

MINUTES
Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, January 4, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.
Muscatine Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse

Members Present: Greg Harper, Jennifer Livermore, Janell Kassel, and Tim Riley

Members Absent: Larry Buster and Steve Brown

Staff Present: Rich Klimes, Randy Moeller, Matt Beatty, Dan McGinn, and Nick Gow

Guests Present: Kerry Keller and JJ Koehler

The meeting was called to order at 5:43 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes of the December 7, 2011 regular meeting. Moved by Riley. Second by Kassel. All ayes; motion carries.

Presentation:

Klimes introduced the request for Great River Days 2012 to the committee. Klimes stated the location of the band stage has not been decided yet. Koehler stated it is too early to tell everything so far for the event. He stated they would like to focus more on the community of Muscatine, rather than outside communities. He stated not enough members of the community are involved and they would like to change this. He stated they had some issues last year that they are trying to address to make everyone happy. He stated the boat ramp issue is being addressed as well and they are trying to find a way to get around or minimize the impact of this. He stated more plans for the event will be based on future discussions. He stated they should have a more detailed plan in the next 45 days. Klimes asked how many people usually attend the event. Keller stated over 2,000 people attended the Quiet Riot concert last year. Koehler stated they average about 4,000 to 5,000 people a year. Klimes informed the group this is a traditional celebration. He stated the event is before the commission for consideration. He stated the next step in the approval process will be for the City Council to formally approve the event. He stated they need a motion from the committee tonight. He asked the committee if they have any questions. Harper asked if there are any concerns regarding the layout of the event. Klimes stated the Riverfront is available for this event and that City staff supports the event. Koehler stated they do pay usage fees for downtown facilities also. Klimes stated the event takes place from Monday to Sunday and is a good event for the community. Kassel asked if Great River Days was the same event that was moved to the Muscatine Community College due to flooding. Keller stated yes it was. He stated plan A will be to have it at the riverfront and plan B will be at the Community College this year if flooding is an issue. Keller stated the event will take place July 23rd through the 29th. Koehler stated the event will be done the 28th, but they need the 29th to clean up.

Motion to approve the closure of the riverfront as presented July 23rd through the 29th pending finalization of details. Moved by Livermore. Second by Harper. All ayes; motion carries.

McGinn discussed the updated Golf Course policies. Klimes stated at the end of this meeting tonight a motion is requested to be made to approve the changes. He stated if the group is not comfortable with the changes they can table the discussion for the next meeting. McGinn stated page 3 is about alcohol on the course. He stated this is posted in the clubhouse and on signs. He stated all alcohol must be purchased at the course. He stated there is a clause in the liquor license that requires propriety control of all alcohol on the course and in the clubhouse.

McGinn stated page 6 talks about group reservations. He stated requests for group reservations are taken one day less than a year. He stated two weekend shot gun events are allowed in a month. He stated there cannot be two weekends in a row. He stated there is a calendar posted in the clubhouse with scheduled events, which everyone can see. Klimes stated people can schedule a tee time seven days in advance. He stated if it is a shot gun event, the tee time can be scheduled two weeks in advance.

McGinn stated page 8 talks about league play. He stated a minimum of 24 players must play weekly for six weeks to be considered a league. He stated they have separate leagues that take place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. He stated the leagues are from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and consist of nine holes. He stated this generally leaves one set of nine holes available to others. Livermore asked what changes were made to this page. McGinn stated they have had groups not show up for their tee times in the past, which are scheduled weeks or months in advance. He stated they generally have not done much about it. He stated the change is that if groups do not show up or cancel they could be charged for greens fees now.

McGinn discussed page 9, which talks about Golf Course openings and closings. He stated the Golf Course will open March 14th to November 20th weather permitting. Klimes stated if we get nice weather before or after these dates they could open the course. He stated this may affect the quality of the course though.

McGinn talked about current users of private motorized golf carts, which is found on page 10.

McGinn discussed page 12, which talks about school use of the Golf Course. He stated the high school girls team practices at Muni in the spring. He stated the boys JV team practices in the fall. He stated the boys varsity team uses Geneva Golf and Country Club. He stated the Golf Course is available to the school; however, the schedule has to be approved by City staff first. Klimes stated that the City and the School District share their facilities with each other.

McGinn discussed the availability and fees for the simulator, which is on page 14.

McGinn went over contact information for the Recreation Advisory Commission, which needs updated. This is located on page 16.

McGinn stated pages 17 through 20 are given to people who use the course for group activities. He stated there is also a form for them to fill out.

McGinn stated the last few pages are in regards to close out procedures. He asked the committee if they had any questions. There were none.

Klimes stated McGinn will go over fee changes. He stated the committee can make a motion to approve the changes today or go over them at the next meeting. McGinn stated since 2008 there has not been a rate increase for fees. He stated there will be a proposed rate change for the 2012 season. Klimes stated they had a budget meeting today and there were issues brought up about this. McGinn stated they do a golf survey of surrounding courses to help decide on prices. Klimes stated the golf survey consists of ten to fifteen different communities that the Golf Course compares itself to. McGinn stated the Muscatine Municipal Golf Course was on the low end for daily fees. He stated their adult season passes were the lowest by \$35. He stated they have proposed a five percent increase across the board. He stated this will still keep them low, but somewhat closer to the surrounding courses. However, he stated the junior's greens fees will be lowered to encourage more kids to come out. He stated junior season passes have decreased each of the past two years. He stated junior season passes will be lowered to \$90. Riley asked if people will be informed of these changes. McGinn stated notifications will be sent out. Kassel asked what a trail fee is. McGinn stated there is one person who pays a trail fee for the use of his personal golf cart. Klimes stated originally 100 people were on this list. Klimes asked if there were any questions. He stated if anyone does not like the fee changes that is okay. If that is the case, he stated the recommendation will go to City Council stating the committee did not agree. Livermore asked if there were any more questions.

Motion to approve Golf Policy Manual Revisions. Moved by Riley. Second by Kassel. All ayes; motion carries.

Update – Phase III Soccer:

Klimes stated the committee came to the consensus that there is a need for additional facilities. He stated they decided on four synthetic fields with a parking lot. He stated that it has been turned over to Stanley's to develop a plan. He stated it will go back to the committee when it is finished. Then, he stated, it will come to this committee for approval. He stated once that is done, it will go to Council. Gow stated the land owners are aware of the project and support it. He stated the community will benefit from this. Harper asked if the dome idea has gone away. Livermore stated it hasn't gone away, but the committee decided unanimously that four synthetic fields would be better. Klimes stated if he gets the plan soon he will get it to this committee before the February meeting.

Update – Ice Skating Rink

Beatty stated they have received all the parts for the Ice Rink. He stated the temperatures need to be in the teens to low thirties to create ice. He stated it could be set up now, but might get damaged due to the current weather. He stated they are waiting on the temperatures to lower right now.

Update – Golf Tee Renovation Project

Moeller stated a couple years ago a survey was done and found this was the biggest problem. He stated in last's year's budget the renovation project was approved. He stated tee boxes three, nine, ten, and twelve have been completed. He stated tee box three is completely different. He stated it

was worse than they thought once they got into the project. He stated they ended up using more sod than anticipated, which put them a little over budget. Gow stated number three tee is the only bent grass tee they have. He stated it is also 1500 yards larger. Moeller stated nine, ten, and twelve were stripped and resodded. He stated they hope to have them playable in mid to late April. He stated the current survey they have out also lists tee boxes as the first problem. He stated they will continue to look at more tees. Livermore asked if the current season pass holders knew this was a problem. Moeller stated yes. Livermore asked if anyone had any other questions. There were none.

Other Business:

Klimes stated a golf survey went out to 600 people Monday. He stated they have already received 60 back. He stated a department survey will be going out later this week to about 700 to 800 people. He stated it consists of ten questions. He stated that results will be shared with the committee at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held at City Hall in the lower level conference room at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1st, 2012.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Shaw
Office Coordinator