

Draft
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY July 18, 2022 AT 1:00 PM
Golf Division Headquarters (ONLINE WEBCAST)
3900 Chevy Chase Drive
Los Angeles, 90039

<p>ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</p> <p>Chair Betty Brix, Penmar Women’s Golf Club Vice Chair Marcy Valley, Rancho Park Women’s Golf Club Secretary, Kevin Fitzgerald, SCGA Steve Bloom, Griffith Park Golf Club Debbie Meymarian, At Large Azucena Maldonado, Latina Golfers Association Jim Dover, Roosevelt Golf Club Thor Tandberg, At Large City Club Representative Vicky Lagos, CIF City Section Commissioner Anne Matthews, Sepulveda Women’s Club Patrick MacFarlane, At Large</p>	<p>GOLF STAFF MEMBERS</p> <p>Rick Reinschmidt, Acting Golf Manager Calvin White, Principal Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II Gayane Manukyan, Financial Analyst II Chuck Ruiz, Acting Golf Supervisor II</p> <p>ATTENDING GUESTS</p> <p>Judy Borck, President, Harbor Park Women’s GC Virgil Budhu, President, Sepulveda Men’s Club MJ Jubelirer, President, Sepulveda Women’s Club Craig Kessler, SCGA</p>
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MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 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
 - **Steve Bloom moved, Marcy Valley seconded, to approve the Minutes from the May 16, 2022 meeting.** The motion was unanimously approved.
3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS
 - GOLF MANAGER REPORT/CONCESSIONS REPORT – Rick Reinschmidt
 - i. Rancho Park – demolition and construction are on hold right now pending legal issues with Tavern at Rancho Park LLC. The project is still moving forward with TRP. We don’t have further information at this point, but additional RAP Board action may be required.
 - ii. Woodley Lakes – the restaurant now needs Building and Safety needs to approve additional inspections. The concessionaire is waiting for a few final upgrades such as the delivery of a larger water heater. There is no opening date set as of now.
 - iii. Griffith Park – the restaurant is under a soft opening, but it is open seven days per week. Construction is complete including the outdoor patio and cover. There is no official date set for a formal grand opening, but at that point there will be a permanent menu.
 - iv. Harbor Park – the restaurant is open 7a.m – 4p.m. six days per week. It remains closed on Mondays as there are still positions open for additional staff.

- v. The Golf Division has completed interviews to fill the positions for 19 Senior Gardeners. Human Resources is processing the new employees.
- vi. Chuck Ruiz - since the last GAC meeting the City hosted the Men's and Women's City Championships. Both events featured exciting finishes, great scoring, and higher participation numbers when compared to 2021.
 - 1. There were 365 players registered for the Men's Championship. That is approximately 100 players more than in 2021. Ramiz Jamal won the event in a three-way playoff having shot a score of -9.
 - 2. There were 96 players in the Women's Championship which was a 45 player increase from 2021. Kate Villegas shot -13 and won the Championship by one stroke with a birdie on the final hole.
 - 3. Golfers can register for the City's Match Play Championship and there are already 100 golfers registered to play.
 - 4. Chuck Ruiz thanked the volunteers who helped host the City Championships.
- vii. Rick Reinschmidt – in June, the Griffith Park Golf Club helped organize and run a great event to celebrate women's golf in the City.
- viii. The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners approved the revised Tournament and League Policy on May 19, 2022.
- ix. The RAP Board Report regarding the Capital Improvement account should be on an agenda in August. The Golf Division met with the Parks and Finance Departments regarding final edits/recommendations about the Board report to reinvest a greater percentage of golf revenue back into the capital improvement account. The City Attorney is reviewing the final language before the recommendation is presented to the RAP Board. The current surcharge on greens fees accumulates a sum total that is insufficient to meet the system's capital improvement needs. The Board report requests that the surcharge on greens fees be eliminated and that 10% of annual gross revenue be transferred to the capital improvement fund. The 10% on gross revenue means that all revenue will be included in the calculation including greens fees, cart fees, range fees, filming fees, merchandise, and food and beverage rent percentages. Based on the golf system's average gross revenue the past several years we can expect \$2.6 million per year to be set aside for the capital improvement account. That would be an increase of about 86% from the current contribution.
 - 1. The same RAP Board report will also request the transfer of several million dollars from the Golf Operations account to the Capital Improvement Account. This is profit that has accumulated over the past few years thanks to the increase in play throughout the system. There is not an exact dollar amount yet, but that will be available soon. There will still be money available in the Golf Operations Account to help fund needs in case there is an unexpected downturn. There is still money in the Emergency Fund as well.
- x. The final component of the Board Report is the proposed fee increases and a new ceiling for greens fees. The costs to provide the golf courses has gone up significantly the past several years.
 - 1. This fee increase proposal is in line with the LA County golf system. LA City Golf would be slightly lower for the average weekly greens fee, but slightly higher on the average weekend greens fee. The golf cart rental fee will

remain the same. The weekend senior greens fees for the nine hole courses would increase to \$15.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- FEES AND CHARGES – Thor Tandberg
 - i. No report.
- POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – Jim Dover
 - i. No report.
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – Kevin Fitzgerald
 - i. No report.
- AD HOC CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDING – Kevin Fitzgerald
 - i. No report. The Ad Hoc committee will remain in place in the event that another meeting is required. The Golf Division expects the two subcommittee recommendations to be on a RAP Board Agenda in August.
- AD HOC WOMEN'S GOLF – Marcy Valley
 - i. The subcommittee is working to consider promoting organized golf events for women on the city courses. The subcommittee will continue to work on this topic.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Brown Act – Kevin Fitzgerald
 - i. This is the first meeting of the new GAC term, and this body falls under the provisions of the Brown Act (California's Open Meetings Law). Since the beginning of the pandemic GAC meetings have been held virtually – this is compliant with the Brown Act for the duration of the Covid-19 state of emergency.
- Green New Deal – Rick Reinschmidt
 - i. The Committee discussed whether the golf courses should plant additional trees to help add to the city's urban canopy in line with the goals of the city's Green New Deal.
 1. The Committee expressed support for the idea to add trees on the golf courses, but with the current drought conditions there will not be additional trees planted in the near future because they would require additional irrigation. While most of the courses use recycled water for irrigation which is not under any restrictions for the time being, there is a fear that additional water restrictions could be implemented if the next few months remain exceptionally dry. There are nearly 13,000 trees on the city's golf courses.
- Women's Golf Event at Griffith Park – Steve Bloom
 - i. The Griffith Park Club volunteers, LPGA Amateurs, teaching professionals, and LA City Staff worked together to provide a successful event in celebration of women's golf. Registration filled for the June 7 event.
- Fee Increases – Rick Reinschmidt

- i. Rick Reinschmidt explained that while this fee increase proposal review period is taking place in a condensed time frame, aligning the fee increase package and presenting it to the RAP Board along with the 10% golf system revenue set aside for capital improvements would be wise.
 - 1. The GAC discussed the details of the fee increase proposal at length.
 - GAC members discussed the Lifeline greens fee rate and members expressed concern about eliminating the Lifeline greens fee. The discussion focused on the way the rate is a benefit to members of the community who may otherwise not be able to access the city golf courses. GAC members stressed the importance of retaining an affordable and accessible golf system, and members support the current junior greens fee rate without an increase. Members discussed the percentage increase in the fee package proposal. The fees will move up approximately 10% which aligns with the RAP Board's expectation of increases with inflation. Members did express concern about the trajectory of fee increases, particularly with a new ceiling. However, the Golf Division will not be approaching the new ceiling this year. The Golf Division also retains flexibility to keep fees stable should demand for tee times subside.
 - ii. **Marcy Valley moved that the GAC approve the Golf Division's fee increase proposal but retain the Lifeline rate. Kevin Fitzgerald seconded the motion with the addition that this be presented to the RAP Board at the same time as the recommendation for the 10% set aside for capital improvements.**
 - iii. Steve Bloom was asked to restate the motion in full. Steve Bloom then stated that **the GAC expresses its support for the proposed fee structure changes provided; a) that the Lifeline rates remain as they currently are without change, and b) that any proposal for rate increases go forward if and only if the proposal for the capital surcharge set aside goes forward at the same time. Kevin Fitzgerald seconded the restated motion.**
 - iv. Chairperson Betty Brix called for a roll call vote with nine members in favor and 3 abstentions.
 - Election of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary) for the 2022/2023 GAC term.
 - i. Chair Betty Brix explained that the current Officers have been termed out of their current positions. Chair Brix called for nominations for the election of GAC Chair for the 2022/2023 term.
 - 1. **Kevin Fitzgerald was elected Committee Chair, Debbie Meymarian was elected Committee Vice Chair, Betty Brix was elected Secretary upon voice vote.**
6. FUTURE AGENDA – Chairperson Betty Brix
- Annual Report – a draft version of the 2021/2022 report will be prepared for the Committee's review this Fall.
 - Craig Kessler provided public comment about the state's current water situation as it pertains to golf course irrigation. SCGA has been working with other lead organizations and facilities to work closely with providers.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New GAC Chair Kevin Fitzgerald welcomed new members to the Golf Advisory Committee. He thanked outgoing Committee Chair Betty Brix for her leadership the past two years through a very challenging time. He also thanked outgoing Vice Chair Marcy Valley for her dedication to the GAC and the City's golf system.
- Rick Reinschmidt thanked the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair for their service to the golf system. And he shared that he would submit the two Board Reports (increase contribution to the Capital Improvements fund and the rates and fees schedule) to the City Attorney for preparation. Once the proposed Board Reports have been reviewed by the City Attorney the Golf Division will present them to the RAP Board for approval.
- The next GAC meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 1:00 p.m.
- With no further comments outgoing Chairperson Betty Brix thanked members and staff for attending the meeting which was then adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by _____
Kevin Fitzgerald, Secretary