



PUBLIC GOLF COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes September 20, 2022
Conference Room 330



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, Jim Sandness, Thomas Griggs, Aaron Gorman, Jessica Peterson

Not Present: David Demmer, Steve Kinney, Dan Baumgartner, Tammy Sundbom

Quorum was not met for this meeting.

III. Presentations and Informational Updates

A. Welcome to New Committee Member

B. Options for Duluth Golf Operations during Enger Renovations (Informational) – Jessica Peterson, Manager

Sandness questioned what has to happen in order to enter into the agreement with Indigo Golf. Peterson stated that the City is wrestling with the operating model options and finalizing paperwork. Questioned if the 2023 season would be Enger open as in 2022. Peterson stated that it would likely look the same through Labor Day.

Questioned how invasive the construction will be. Sydow stated that they are projecting to work on one hole at a time.

Questioned how the irrigation system of the course operates now verses how it will operate after renovations and if there is natural water that will be replaced by more costly City provided water.

Armbruster stated that currently the course is irrigated by underground wells more than naturally through Buckingham Creek. The amount of water from the creek given up in the new system is not significant.

Additionally, this system will allow the course to operate without groundwater if needed. This system is much more efficient, which will help to balance possible costs from City provided water supply.

Questioned whose responsibility it is to repay the abatement bonds. Peterson stated that the interest rates are lower with abatement bonds, so the revenues at the golf course will not need to be as high to pay off the bonds.

Griggs questioned in the proposed model of reopening Lester, if Enger would be fully closed. Peterson stated that Enger would be fully closed in this model. However, all holes must be maintained at a high quality to be ready for reopening. This raises maintenance costs.

Gorman questioned if nostalgia could be a factor in increasing revenue at Lester's last season of play. Peterson stated that the projections were run by Indigo, who likely took many factors into consideration. Stated that the City feels that these are fair projections.

Questioned if the funding sources are locked in or are possibilities. Peterson stated that the bonding and Rescue Plan funds are locked in and will hear from the DNR about funding soon.

Questioned if the guiding documents have information on who proposes changes and who ultimately makes the final decisions. Peterson stated that the documents are recommendations presented to Council and then approved. Final decisions and changes come from Council.

Questioned if the base anticipated costs factor in supply chain and inflation. Peterson stated that it factors in base level contingencies. However, until we bid and begin renovation, it is impossible to know if that cost estimate is sufficient.

Sandness questioned when the cost estimates were created. Peterson stated that these numbers are from the past month and are closer to current.



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IV. Public Comment

Jim Starr spoke on Duluth Golf operations and conditions.

Todd Massi spoke on Duluth Golf Course and clubhouse conditions.

Dennis Fink spoke on Enger renovations.

Tim Alle spoke on Enger renovations.

Tom DeSutter spoke on the renovation timeline.

V. New Business

VI. Old Business

- A. Discussion of Structure and Future of Public Golf Committee
- B. Set Agenda for Next Meeting – Amanda Crosby, Committee Chair

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 15 at 5:00 p.m., Conference Room 330