

PARK BOARD MEETING
April 30, 2021

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Regular Meeting at 8:15 am, Friday, April 30, 2021 at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Kovash, Tim Daniel Scott Karsky, Jo Marie Kadrmas. Also present were Director of Recreation/Facilities Matt Mack, Director of Buildings/Grounds Craig Pearson, Executive Director James Kramer, Golf Professional Mike Rademaker, Attorney Randall Sickler and Clerk Leah Hoenke. Commissioner Zach Keller was absent.

HRGC Update – Presentation – Golf Professional Mike Rademaker and Director of Recreation/Facilities Matt Mack gave a presentation on the golf procedures that are currently in place. Mike said he's been a golf professional for 22 years and has worked with many types of tee time processes. He showed the actual tee sheet for tomorrow. He explained why and when they have the start dates set up; he reviews with Golf Superintendent Sam Davis and they decide together. Currently we open at 9 am and beginning May 1st will go to a starting time of 8 am and close at sunset. Memorial Day weekend we go to a 6 am opening. Tee times are set at 10 minutes. He said last year during COVID they spaced out the tee times further and are now back to 10 minutes to get more people on the course. We landed on 10 minutes because we had a lot of people tell us that their golf experience is more enhanced versus when we had them closer together, at 8 minutes apart as we have in the past. He said it makes a better flow to the golf course, customer gets a better experience. Mike said last year we started at 15 minute and moved to 12 because of large gaps in tee sheet. He said last year was a good year to experiment with those tee times. He reviewed the tee sheet and pointed out that 70-80 percent of tee times are booked on the web. He said our golf course promotes faster play, rough is mowed, and you can find your ball easily. He gave a scenario and explained what happens when you have the first tee off, usually first few tee times are ahead of schedule and can run 10 minutes ahead of schedule. If you're the 9:40 tee time, it appears that we aren't busy. If you tried to make a tee time, the tee times are taken. Scenario 2 doesn't happen a lot but is when a group doesn't show up for a scheduled tee time and hasn't called to cancel. He explained what happens with twosomes on the tee sheet, usually they end filling in the other spots. When we add to tee times we tell customers that we are doing that. If a couple doesn't want to golf with others we can usually accommodate them using a squeeze feature on the tee sheet. Another scenario that happens with five-some's. A lot of courses don't allow five-some's but we haven't had a problem with them. It becomes a problem sometimes when someone books online and adds to the tee sheet where there is already two golfers. He said we don't have a lot of turnover in the golf shop, which helps but the tee sheet can be challenging to manage. We get the busiest between 9 and 11 am. He explained why and gave examples of when they add to tee sheet. There are times it appears not busy when we are. Executive Director James Kramer asked Mike to review the end of the day procedures. Mike said the last tee time is currently is at 6:00 pm, he adjusts the closing time as daylight allows. He said if you are a pass holder, if they show up and want to play a few holes after the last group goes out, they allow them to do that as long as they are back before dark. He looks at that as an extra perk for paying for those season passes. Another reason the 10 minute tee times work is if you have a family that plays slow it can accommodate that. President Scott Kovash asked what happens if you have 2 pass holders that show up with 2 non pass holders. Mike said if it works, he'll send them out. President Kovash asked if they could tell the non-pass holders up front that they may not get all holes in and there are no refunds if they don't, he said that might help. He also asked how we determine sunset. Mike said he uses a website that tells you sunrise and sunset and that is what we follow and that is posted. Mike said traditionally when people play until dark it can cause a dangerous situation, safety issue with staff being out there and trying to do their closing procedures after dark. If you give the public the opportunity to stretch the sunset, it can cause trouble. President Kovash said he thinks we are going out of our way to upset people. Mike said we ask people to get off the course at sunset. President Kovash and Vice President Tim Daniel both said they don't agree. Commissioner Daniel said a lot of people are upset at not being able to golf after sunset. Commissioner Scott Karsky asked if we can use 20-30 minutes after sunset, as long as there are parameters for the staff to follow. President Kovash used a rule that you can shoot a deer a half hour after sunset you should be able to golf as well. Mike said there is a civil twilight, an actual definition we could follow. Commissioner Karsky thinks we can use a little flexibility. Mike said you need to have a solid expectation and a set a rule for the staff and public. President Kovash said to use common sense and allow people to play about a half hour after sunset. He said he doesn't want to upset people unnecessarily. Commissioner Daniel said we should have the flexibility to accommodate people at that time of the night, need to be sensitive to the customer. We have people that go to South Heart for many reasons and that bothers him that people go to South Heart when we have a better course and can accommodate more people because of the structure of our course. Mike pointed out that our passes and green fees have increased last year and this year. Director of Recreation/Facilities Matt Mack also said we have sold more passes this year compared to the same time as last year. Mike said there is a lot more people playing golf at our course now than there was 3 years ago. He also said it would be easy to do if you want to extend the sunset. Discussion followed. There was a board consensus that we should extend closing to 20-30 minutes after sunset. Mike said we will make that change immediately, he said he'll use the nautical or civil sunset as the marker. Director Mack also said we have 13 extra teams that signed up for golf league, they tried to accommodate another night but none of the teams wanted to switch to nights.

Park District Improvement Project (Attachment #1) – Executive Director James Kramer said we approved this at the last meeting contingent on Attorney Sickler's approval. We will push this to the next meeting agenda.

Patterson Lake Recreation Area

Hay Contracts (Attachment #2) – Executive Director Kramer said we have worked with hay contracts that were done through the Bureau of Reclamation. He showed the past hay contracts. After discussing with our attorney, the Bureau has unique haying rules. He said he and Attorney Randy Sickler will go through the contract and recommend doing a one year extension on the existing hay contracts and will then go out and publicly bid the process. He said we have contracts for everything from trap club to Stransky Road and back to south boat ramp. Director Kramer said the extension will only be one year. Randy Sickler said there is a number of issues, including noxious weed control, fencing, etc. Commissioner Tim Daniel said wildlife may be some issues. Director Kramer said the Bureau maintained the fences and now that will fall on us. Commissioner Scott Karsky said he thinks we should focus on wildlife management in the future. He believes we have potential for some cool projects for wildlife management.

Lot Sales (Attachment #3) – Executive Director James Kramer said the PUD and plat was approved at Planning and Zoning – he reviewed the timeline, pointing out that May 18 is the final approval at the City Commission meeting. He said then we’ll get into individual lot sales and is working with Attorney Sickler to make it an organized process using application deadline and closing deadlines, saying it will create a good flow. Attorney Sickler said he reached out to North Dakota Guarantee on the abstract and hasn’t heard back yet but believes the abstract should be close to being done. It should go smoothly after we get the abstract.

Roughrider Electric Easement Request (Attachment #4) – Executive Director Kramer reviewed a Right of Way Easement with Roughrider Electric at the trap club. He showed the electrical line from transformer to trap club building. They will remove overhead line and move underground. He said this cleans up the area for us and doesn’t see any issues. This doesn’t come with a fee, but doesn’t think it warrants a payment. Attorney Randy Sickler said he looked at it and the consideration is the only thing we talked about and he agrees that this is for our benefit. MOTIONED BY: Scott Karsky; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the Right of Way Easement with Roughrider Electric Cooperative. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Keller). Motion carried.

New/Old Business – Executive Director Kramer said the State of the City event is May 20 if any of the Board members want to go, there are no issues with a quorum because it is a published city event. Commissioner Jo Marie Kadrmas said it will be nice to have all the Board there with James presenting.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Jo Marie Kadrmas; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 am. Upon vote, all aye. Motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President