

Draft
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AT 1:00 PM
Golf Division Headquarters (ONLINE WEBCAST)
3900 Chevy Chase Drive
Los Angeles, 90039

<p>ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS Chair Betty Brix, Penmar Women's Golf Club Vice Chair Marcy Valley, Rancho Park Women's Golf Club Secretary, Kevin Fitzgerald, SCGA Rosemary Menard, Harbor Park Women's Club Steve Bloom, Griffith Park Golf Club Virgil Budhu, Sepulveda Men's Golf Club Thor Tandberg, At Large City Club Representative Debbie Meymarian, At Large Patrick MacFarlane, At Large Kevin Gigax – SCGA Junior Golf Foundation Matt Gilson – SCPGA Foundation Vicky Lagos, CIF City Section Commissioner</p>	<p>GOLF STAFF MEMBERS Calvin White, Principal Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II Chuck Ruiz, Acting Golf Starter Supervisor II Uriel Matus, Acting Golf Supervisor II Gayane Manukyan, Financial Analyst II</p> <p>ATTENDING COMMITTEE ALTERNATES Tanna Barker, Griffith Park Golf Club</p> <p>ATTENDING GUESTS Craig Kessler, SCGA Deb Olsen</p>
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MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairperson Betty Brix with a quorum present. Chair Betty Brix shared information about the virtual online forum so that members could fully participate.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comment.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Marcy Valley moved, Debbie Meymarian seconded, to approve the amended Minutes from the July 19, 2021 meeting.** The motion was unanimously approved.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- GOLF MANAGER REPORT – Chuck Ruiz
 - i. The Tree Report is complete. A corresponding drone video is being completed.
 - ii. Staff is reviving a large putting green at Jim Gilleam Rec Center for Universal Play and will be ready in October.
 1. Universal Play is a Department program that is being funded by LA2028.
 - iii. Golf has purchased a new reel grinder stationed at Woodley Lakes. The machinery sharpens mower blades to ensure that the machinery is operating efficiently.
 - iv. Golf has begun hiring full-time starters and full-time maintenance personnel. The Golf Division is going to be able to begin getting back to standard and often more labor intensive operating/maintenance practices.

- v. The Senior Men's City Championship will be held October 16-17. It is the last tournament of the calendar year and there are 120 golfers registered to participate as of today.
 - 1. The Golf Division could use several volunteers to assist with the Senior Club Championship.

- CONCESSIONS REPORT – Chuck Ruiz

- vi. Rancho Park - demo scheduled for November and construction is scheduled to begin in January. Mobile trailer will be located near the first tee to hold the course starter window.
- vii. Harbor Park – a new 1 year agreement has been signed for a new concessionaire.
- viii. Woodley Lakes – the operator has a 1 year agreement, although it has not opened yet. A food truck remains at the location for food and beverage currently.
- ix. Penmar – the café has been well received. The concessionaire has music on Wednesday evenings. There has been one local resident neighbor who has complained about the sound. The City had professional sound checks to ensure that the noise level is below mandated levels.
- x. Los Feliz – the café is continuing to work on design/renovation plans for ADA compliance. There will be a more permanent awning installed which will replace the current covering.
- xi. Griffith Park – the second phase of the ADA entrance work at the clubhouse in addition to the patio work and should be completed in 2-3 weeks.
 - 1. Women's locker room is complete, but we are still waiting for final inspections (electrical and others) before the bathrooms can be reopened.
- xii. Sepulveda and Hansen Dam – the restaurants are still operated by Monterey Concessions and are on month-to-month agreements.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- FEES AND CHARGES – Thor Tandberg
 - i. Thor Tandberg was elected Chairperson for the 2021-2022 term.
- POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – Kevin Fitzgerald
 - ii. The subcommittee attempted to hold a meeting but fell one short of securing a quorum, therefore no action was taken.
 - 1. The subcommittee has continued to monitor Governor Newsom's Executive Order concerning virtual meeting procedures under the pandemic emergency.
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – Kevin Fitzgerald
 - iii. Kevin Fitzgerald was elected Chair for the 2021-2022 term.

iv. The committee discussed the Capital Surcharge Account. Gayane Manukyan from the Golf Division attended the subcommittee meeting and provided members with a review of how the dollars are collected, how the dollars are kept by way of facility work order, and how the dollars are used.

1. A question was raised regarding a capital improvement budget use as opposed to what constitutes routine maintenance. Budget for maintenance vs. capital improvement. Members will reach out to collect input from their constituencies to discuss what they feel are the priority needs throughout the golf system facilities.

- AD HOC CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDING – Kevin Fitzgerald

v. The subcommittee did not hold a meeting but has secured four members for future meetings. Golf Division Staff plans to meet with the Department to discuss what might be possible in terms of various approaches to secure additional dollars for the golf system's capital improvement needs.

- AD HOC WOMEN'S GOLF – Marcy Valley

vi. The Ad Hoc Women's Golf Subcommittee reelected Marcy Valley as Chairperson.

vii. The subcommittee recommended that the GAC discuss changing the championship flight of the City's Women's Championship, scheduled for June 2022 at Wilson/Harding, from 36 to 54 holes with a 36 hole cut.

viii. The subcommittee also recommended that the GAC discuss both the creation of a city wide weekend golf club and also whether the minimum age for club membership and the Women's City Championship entry is appropriate. The minimum age of 16 years old is consistent requirement with the Men's Championship which is now 16. The discussion about the possibility of creating a new weekend club was held until the next GAC meeting.

ix. Chuck Ruiz explained that the Golf Division is holding a third day on the 2022 calendar should there be interest in changing the championship flight to 54 holes. He mentioned that the only potential challenge is that a 54 hole event would require a higher registration fee as a result of the third greens fee. A price increase would be necessary for those in the championship flight for a third greens fee, but the event would benefit from an elevated status, including amateur ranking points which can be accrued with a 54 hole format.

x. **Marcy Valley moved, Rosemary Menard seconded, that the championship flight of LA City Women's Championship become a 54 holes event.** The motion was unanimously approved.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – Chairperson Betty Brix

- The Governor's Executive Order allows for virtual meetings through the end of September. The committee discussed the virtual setting and will continue to meet virtually for the time being.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Chairperson Betty Brix

- Face coverings are required indoors in LA County regardless of vaccination status due to the rise in Covid caseloads.

7. NEW BUSINESS – Chairperson Betty Brix

- **Steve Bloom moved, Marcy Valley seconded, that the GAC accept the LA City GAC 2019-2020 Annual Report.** The motion was unanimously approved.
- City Player Card renewal - extended discussion ensued regarding the renewal process for Player Cards including whether it would be possible to notify current card holders that their card is set to expire, whether it would be possible for City Player Cards to be renewed in the portal online, and whether City Player Cards can still be renewed by phone through the Golf Division.
 - i. The EZ Links online portal is not currently able to accept/process City Player Card renewals, and the course starters are unable to renew/activate City Player Cards over the phone. Currently, the City Player Cards can only be renewed at the golf courses in person.

8. FUTURE AGENDA

- AB 672 – Craig Kessler of SCGA provided a status update of the bill which was filed in early 2021.
 - i. The original version of the bill which would have failed to secure a hearing in either of its two committees of reference. It would have removed all of California’s municipal golf courses from local zoning prerogatives, the Park Preservation Act, and the need to go through CEQA process to turn municipal golf courses into housing tracts with a certain percentage being considered affordable units. The bill has been substantially amended and as a two year bill can be heard again in January when the Legislature reconvenes. The new version is much more politically palatable because local zoning control is not taken from the local zoning agencies and CEQA would still apply to projects. Should this bill become law in 2022 the Legislature will have made a clear finding on the record that municipal golf courses are not to be considered parks.
 - ii. Patrick MacFarlane shared that the Democratic Party supported the initial 2021 version of the bill. Golfers need to tell the story of how municipal golf courses benefit not only the golfers in the community but also the ways in which the courses benefit non-golfing residents.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next GAC meeting is scheduled to be held on November 15, 2021.
- With no further comments Chairperson Betty Brix adjourned the meeting at 2:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by _____

Kevin Fitzgerald, Secretary