



WASHOE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



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Washoe County Golf Council

May 14, 2009

Golf Council Present:

Bonnie Foard
Carol Harriman
Jim Pruitt
Bob Ryan
Larry Schultze, Chairman

Staff Present:

Rosemarie Entsminger
Julie Lester
Al Rogers

Golf Professionals Present:

Barney Bell

Larry Schultze called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

1. **Roll Call.**

A quorum was present with 4 members and 1 alternate.

2. **Public Comments.**

There were no public comments.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting.**

Bonnie Foard made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Bob Ryan seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous.

4. **Golf Course Reports.**

Barney Bell reviewed the written report for Washoe Golf Course. The Shine the Shoe tournament raised \$3,820 for a donation to the golf course; it was pretty gratifying to raise that much money on their first try. It was a great success and they look forward to doing it again next year.

Al Rogers reviewed the report for Sierra Sage.

5. **Discussion of possible funding and operations for Sierra Sage Golf Course.**

Al Rogers said the biggest news is that the Request for Proposals for the operation of Sierra Sage was released two weeks ago. They held the pre-bid walk-through yesterday and had eight vendors. It was not mandatory, so they were encouraged to have eight potential bidders. There were some new faces and they were asking some questions, they may not all submit bids but it was encouraging. The bids are due May 26th, they will be opened the following day and then they will begin the process of seeing if any of them are compliant with what they put out in the RFP. They have the month of June and early July for this review process, they will go back to the Board of County Commissioners no later than August with an updated report on the RFP and the impact on the future of Sierra Sage. Right now, barring any proposal that the Board of County Commissioners accepts, it is still planned that the course would close September 30th. County commissioner Weber has indicated that she would like to see the course kept open through the end of October, but it has not been agendized.

Carol Harriman asked about the bids. Mr. Rogers said the bids were to take full management of Sierra Sage after September 30th. That proposal needs to be for an operation that would take over Sierra Sage with no county subsidy whatsoever. We will take forward all the proposals, but the Board of County Commissioners will be the final determination on who if any of them were to get that proposal.

Bonnie Foard asked if Mr. Rogers had contacted Commissioner Weber, if she had any success with the other Commissioners as to elongating the operation. Mr. Rogers said that would be a future agenda item, he anticipates he will be asked to bring forward a report. He does not disagree with that, the initial date was established as September 30th, it was chosen from a purely business standpoint. In the month of October rounds and revenue drop off dramatically, so if they decide to run through October there will be an additional cost to the County. That is a decision to be made by the County Commissioners.

Jim Pruitt asked if the equipment would be part of the bid. Mr. Rogers said it could be, we will have the ability to negotiate that. We have not said they have to buy the equipment, it will be based on the proposals, some may come forward with an option to buy or lease existing equipment. We will also look at it to see what, if any, of that equipment we would want to hang on to and move to Washoe prior to leasing or selling it, or whatever is left may go to public auction.

Ms. Foard asked about the utilities. Mr. Rogers said that could be part of the negotiation also. In the structure we have we cannot sell or lease the golf course, but we can have someone come in as management.

Larry Schultze said there is a tournament scheduled for tomorrow; the main objective is to raise funds to help assist in advertising, or whatever may need to be done to save the golf course. They have 136 golfers signed up so far, they are also planning another tournament in June. Kevin Cassinelli, the Men's Club president has sent letters to various companies to sponsor holes or tees, so things are moving along. A lot of people are offering to help.

Mr. Schultze said the Sierra Sage Men's Club selected three high school students from North Valleys High School as scholarship recipients; they will each get \$1,500.

6. Assistant Director's Report.

Mr. Rogers said he had two items to follow up on from the last meeting. He checked the Benchcraft contract and it does give them exclusive rights for advertising at the tees. We can do tournament events, but we cannot sell or offer long term advertising on the tees. We can put a donor board on the course, but we cannot duplicate what Benchcraft has on the benches or tees with similar signs.

The other item is regarding the history of the water rights. As he has stated before, when the property was purchased from the Federal Government, it came with no water rights. The water rights were applied for in a new allocation through the State of Nevada, and two permits for water rights were pulled in December of 1970. So, no water rights came with the land, we acquired them through the natural process of requesting them through the State Engineer in 1970. Both permits were approved in 1971, at no time were those permits ever held by the Federal Government. Hopefully we can get the focus off the water rights, in the sense of Washoe County's right to sell those water rights. Where the money went is a different issue, but within the legal bounds Washoe County acquired the water rights and they were sold in accordance with proper procedure.

Mr. Rogers said he has met with the City of Reno and the RSCVA regarding regional golf and the continuance of the High Desert Five or Four. They both indicated they would like to continue to participate in that program. They agreed to reduce the price to \$30, and they hope to have the cards in place by the end of next week. They have about \$4,000 from the 2008 season so they have some working capital to produce the cards and do some print advertising through RGJ this year. Again the cards would offer one free play at each of the courses, one hour earlier twilight, and a large bucket of balls for the price of a medium. The four courses would be Wildcreek, Rosewood, Sierra Sage, and Washoe.

7. Council's Comments.

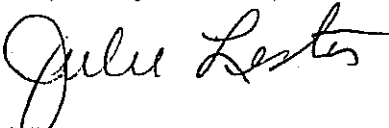
Larry Schultze said he has received a request to have the minutes posted on the website. Rosemarie Entsminger said we could do that, but not until the minutes have been approved by the Golf Council.

Carol Harriman asked what the source of water was when the Federal Government operated the golf course. Both Mr. Rogers and Ms. Entsminger said they have also asked that question, they do not know. It could have been from the airbase, or from a well at another location.

The next meeting will be held June 11th at Washoe Golf Course.

Carol Harriman made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Pruitt seconded it. With a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Lester". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Julie Lester
Recording Secretary