

OKLAHOMA CITY GOLF COMMISSION

The agenda was filed with the City Clerk of The City of Oklahoma City at 8:55 am, March 29, 2024.

A meeting of the Oklahoma City Golf Commission was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., at Lake Hefner Golf Course, 4491 S. Lake Hefner Drive.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mick Cornett, Chair
LeeAnn Fairlie, Vice Chair
Andy Coats
Tom Caraway
Eliot Yaffe

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Leroy Richardson
Mike Cassady
Cesar Armenta
George Barnes

GOLF PROFESSIONALS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Aaron Kristopeit, Lincoln Park Golf Course
Dane Williams, Lincoln Park Golf Course
Brad Sliauter, Lake Hefner Golf Course
Trent Young, Lake Hefner Golf Course
Ed Cain, Lake Hefner Golf Course
Ed Hughes, Lake Hefner Golf Course
Scott Hobgood, Lake Hefner Golf Course
Brandon Alford, Trosper and Stewart Golf Courses
Dan Langford, Earlywine Park Golf Course
Jennifer Freidhoff, Earlywine Park Golf Course
BJ Howard, Earlywine Park Golf Course
Jabrey Howell, Oklahoma City Golf Courses
Troy McCollum, Oklahoma City Golf Courses

STAFF PRESENT:

Melinda McMillan-Miller, Parks and Recreation Department
Sean Simpson, Parks and Recreation Department
Karen Wiley, Parks and Recreation Department
Ken Stier, Public Works Department
Richard Mahoney, Municipal Counselor

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jerry Bowzer, Citizen

I. Call to Order at 11:00 a.m.

Chair, Mick Cornett presiding.

II. Items from the Chairman.

None.

III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2024, Oklahoma City Golf Commission Meeting.

Approved. Motion by Coats. Second by Caraway. AYES: Cornett, Fairlie, Coats, Caraway and Yaffe.

IV. Receive Financial Statements and Round Reports.

Sean Simpson reported that the surcharge debt fee collections for March 2024 are the highest of any prior years for the month of March on recent record, and are well above the March average.

Financial statements were received, and no other action needed.

V. Discussion/Action on Request for Junior School Fee Tournaments at Various Municipal Golf Courses.

Brandon Alford requested approval for four upcoming Junior Varsity and Varsity Tournaments at the Trosper and James Stewart golf courses.

Approved. Motion by Coats. Second by Yaffe. AYES: Cornett, Fairlie, Coats, Caraway and Yaffe.

VI. Discussion/Action on Reports from Committees

A. Report from Finance Committee

Chairman Cornett reported the finance committee did meet this month and has two formal recommendations for the Golf Commission to consider.

1) Discussion/Action on the recommendation for a \$1.00 increase to the regular, senior, school, and junior green fees at James E. Stewart Golf Course.

Approved. Motion by Caraway. Second by Yaffe. AYES: Cornett, Fairlie, Coats, Caraway and Yaffe.

2) Discussion/Action on increasing the current range token fee to \$4.00 effective May 1, 2024, and increasing to \$4.50 effective May 1, 2025.

Approved. Motion by Caraway. Second by Coats. AYES: Cornett, Fairlie, Coats, Caraway and Yaffe.

B. Report from the Marketing Committee

None.

C. Report from Policies and Procedures Committee

None.

D. Report from Building Committee

Commissioner Fairlie reported they will be meeting with the architects to go over the final question for the new Lake Hefner Golf Course clubhouse. Brad Sliauter added the committee previously asked for a few adjustments to be made to the kitchen equipment and related floorplan.

Commissioner Yaffe reported the Earlywine project is moving forward. Dan Langford commented that the parking lot concerns are ongoing, but it is scheduled to be striped soon. Sean Simpson stated the second phase is scheduled to be completed by July 5, 2024.

Commissioner Cornett asked if the ADA issues have been addressed. Dan Langford responded that he believes it has been resolved and is now waiting for the final inspection.

VII. Monthly Reports from the Golf Courses.

Earlywine:

Dan Langford reported staff has completed aerification of the north course and they are continuing to add new sod to locations around the south course. Mr. Langford also reported parking is still an issue and that they are still operating at 1/3 capacity of tee times.

Commissioner Fairlie asked how the greens responded after being aerated. Mr. Langford stated the preemergent is down and staff is fertilizing now that there is some green up. Rounds: revenue: down 44% the money not being replenished due to the lack of available play.

Commissioner Cornett asked how the schools have handled the parking issue. Mr. Langford stated they have called and discussed the issue with each team to try and alleviate some of the issues but at 3pm when the schools use the putting green it is an issue for other players.

Lake Hefner:

Brad Sliauter reported revenue up around 53% compared to last year. He stated it is the best year on record over the last 15 years. He reported the restaurant is up around 67% in revenue compared to 2023.

Mr. Sliauter stated aerification has been completed and they are moved the par 3 tee boxes back to the grass areas and off the artificial turf mats. The restaurant is in the process of trading in their beverage carts this week and there is a meeting set to finalize the new clubhouse design.

Commissioner Cornett asked about an update to the Zebra Mussel issue. Sean Simpson stated he is working with Public Works to get the project moving forward so a design and contract can be approved.

Commissioner Cornett also asked about crabgrass. Superintendent Ed Hughes stated they are working to eliminate the problem areas and applications have been put down to get it under control.

James E. Stewart & Trosper:

Brandon Alford reported on the playable weather days for the month and that both courses are very busy and doing well.

Mr. Alford reported on the driving range mats, fire suppression system in the kitchen being worked on, and the new Oracle financial training taking place. He stated staff is beginning to put down fertilizer and they are about two weeks out on completing green top dressing. Trosper was up for the month around 57% in revenue.

Mr. Alford reported James E. Stewart staff is working on adding new sod to several areas surrounding the greens and cart trails. He also stated staff has added sand to several bunkers. Stewart GC was up around 51% in revenue and up 7% for the year to date.

Lincoln:

Aaron Kristopeit reported Lincoln had a very good March. Rounds and the Driving Range were both up compared to 2023. He stated they are beginning a Monday Night golf league in April. Mr. Kristopeit reported on new signage being added out on the golf course for the customers.

Aerification has been completed on both courses by the maintenance staff, and they received a new greens roller, so that should make a significant improvement to the greens.

Commissioner Coats asked about non-golf revenue. Mr. Kristopeit reported that the course's event manager, Jennifer DeSouza, is now working full-time and working to grow the business and that there are some upcoming events. Commissioner Coats recommended working on some advertising, and Mr. Kristopeit stated they will continue to look into that.

Commissioner Caraway asked about the water well study. Sean Simpson replied the report was received a few days ago, and that he will email the report to the Commission and to the Directors of Golf.

VIII. Items from Commissioners.

Commissioner Caraway asked about the water well study. Sean Simpson replied he will send out the report to everyone by the end of next week.

IX. Items from Staff.

None.

X. Items from Citizens.

None.

XI. Adjournment at 11:47 p.m.