



**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013, 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Golf Course Committee of the City of San Clemente was called to order on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., at City Council Chambers, 100 Avenida Presidio, San Clemente, California 92672.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Rick Divel, Tim Kiernan, Parker Steel, Dick Veale, Nick Azzollini, George Gooch

Committee members absent: Mike Hurlbut

Staff present: Gus Nelson, Golf Course Manager  
Mary Colletti, Recording Secretary

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Veale called for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Golf Course Committee held March 7, 2013.

MOTIONED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AZZOLLINI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER DIVEL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (5-0-1) WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER GOOCH ABSTAINING, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE HELD MARCH 7, 2013.

**3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Resident David Hamdorf asked if City employees were working on installing the wedding area for the restaurant. He said he saw them with a dump truck and a backhoe, and it looked like they were digging footings. GC Manager Nelson responded that his staff was present at the wedding site only to supervise and facilitate connection of the utilities, and adjust the golf course irrigation system around the wedding venue. He said they were using the backhoe and truck to dig up and reroute irrigation pipe around the site. Mr. Hamdorf also asked if the Golf Course parking would be blocked off during weddings, and GC Manager Nelson replied that the Golf Course owns east alley parking spots from the Hampton Inn to Pedro's Tacos. He said the plan is that the

restaurateur will make sure those attending weddings will be directed to designated event parking in that area.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Tree Policy on the Golf Course (postponed from the regular meeting of 3/7/13).

GC Manager Nelson stated that there had been a discussion at a recent City Council meeting regarding how ocean views are affected by trees, including those planted on public properties, such as the Golf Course. He said City Council is seeking input, and GC Manager Nelson urged the Committee Members to discuss this subject and to submit input to City Council prior to any possible decisions being made to develop a policy to trim/ remove trees deemed to be blocking ocean views.

GC Manager Nelson and the Committee Members discussed this topic extensively. Their consensus is that they are the best authorities on tree placement on the Golf Course, and therefore should participate in any decision on a golf course tree should the Council change the current policy and allow trees to be trimmed/ removed for views.

The Committee Members cited that the strategic placement of trees on the Golf Course screens properties from flying balls and enhance play, as well as, obviously, increasing the beauty of the Golf Course. They expressed their wish that the Golf Course not become a "links course", and the Committee Members believe that it is their special charter and priority to preserve the trees on the Golf Course, adding new trees when and where they and GC Manager Nelson feel it necessary, and they would like to convey this desire to City Council.

GC Manager Nelson and the Committee Members discussed how some trees are lost due to the fact that they only have surface roots. GC Manager Nelson explained that this fact is intrinsic to trees on golf courses; they develop mostly only shallow, surface roots because the watering that must be done to a golf course is primarily for the grass. He cited a study that an arborist did of this Golf Course in the past; the arborist took an inventory of the trees on the Golf Course, and recommended what species of trees should be planted and what species of trees should not be planted.

GC Manager Nelson added that the mortality rate on the Golf Course is high for young trees, because of the reclaimed water, sprinkler blasts, and flying golf balls. He said staff uses an interim hand-watering method to wean new trees off of their nursery's watering method, to try to acclimate such trees when they are young, but, with the salinity of the soil, and the direct contact with salt and chlorine in reclaimed water, young trees can defoliate, and can be lost. He also cited a large, older tree on #11 where the leaves have been all but "pruned" up to about 15 feet, due to the reclaimed water used for irrigation. Generally speaking, Nelson said, that a golf course is a very difficult place to raise trees.

The Committee Members asked GC Manager Nelson what could be done to help mitigate the above issues, and asked if replacing 1 lost tree with 2 new trees was feasible, or a good idea.

Getting bigger trees will sometimes help, he said. He added that strategic placement of trees where they will benefit from the irrigation system rather than suffer from it will always be a challenge; one of utmost importance.

Chair Veale suggested that the Greens Subcommittee (consisting of Nick Azzollini, Dick Veale and Rick Divel) schedule a meeting before the next regular meeting of the Golf Course Committee, and review all the trees on the Golf Course, and begin to formulate replacement recommendations for the committee to review.

GC Manager Nelson and the Committee Members stated that views are important on the Golf Course, and they all agreed that they would like to impart to City Council that the tree issue is paramount to this Committee, and that together, GC Manager Nelson and the Golf Course Committee Members are the best, most authoritative group to be given the freedom and responsibility to make decisions based on tree types and placement, based on their experience with the needs of the Golf Course and its players. GC Manager Nelson and this Committee would like to continue to have the freedom to replace or not replace trees as they see fit, as the group of people who know and represent the Golf Course and its players the best. GC Manager Nelson said that traditionally the City Manger has entrusted these decisions to them, and he would like to see this continue. The Golf Course Committee feels that it is their charter and duty to preserve trees on the Golf Course, and they take very seriously their responsibility to ensure the Golf Course keep its integrity to benefit the players and our community.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

Reschedule July 4, 2013 meeting

By mutual agreement, GC Manager Nelson and the Committee Members rescheduled the next regular Golf Course Committee meeting to Thursday, July 11, 2013, due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

Letter from member of the public to the Golf Course Committee.

This letter, a complaint regarding the Golf Course fairways, was included in the Committee Member packets. The Committee Members discussed the fairways with GC Manager Nelson, whose staff had recently aerated the fairways with a “greens quality” aerator. The Committee Members generally agreed that the fairways looked “great”. GC Manager Nelson added that with the exception of, perhaps, some trouble spots at #16 and #18, the fairways look really good. Chair Veale will write a response to the letter from the member of the public and will submit it to GC Manager Nelson tomorrow.

**7. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Monthly Report and Ongoing Business Update.

GC Manager Nelson summarized his monthly report (included in the Committee Member packets). He discussed planned aerification, and mentioned the divot day sign-up sheet that had been posted.

He discussed growth regulators that will be applied in May-September to slow growth on the fairways, as well as insecticide treatment that will be applied to the fairways and just off the fairways to control grubs and keep skunks away. He outlined the concrete repairs that had been completed this fiscal year (#13 entry and #14 ladies tee included), as well as the ones that would be budgeted for the next fiscal year (including #17) . He stated that Bermuda sod would be available in July, and would take a few weeks to install, so part of the chipping area would be closed during sodding.

GC Manager Nelson distributed the Rounds and Revenue reports for March and April to the Committee Members. Then, he discussed their urgent need for a new staff mechanic (the staff mechanic retired 8 weeks ago). He said the vacated mechanic’s position will be opened up for recruitment by the City. Mr. Nelson added that he plans to have some seasonal staff this year, but he is not sure how many or what their hours will be as yet.

**8. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

CMs Kiernan and Steel asked about the proposed expansion of the snack bar dining area, and GC Manager Nelson said nothing formal had been proposed by the restaurant, although Restaurant Manager Reggie Parks had mentioned a desire for nicer seating, potted plants and perhaps a shade structure. CM Steel appreciates that the beverage cart is on the Golf Course more often than before.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTIONED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GOOCH, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER DIVEL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. to the next regular meeting of the Golf Course Committee, to be held July 11, 2013.

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Dick Veale, Chair, Golf Course Committee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gus Nelson, Golf Course Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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