

MGC BoD Meeting Wednesday 5 July 2017

Members in Attendance

John Stanton - President
John Foottit - Secretary/Vice President
Tom Reynolds - Membership
Brian Bond - Treasurer
Dave Evans - House
Don Green - Club Captain

Staff in Attendance

Dan Kolar - Manager
Bill Hudson - Greenskeeper

Decision Record

1. The meeting was convened at 6:00 PM.
2. For membership revenue from 2016 to 2017, we are up \$1,840 (to a total of \$585,166). We can't easily compare headcount, because new membership categories have been added, so we will continue to use revenue as the primary benchmark.
3. Net revenue from Bar sales was down \$8,500 in comparison with this date last year. Green fees/tournament/cart rentals: \$135,360 in 2016; \$118,222 this year, a reduction \$17,138. Almost all of this loss came from weather-related reductions in cart rentals and tournaments.
4. It was a pleasant surprise to learn that our green fee revenue from April through June was only down about \$7000 in comparison to last year (\$71,268 in 2017, versus \$78,222).
5. Following an offer from Atkinson Irrigation, the Board voted unanimously to allow them to begin work on the 1st of August this year rather than start in September and finish the following May. If the weather co-operates, Atkinson could complete the work by 29 No-

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member this year. This decision reduces future scheduling risks such as installation crew availability and the spring 2018 weather. The levelling of the 10th fairway to the 150-yard markers is currently planned for October.

6. To summarize our financial commitments with regard to the irrigation system project:
 - An agreement was negotiated with the Bank of Montreal for a Commercial Fixed Rate Term loan with an interest rate of 3.56% for a term of 5 years amortized over 20 years;
 - This Loan consolidates the total indebtedness of the club into one facility, consisting of the amount requested for the irrigation system, the existing remainder of the clubhouse mortgage and of the small loan for maintenance equipment. Conversion of the existing Mortgage into the new Loan was achieved without penalties being assessed.
 - The amortization period of 20 years was the maximum the Bank would offer; 25 years was taken off the table when the original loan officer left the bank's employment. Despite the shorter amortization term the assessment will remain at the \$48 presented to the membership at the 19 January 2017 special meeting. Mail out to the membership of the \$48 irrigation assessment will begin this month. The overall capital assessment will be set at \$348 in the 2018 financial year (\$300 for the regular capital assessment + \$48 specifically for the irrigation system).
 - The loan rate of 3.56% is a reduction from what was currently being charged for the existing mortgage and the equipment line of credit.
7. The pump house refurbishment/extension and the installation of the vertical-turbine pumps will be delayed until September because of

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the ongoing problem with high water. We will continue to use the old pumps until then.

8. Delivery of the 42” tempered glass safety railing has been delayed (the standard is 36”). Completion of the patio project is currently expected by mid-July. Drainage holes will concurrently be bored into some areas of the patio so that standing water does not accumulate. It was decided not to conduct a formal risk assessment because we don’t have any objective data on how many golf balls have crossed into the patio area over the years (subjectively, the number is extremely low). The Board believes that the patio expansion is primarily in a direction where it is less likely to get hit and any additional risk will be offset by the installation of the tempered glass safety railing. In any case, our thanks to Grant McConnell for raising the question.
9. For as long as it is offered, the Board will not allow any member of any type from the previous year to rejoin on a Fall Special. On a case-by-case basis, the Board will consider exceptions to this policy, but only for financial hardship, medical, or family reasons. The original intent of this offer was to attract new members, not to discount the cost of golf for existing members. The Board will continue to respect this intent.
10. The club has been approached by a business entity known as Tradebank. This organization facilitates barter agreements between its members as a means of getting work done. Given that we already avoid the use of cash with some of our contractors when it is convenient for both parties to do so, the Board decided not to become a member of Tradebank, thereby avoiding membership and individual transaction costs.
11. It was suggested by one of our members (thanks to Christopher Morris) that we consider having a “half-price” bar Happy Hour, to encourage more members to use the clubhouse at the weekends. This is legally possible only if the selling price is above cost and the price must apply for the whole day. The Board prefers to avoid this

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particular step for now, in favour of advertising the Friday night nine and dine. The first one was on 30 June and 12 people showed up on a rainy day. So, let's give this option a chance first. To potentially add to its attraction, the House Director will look into the cost of live entertainment to accompany the nine and dine.

12. The bridge over the creek on 18 will be replaced in the near term because the current structure is unsound.
13. The Greenskeeper will Investigate the cost of a new rain shelter closer to the blue tees on 16 and then the Board will consider demolishing the existing structure. Given the work associated with the irrigation system, any change will not likely take place in the near term.
14. When the course is dry enough, the Greenskeeper will bring in a machine to filter the rocks from all the green-side bunkers at a direct rental cost of about \$1,000. This will temporarily improve their playability (the freeze-thaw cycle will bring more rocks up over time).
15. Manager will look into the cost of a high-pressure air cleaning station to help with cleaning shoe spikes. These are common in many parts of BC, especially in the lower mainland. If the cost is affordable, the Board will consider installing such a facility near the "side" entrance to the clubhouse, where it will be visually evident for players beginning or ending their game.
16. At the Board's instigation, the Greenskeeper has installed covers that restrict the size of the opening on four of our tee-box garbage cans. These covers are intended to make it difficult for squirrels and chipmunks to get into the trash receptacles (forget that when it comes to raccoons though). We'll monitor the effect on course cleanliness in the selected areas for a while before deciding what should be done next.

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17. The Greenskeeper will move the ball washer on number 11 to an area between the gold and white tees so that it will be more accessible for players using the latter.
18. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. The date and time of the next regular meeting will be Wednesday 2 August at 6 PM in the Myers Motors boardroom.
19. If any member has a question or concern, please contact me at john.foottit@gmail.com.

John Foottit
Secretary/VP

5 July Greens Report

We have had 80 mm of rain in the last week. All fairways, tees and greens are saturated. Bunkers and cart paths have been washed out. The greens were raised to .130 over the weekend, but are back down to regular height of .125 now. We haven't rolled for a week but will resume on Thursday 6 July. No. 16 green, where the winter damage occurred, is having difficulty in these wet conditions. We will have to keep on babying it all summer. We will be venting all greens, a few each day, so as to get oxygen into them. We will also be solid-tining fairways for the same reason.

We have begun cutting trees that are showing signs of emerald ash borer as we will have no time to do this in the fall because of a heavy work schedule dealing with irrigation. The affected trees are on the back nine, mostly on 15, 17 and 18.

All the wet weather brings fungus diseases such as dollar spot and anthracnose. All greens, tees and fairways have been sprayed twice this year.

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We will be spraying in the rough for grubs in the next two weeks.

It was brought to our attention that the main bridge going from the Pro Shop to the front nine is very slippery when wet. We have applied non-slip paint.

Bill Hudson/Greenskeeper

Front Nine/Back Nine

I had 2 new members recently ask about the sequence of our nines, in part because the 1st hole on the Almonte nine is considered by some to be more difficult. While there are minor advantages and disadvantages to using one or the other as the starting nine, opting to go with our current arrangement was a business decision based primarily on optics. Business optics are images that come to mind when picturing what the Mississippi Golf Club is all about. For example: interesting hole design, green, the river, the flowerbeds, and people enjoying themselves on our patio. All of these images are captured by the last hole of the Carleton Place nine. That's good for business. The principal image captured by the last hole of the Almonte nine is, to my mind, the parking lot. Not good for business. In the real world, are there companies that actually pay attention to such details? Yes - think of Cavanaugh Construction and their huge fleet of turquoise-trimmed trucks. Have you noticed anything about their vehicles? They're always clean. I don't know their business, but their executive understands the need to create a positive image of their company to catch the attention of prospective clients.

John Foottit/Secretary-VP