

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES

November 14, 2012

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Dan Wilkins (Committee member)  
Ron Treabess (Committee member)  
Judy Friedman (Observer)

COMMITTEE/STAFF PRESENT: Cindy Gustafson, General Manager  
Bob Bolton, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Ramona Cruz, Director of Accounting & Employee Services  
Layne VanNoy, Recreation Superintendent  
Roger Adamson, Parks Superintendent  
Kelli Twomey, Dir of Resource Development & Community Relations  
Terri Viehmann, District Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: TJ Duncan of Duncan Golf, Kevin Murnane and Valli Murnane of Tahoe  
Cross Country

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

**1. PROPOSAL FOR WINTER OPERATIONS AT THE TAHOE CITY GOLF COURSE**

Mr. Bolton noted that this will be a pilot program. All parties involved; TCPUD, Tahoe Cross Country (TXC) and Duncan Golf are looking to minimize risk while investing enough to make it a successful program. The proposed operation will run 7 days a week for the holidays, beginning on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. TXC will offer ski and snowshoe rentals and sled rental for a toddler-size sledding hill. TXC will operate 9am-4pm. Duncan Golf will offer limited food options. Both TXC and TCPUD are looking to cover the cost of operations, but not necessarily make a profit. All parties involved are interested in providing a service to the community that is located adjacent to downtown.

TJ Duncan expressed his concern about offering food and beverage service at a loss for the duration of the operation. Duncan Golf wants to be supportive of winter operations without subsidizing the endeavor. They are proposing to operate the restaurant and bar 5 days a week, Thursday through Monday, to be able to staff 1 bartender and 1 cook/server.

Ms. Gustafson clarified that Duncan Golf holds the liquor license and operation permits. The license cannot be transferred to another operation during the winter.

The meeting was opened to public comment.

Don Hale commented that he would like to see the property kept in its present state. He wants to see it remain a golf course and he wants to see the building opened to other uses such as weddings

and events. He hopes that snowmobile operations are not considered. He believes that the restaurant/bar operations could be sustained year-round if they provide a good product.

Marty Schoonmaker stated that the operation must be closely tied to TXC for it to work. She would like to see the golf course property connected to TXC via the Fibreboard Freeway. It should be opened up without an additional charge to existing TXC passholders. She thought dogs on the trail could be an issue.

Kevin Murnane responded that a link has been discussed, but the Fibreboard is USFS property and is open to snowmobile use. He has considered limiting trail access to dogs on the weekends.

Ms. Gustafson commented that snowmobile use of the property has too many detrimental impacts to the greens and noise impact to the neighbors. A long term goal is to create an ice rink, but the BMPs must be installed first. The District would not be able to support an ice rink on their own.

Rick Raduziner stated that he is concerned about the existing free sledding located off the highway. He is concerned that customers would pay for a sled, but not for hill access.

Valli Murnane responded that essentially customers are paying for the sled use and not using the hill. They can only sled on the hill with sleds providing by TXC.

Rick Raduziner commented that he has concerns about a public entity subsidizing a private, for-profit, entity. He questioned whether the subsidy is fair to other local businesses.

Ms. Gustafson responded that it is a dilemma because there is not enough business to keep the restaurant going year-round.

Rick Raduziner asked if the long-term vision of the property provided an opportunity for an ice rink and if so, he encouraged the District to look at a rink large enough to accommodate ice hockey or figure skating. He then asked TJ Duncan if they have considered adding a driving range to the golf course. He thought it would be nice to have a 3-par course with a driving range.

Tommie Black asked if the District has looked into a portable rink.

Mr. Bolton responded that he has looked at a portable rink and synthetic ice.

Marty Schoonmaker said that the ice rink needs to be big enough to compete with hockey rinks in South Shore. It needs to provide more service than existing rinks.

Tommie Black is concerned about providing a subsidy to Duncan Golf to operate winter food and beverage. She thought that a rent reduction sounded much better than a subsidy.

Ms. Gustafson stated that the District may subsidize the pilot program at an amount not to exceed \$10,000. The District will share in any profits that may be made also.

Director Wilkins is willing to recommend to the full Board that staff pursue both options; (1) funding the physical cost of the cross-country operation and work with Duncan Golf Management to provide the financial security to offer food and beverage offerings to complement the cross country

operations . The District needs to review measures of success. The goal is for the program to be completely self-sustaining. The District will share in the success, as well as the risk of the program.

Ms. Gustafson asked for clarity on the goals for the operations.

Director Wilkins would like the costs and benefits to be evaluated and discussed at the end of the season with the expectation that it will take 3 to 5 years for the operation to be self sustaining.

## **2. DISCUSSION OF FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR WINTER OPERATIONS**

Ms. Twomey is coordinating a fundraising event to kick off winter operations at the golf course. The event will be held in the club house on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. She is also investigating options to adopt a trail section to offset operations. It will be a family fun event to introduce the community and visitors to the winter operations.

## **3. DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND REPORTS**

There was no discussion.

## **4. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no discussion.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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Terri Viehmann, District Clerk

Prepared by Terri Viehmann