

**Park Commission Meeting
December 10, 2009**

Present: Bob Christiansen, Mike Interbartolo, Joan Bell, Frank Olivieri, Phil Friel, Tom Friel, Bill Gardiner, John McLaughlin, John Mercer, Mike Farrell, Cindy Brickley

I SIGNING OF WARRANTS

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

none

III. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Status Report on Revolving Fund Account FY10

Not many additions from last month. Frank anticipates adding Travel and MBA numbers to budget by next month. The City Youth Day is now a separate line item on the budget. It is the only Mt Hood Community event that has been run so far. Mike I. would like Frank to bring a proposal to run functions at Mt Hood. The Park Commission would approve them. Mt Hood would fund them. It does not have to be only winter activities.

Susan, Franks secretary, will try to make next month's meeting, she could not make it tonight.

B. Program Updates

Recreation is deep into MBA and Travel seasons. All games start this weekend. High School starts in January. Wrestling is running well, there are about 25 in the program.

C. USTA Scholarship

Melrose won a scholarship to attend a workshop in San Diego in the middle of January, expenses paid. Frank has spoken with the city solicitor and the state ethics commission. They told Frank this falls under legal parameters, so that Frank may attend. Frank would like to make the commission aware that he will be attending.

D. Gym rental Fees

Frank sent an email to the commission summarizing his conversations with Swampscott and Reading regarding their methods of dealing with gym rentals. Mike I. wanted to know if the golf team or other school group used Mt Hood for free. The Melrose High golf team are the only ones that use the course from the Melrose Public Schools. The cost of the golf would be \$3072.

Bob C. seems to think the fields may have to be charged for in the near future if the school does not work with recreation.

John McLaughlin thinks that a small group should go to Greg Zammuto or the school committee to deal with this issue to solve it once and for all. Mike I. would like John McLaughlin to speak with the mayor about the correct way to get to the school committee.

E. Red Sox Tickets

Frank reserved several dates for Red Sox tickets that go on sale today. He would like the commission to OK their purchase.

Frank reserved 53 Red Sox tickets (@\$52 each) to run a Community Night. He also reserved 70 tickets (@\$40 each) for 2 separate nights in August (2nd and 3rd) for the Terrace. These would be for the Navigators Camp.

Motion: By John McLaughlin to OK the purchase of the baseball tickets at approximately \$8400.

Second: Bob Christiansen

Vote: 1 opposed

IV. MOUNT HOOD REPORT

A. Mount Hood

1. Report on membership list for 2009

No changes.

2. Outstanding Gift Certificates

\$ 29,000 balance

3. Monthly Financial Report on Golf Course

YTD they are down about \$2500. November had some warm days. 44 people took advantage of the last email that was sent out.

2009 Total Golf Revenues:

MTD \$48,606.97

YTD \$1,476,996

4. Marketing Plan Update

No new plan for next year yet.

5. Report on General Operations of Golf Course

a. Report on staffing

There is currently 8 staff on hand. Mike I. was told that if there was snow over the holidays that the bathrooms would be open and hot chocolate would be available.

b. Copy of Maintenance Log and Current Certification

A copy was submitted and is on file.

c. 2010 Membership Packets

Rates were discussed. The cart prices need to be increased because tax went up. Customers will see a \$1 increase for nine hole carts and a \$2 increase for 18 holes. Most places advertise their rates before tax. Mt Hood advertises the price after tax. The Friels would like to change the way they advertise also. They would like to advertise their cart rates before tax to be more in line with other courses.

Golf rates can stay the same. However, Phil suggests that making the membership costs come out closer to the cost of a daily round. Reports show that the people who choose to become members are using their memberships more. We have fewer members and fewer overall rounds being played after a peak in 2007.

Joan called 8 courses and the majority are not raising their rates. Most were on either their 2nd or 3rd year of not increasing prices.

Mike I. would like GMC to look into handicap carts that he saw advertised.

Motion: By John McLaughlin to increase the cart rates to \$18 for 9 holes and to \$34 for 18 holes (includes tax). The membership fees and greens fees will remain the same for 2010.

Second: Bob Christiansen

Vote: Unanimous

Bob Christiansen would like to make sure that a statement be put in the packet that this is the 2nd year of keeping the rates the same, but not a promise for next year.

Phil F. mentioned that the snack bar did not increase prices when the tax went up or when the city added the additional tax. Next year these increases will incorporate into the snack bar prices. Joan offered to get a list of surrounding towns that raised the meal tax like Melrose did.

Bob C. brought up weekday members being able to play twilight hours on the weekends. Weekday members were concerned that the number of tournaments cut into their available tee times. GMC is allowed 2 tournaments per week and 2 floater tournaments. 1 day can be a double shot gun. They are allowed 10 tournaments total per month. Leagues run Mon-Fri. Some start at 3:00pm, some at 3:30pm and some at 4:00pm. Much discussion was had.

Bob C. summarized that he liked the idea of coming up with a reasonable rate to charge a weekday member for a twilight rate. Mike I. would like GMC to come up with a thought out proposal for this. It will not be included in the membership packet, but, will go out in an email in the future. Mike I. would like to be included in the email list.

Mike I. would like to see the membership applications sent out this year with a box to be checked if person would like to receive the application via email next year.

d. Update on AC

Joan is meeting with RW Sullivan and Mercury Mechanical to answer questions on inside/outside piping.

e. Update on Feasibility Study

1. Topography Study

This is in progress.

2. Environmental proposal

Proposal is included

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to accept Beals and Thomas' Environmental Study proposal and to proceed with it.

Second: John McLaughlin

Vote: Unanimous

f. Update on Hydro raking First Pond

Project is done. The material take out at Mt Hood was different than that at Towner's. It cost an additional \$1800 to complete the project on top of the \$7500 that had been allotted for the project. A lot of work was done in front of the pump house. The follow up: Aquatic Control is going to send a report. In the spring the growth will be looked at. They think that the pond should be good for 3 years. If anything there may need to be some spot treatments done.

g. Update on Wind Turbine Study

Joan just got the first report on the desktop study done. See report. Joan has to reply. She and David Shakespeare will have a conference call to go over the report. There was only one area they were really interested in. Phil F. asked if the soil quality was addressed.

Discussion on other possibilities was had, such as near the drinking water by the 12th hole. Concern over the effect of the turbine on the driving range was discussed.

Joan brought up that the cost of what is saved vs what is forfeited must be looked at.

The base would be 13' to 17'. Height can be from 30' to 90'.

B. Report on requests for rental of club house, league play and golf tournaments

See report

C. FY10 Budget

Joan asked if the budget was sent out via email it would save a lot of paper. The commission was fine with this.

The Mt Hood investment interest line item on munis still needs to be looked into.

The kitchen proposals were too much. Table this till next month.

V. PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. General Park Dept. Report

1. Update on Morelli Infield Project

All work is done. A lot of work was done. Very happy with DHT Golf Services. Joan had them look at the Common Softball fields.

2. Update to BOA request Feasibility of Dog Park Meeting

The backside of the East Knoll is the area of interest. Joan has been in contact with Susan Murphy and has put a call into Dave Dickerson. Joan will bring back information when she has it.

B. Mowing and Maintenance Contract Renewal

Bob Beshara and John Scenna could not be here. Bob wrote a letter, which outlines all that he needed to tell the commission.

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to agree to renew GTA for another year.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

C. FY11 Budget
No questions

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to agree to open public participation.

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joe Sullivan, 10 Birch Hill Rd, thanks the commission for not raising their rates.

Rose Scenna, 97 Walton Park and Joan O'Connor, Hurd St, thought the meeting would be more about the Feasibility Study. They want to keep the golf course the same. They are very against putting a field at Mt Hood.

Motion: By Bob Christiansen to close public participation

Second: John Mercer

Vote: Unanimous

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

Motion: By Bill Gardiner to adjourn

Second: Bob Christiansen

Vote: Unanimous