

**City of Portland Golf Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes of
February 9, 2022, Zoom Meeting**

Attending:

Members: Chase Morinaka, Julia Persons, Alex Chitsazan, Madison Perry, Brad Simpson, Larry Martinez, Zari Santner, Patsy Pitts, Allison Chown, Jarred Gomez, Don Hanson, Tom Williams

Concessionaires:

Hank Childs, Randy Morrison, Craig Zimmerman

Parks Staff: Todd Melton, John Ball, John Dean, Vincent Johnson, Kathy Hauff, Maximo David Behrens

Guests/Subcommittee Members

Meeting Called to Order

Agenda adopted & minutes were approved. (Alex C. motion to approve amendment of January meeting minutes to include solicitation of contracts for upgrades at all 4 clubhouses)

Special Reports & Project Updates:

- Maximo David Behrens reports on Year 1 of the voter approved Parks Operational Levy. Parks is incorporating items and pilot efforts with a variety of initiatives which is part of the levy campaign, to reduce cost as a barrier in Recreation Service programs and be more engage and participate with priority stakeholder groups. Especially Black people, individuals living with low incomes, Indigenous, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Some piloting efforts include Pay What you Can option which provides a sliding scale to items that have costs associated and pass discounts are available. This started in the Summer & Fall and planning for this summer.

Currently working with COVID impacts and Omicron Variant which was affecting programs and staffing.

In January an intake and tracking approval tool was made and to track what's happening with program participants and staffing. It changes every 30 minutes and to-date there are 65 adjustments made to shorten facility operational times or adjust staffing, cancel programs, or adjust programming as a result. Parks is hoping to be on the downward slope nationwide. This allows for Parks to be responsive to keeping

participants and staff safe and responding accordingly when needed.

Recreation is working with seasonal staffing coming out of COVID and building back to in-person programming. The past month there has been a media blitz for hiring and already in planning efforts for summer. Information is available online and will continue to come out. Spring programming will start in April.

January 28th, the Recreation Services Division hosted their annual, “We Are Rec” in-service day on a virtual platform. All facilities were closed, and programs were not held that day. This allowed for a full day of professional development, staff training opportunities, workshops, both equity and levy implementation effort updates were provided.

Zari S. inquired about the operations side of Parks and how maintenance is doing with more levy funding because people will expect to see changes within this 5-year plan and that things are being done to sustain the future. There is a need to make sure programs are available and parks are clean so that people can see the expenditure on their tax money.

*Maintenance is also facing challenges and there will be levy resources given across the bureau. The bureau is currently in the levy ramp up, which is Year 1 of the 5-year plan. This will help in various capacities, especially increasing staffing to cover maintenance and a variety of departments. There are currently many full-time positions that are in process for hiring or being aligned with the HR department. Want to make sure that staffing is aligned to help with onboarding and bring staff on accordingly. The hopes are to have the ramp up completed soon, so that everything is ready by this summer. Parks is at peak capacity but ongoing efforts moving forward.

When going through the levy, there were conversations with council about what is a financially sustainable model would look like beyond the 5-year income methods to work toward larger efforts (Maximo)

* Todd Melton explained funding in Land Stewardship maintenance on the ground level. The levy has allowed the opportunity to hire 50 FTE which will expand it by 33%. The challenges are creating the positions to be filled and staffing them.

Brenda inquired about the flexible fees based on income since Parks is a service provider for the city and levy, then has this been considered for golf? This could help with getting more kids involved or those with limited means since this has always been the stereotype of golf because it's too expensive.

*This is a larger conversation, and the discussions are being had about what are the low hanging fruit items with golf and how to align programs with communications, marketing, and messaging with populations that Parks is engages with (Maximo).

*There are a lot of opportunities for this, and the need to identify the tangible ones. One opportunity to highlight this is at Rose City Community Day to provide a narrative and perhaps coordinate with SUN schools and try to get them out on the

courses if they have programming

g that are nearby. Parks will continue to narrow down program dates and provide more awareness. The idea is to make sure that Recreation and Golf have more synergy (Vincent J). These are also efforts being made to elevate opportunities with the other Enterprise Fund programming in PIR.

PORTLAND GOLF REPORTS/FINANCIAL REPORTS-

- January reports-
 - Rounds down 17% from last year, YTD down 9% but 11% over 5-year average
 - YTD greens fees caught up last month and are close from last year, but monthly greens fees are higher
 - Ahead in rounds for 5-year average and revenue
 - Plan to present budget report monthly as opposed to quarterly
 - Two more debt payments for Colwood loan- next payment in June 2023
 - Net gain of \$1.5 million fund balance and expected forecasted fund balance of \$6.2 million at the end of the year
 - Projecting over \$12 million revenue this year: expecting the baseline to be higher going forward
- Council date to receive authorization from council for concessions RFP has been pushed out a week from 2/23/22 to 3/2/22.
- Two-year follow-up from the Auditor's office came out today from the 2019 audit. Two of the recommendations have been implemented and two are in process.
- Will reschedule a meeting week of 2/8/22 to meet with sub-group to review the GGA report.
- On 2/10/22 conducted a site visit with Hank and Henry Childs along with the steering committee (Rose City Park Neighborhoods, Roseway, GAC, Rose City Bluff volunteers and Rose City Golfers) for the Rose City Community Day.
- Vincent J. participated in the Advocates Pro Golf Association event at Torrey Pines in CA.

Maintenance-

- John Dean, Golf Superintendent, reports:
 - 2 Groundskeeper I positions being temporarily filled by Seasonal Maintenance Workers (SMW) at RedTail and Eastmoreland for preparation into the new year. The recruitment has been closed and upcoming interviews are being scheduled.
 - Bringing SMW's to Eastmoreland for various projects. Drainage on the chipping greens to alleviate standing water and improve surface grass conditions.
 - Several work orders into Urban Forestry for tree work to be done for any potential liabilities.
 - RedTail irrigation being checked for upcoming season.

- Removed landscaping around the clubhouse at Rose City to increase visibility and security, and to highlight key trees in the area.
- Adding cart parking area on the south of putting green. Rerouting from the 18th hole behind the cart barn to avoid cart traffic going through gathering space at Rose City.
- Basic maintenance work being done by SMW's temporarily filling in for Groundskeeper I at Colwood.
- SMW's at Heron are managing the bunker playability, edging cart path on the Great Blue with a disc implementation, moving sand and adding sand.
- Pumping sand from the bottom of the well and re-assembling work at Heron's pump house. A company had inspected the well to change columns and the motor.
- Met with Multnomah County Drainage District to discuss replacing a culvert with something larger. The installation on the new drive will help slow the ramp up and adjust the flow.
- Growing hydroseed this Spring at #9 green at Rose City. Some erosion has occurred in front of the green during wet winter, but planning drainage installation when ground conditions firm.
- Colwood received the Player Development Award from the National Golf Course Owners Association. Visit this link for more information:
<https://www.ngcoa.org/membership/awards>

Sub-Committees-

Long Range Planning- Committee consists of Brenda, Zari, Brad, Alex, and Larry meet on 2/23/22 to review the consultant's report.

Equity Committee- no updates

Marketing- no updates

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS- Brenda announced that Commissioner Hardy had met with PBOT staff referencing her desire to convert golf courses into public housing for the houseless. This idea isn't dying down and there will be constant pressure to use the courses, but that wasn't the design for them.

Zari will initiate a meeting invite with Commissioner Rubio, along with a few other GAC members and seek a commitment from Comm. Rubio that she won't go along with the purposes of housing. That she can be a champion for this cause and views courses as parks, as open space. This will make it difficult for other commissioners. Eastmoreland and Rose

City are in great danger. Robert Williams and Don Hanson are interested in joining the conversation with Comm. Rubio.

Golf advocacy should be in the marketing portfolio to make sure golfers are aware of this issue.

To find out more on golf events or about the Portland Parks Golf Program, please visit the website at: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/63560>

INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC- none

Meeting Adjourned