

## GCAS August 29 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – 5:30

### Present

Tim Johnson

KayLinda Crawford

Laura Cruet

Mike Lippiatt

Dan Erickson – non-board member representing LA County

### Public Comment

Kurt Anast – “...condition of the course the worst I’ve seen in terms of the way it’s kept despite all the rain...others also complaining...try to talk to pro shop staff about the conditions...they just pass the responsibility to someone else...we’ve put together a list of conditions we find unacceptable with suggestions for improvements, have signatures on the list to let the County know we are unhappy...we want to see a plan for improvements...what can be done?”

Bruce Norman – “...I’ve been involved with this course in many ways...I’ve never seen it this bad...I know there have been staffing issues, new people to train, we accept that, but it’s not fun to play here anymore...native grass up to our knees, no way to find our ball...there’s a big issue with crows...no evidence of taking action to prevent the crow damage...we’ve lost main part of the playing season, can we salvage the rest of the season...I want to make sure the right team is in place along with a process for moving forward...Eric (Superintendent) arrived in April and couldn’t order supplies, didn’t have staff...how did we get into this situation...can’t believe Eric was hired...his resume does not fit the job requirements.”

Eddie Sanchez – “...I’ve been working here for 20 years...been through 5 greens keepers, Eric came in late...the mechanic was the one collecting applications...HR dropped the ball and better applicants moved on...talking for Eric, it’s not his fault he got hired.”

Comments made:

- There's been a big improvement since Oasis has helped in the last 2 days
- Eric is short on personnel and he's not a certified greenskeeper

Donna Jones – "...the condition of the course is deplorable...we have the September Classic coming up with 70 ladies coming to town and I'm afraid they won't come back...the County shot itself in the foot when it would not accept volunteer help."

Spike Jones – "...the playing time has been extended because of the extra time it takes to find our golf balls in the rough...get it mowed or red stake the areas to speed up play..."

Neil Thompson – "...noticed this summer unusual amount of golfers I've never seen before...golf is hard and the course conditions will discourage beginning golfers...the course conditions are a disservice to new golfers...using red stakes to replace mowing is not acceptable...Assistant Superintendent out there all the time, never see Eric on a mower..."

Dan Erickson – "...regarding the current predicament, from January to June there was no hiring and most applicants found other jobs...I can't even find enough life guards for the pools...the buck stops with me for not having staff...Eric got put in a horrible predicament by County management...Mike Lippiatt recently suggested bringing an outside contractor and my immediate response was no because the County doesn't like to use outside contractors for liability reasons, but because of the petition, I asked and got the green light....having a contractor has really helped..."

Kurt Anast – "what will happen to the information we brought (the petition)?"

Laura explained that the process is that Tim Johnson will take the information to the PRB and that it's important that it's delivered in a clear and concise way.

Tim Johnson commented that this is a very unusual situation...we've had so much rain with warm temperatures, rapid growth of the turf, and not enough personnel to manage the basic minimum requirements to maintain the course.

Kurt and Bruce feeling like their concerns are being over-looked and they don't feel heard.

Laura reminds them that all of their comments are going into the public record which is helping create a better plan for next year.

Eddie re-emphasized that there aren't enough people and the temporary workers are gone by noon.

Laura tries to steer the meeting back to the agenda since all the public comment was heard and is recorded.

Kurt insists that she not try to hold to the agenda but instead talk about the maintenance problems.

Bruce comments that he too feels cut off and his concerns are being disregarded.

Laura reminds them that Tim is the PRB liaison and will put all comments in a presentable format for them which is the proper process for getting their concerns presented to the County.

This is not satisfactory for Bruce and Kurt and they leave the meeting very unhappy.

Laura asks Mike Lippiatt if he's doing all he can to get more people, Mike says yes.

### Back to the agenda

Golf Course Manager update –

- Focus on cutting tee boxes, greens and grassy roughs
- Gave Eric a week to cut new cut line in the rough
- Sent out questionnaire and got lots of response including some good constructive criticism which created positive movement from the County
- With Oasis, now have 32 hrs a week of extra help
- Got as much help from Parks and Rec as they could give
- Last 2 days with Oasis was big help and improvement
- They will get to work cutting down the native grass and need a Bush Hog to do it
- This year's problems have been with the hiring process
- The employment requisition process this year was delayed for various reasons
- Mike plans to have all employment requisitions due by Dec. 1, 2019 so by January 2020 all are approved and by Feb 2020 they are calling references
- They want Casual and Temps hired by March 1, 2020
- Including contractors to maintain the course may also help in the future

Tim Johnson – we need to have a good definition of what Eric needs to be successful and the golf community needs to see a concrete plan based on what we've learned

Laura asked Donna to give Mike a list of needs to get the course ready for the September Classic and asked Mike for a list of actions.

July Minutes – Approved, KayLinda motioned to approve and Tim second

Finalize Recommendations for fee structure – Tim's recommendations accepted to move forward for presenting to PRB

Parks and Recreation Board report

Tim Johnson and KayLinda Crawford attended the public meeting the previous day at Fuller Lodge and heard the presentation from the company hired to install the new irrigation system.

Head Professional Report – none

LAGA report – LAGA Slug Fest this weekend, LAGA October Fest is last event, LAWGA is having the September Classic and 70 women have signed up

Meeting Adjourned – 7:12pm