projected to be down at 5% due to last year north course's closure and reopening this year—a 3,000 round loss.

John Howard announced a new division-wide implementation regarding the "no show" reservation policy. He stated, "If you have 3 'no shows' in a 6-month period, your card would automatically be suspended, and you wouldn't be able to have any of the booking privileges at any of the golf courses until you have spoken with management or someone to reactivate your account." Players must notify staff 48 hours in advance if they plan to cancel. Recently the software company developed new tools to use to analyze system abuse by players. Paul Spiegelman was concerned about the 48-hour notice, and Mr. Howard explained that the division needs enough time to sell tee times. He also noted that staff can forgive the no-shows, thus reactivating their account.

John Howard delivered news that at Mission Bay, there will be disc golf beginning June 2. Mission Bay Golf Course is experimenting with this new option. The hours are limited hours, 7 days a week, with a \$10 charge for 9-holes and 18 dollars for 18-holes.

John Howard reported that the Request for Proposals for Presidio have been rejected by the City because the proposals did not adequately address all of the questions that the City had. It will again be available for bid in the next 2-3 weeks.

COMMITTEE COMMENT (non-agenda)

Paul Spiegelman announced he will be moving in July, and he said he enjoyed working with everyone.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daryl from the public came forward with concerns about the reservation system and noticed that tee times are not made available past 6pm.

Don Gross from the public made observations about the sewer line construction project occurring near Mission Bay Golf Course, and that the construction hasn't moved in weeks.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Matty Wayne Reyes, a golf Recreation Specialist from Balboa Park Golf Course, spoke about the P.L.A.Y. (Participation Learning Appreciate of Youth) Golf Junior Program. He explained, "This acronym encompasses the entire City of San Diego Junior Golf Initiative, which is geared toward providing all of its young people ages 3-17, regardless of socioeconomic status, the opportunity to build character and golf skill in a safe, inclusive environment." Mr. Reyes stated that the program started off slow to ensure that they had all the resources they need, such as staff. The Junior Program offers 3 levels based on skill. The program implemented a color hat system, similar to the belt system in karate, to motivate children to exceed to the next level. Mr. Reyes noted that the program is affordable and could accommodate participants with financial hardships on a case-by-case basis. A community member asked about the availability of transportation for the children and Mr. Reyes replies that they could accommodate them with rides.

John Howard announced he had mislabeled the next presentation. On the agenda it displays the 'Balboa Park Master Plan', instead of 'The City of San Diego Master Plan'. Due to the Brown Act, the committee could not present it until the information is updated and made available to the public.

MEETING AJOURNED AT 7:43PM