

## Gallatin Valley Golf Association

### Headwaters Golf Course

#### Board Meeting – 08/03/2017

Board Members Present: Jeff Strickland, Bruce Felz, Shawn Long and Crystal Turner. Jon Kamps, Scott Pitcher and Jason Combs were excused.

Others Present: John Champeny, Dave Edwards, Mable Deane, Jill Peterson, Jack Rochford, Michelle Rogers, and Alana Long.

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:07PM. No prepared agenda was presented so the Board went off memory of the following items: Minutes, Financials/Bills, Clubhouse Report, Greens Report, GVGA Member comments.

Since there was not a finalized agenda, Jeff suggested that the **Approval of the prior meeting's minutes** be tabled to the next meeting. Crystal Turner moved to table the minutes of June and July. Shawn Long seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Shawn Long read the bills that have been paid due to timeliness since the last meeting into the record: Callaway Golf for \$768.82, Capital one for \$1004.99, Certified for \$382.76, DirecTV for \$117.98, Growth Products for \$243.74, Home Depot for \$178.95, R&R Products for \$979.80, Story Distributing, Co. for \$658.39, Wilber-Ellis Company for \$800, and Williams Inland for \$249.64 (check numbers 21980 through 21989).

Shawn received the Tobacco Root bottom line netted just over \$10,000. The Silent Auction brought in \$3,480. Dave Edwards asked what the previous year's Tobacco Root netted, and Mable Deane responded about \$12,000 but that it was before any gift certificates paid out. Jeff Strickland congratulated Dave on a job well done on the Tobacco Root tournament. Dave thanked Bob Cass and Steve Strickland for their help. He said Bob's food was phenomenal and suggested the Board doing something for Bob like a gift certificate or something at the end of the season. He added that Bob carded someone who looked under age trying to buy beer this week - it happened to be an undercover police officer who looked young. The police came in afterwards and awarded Bob with a gift certificate for doing the right thing. Shawn continued that he left \$2,500 in the Tobacco Root account and moved the rest to the Money Market account. To date, there is \$26,000 in the Money Market. Next he and Mable discussed with the Board that the CDs were termed and the Board discussed what do with them. The interest rates are pretty poor right now and you can't get any better deals by switching banks around so Shawn Long moved to renew the two six-month CDs. Crystal Turner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Shawn read the bills to be paid into the record. Bruce Felz moved to pay the bills. Crystal Turner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Clubhouse Report:** Dave Edwards reported that the Tobacco Root Tournament went very well. There were 34 teams, he believed the payouts went quicker and the Calcutta was faster as well.

He and the Pro from Livingston, which is our reciprocal course, have been working to organize a reciprocity tournament called the I90 Tournament. It is scheduled for August 5, 2017 with a 1PM shotgun start.

Dave also reported that we lost Mitch as an employee. He was hired in Shield Valley so had to go and get all settled in. He and Bob will pick up more hours. He said that it has been pretty dead on the course from 10am-2pm. Crystal asked if Dave had advertised the twilight specials yet. Dave said he planned on starting in August - twilight specials will be for golf between 5pm-8pm.

**Greens Committee:** John Shampeny reported we can get another beer cart. It is a cart with a flatbed on the back. His brother said we can have it at the end of the season. He reported he is struggling keeping water on the course, it's just been too hot and we have had several leaks and breaks, the latest around Hole #7.

John added that he has fought a disease on the greens most of the summer. He treated it pretty heavy and he is planning on picking up another product which he hopes to knock out the resistance to other treatments. This product is more expensive, running around \$600/application (which will cover all 9 holes). He reported he is also short-staffed right now. Crystal thanked John for mowing the outside of the course along 7th Avenue E and the Highway. It is not the golf course's responsibility and she appreciates John and his crew keeping it looking nice around the whole course. Jeff said he was in Great Falls the last couple days at Meadow Lark and it is all dry. John explained precipitation rates to the Board. Jack Rochford added that since 1980 he has never seen it this hot for this long. We see hotter days some years, but never for a continuous 6+ weeks. With the weather we have had, Jack thought the course looked great.

Shawn told John that the greens were really good over the Tobacco Root tournament. They weren't as fast as in past years and he liked that.

**New Business:** Banquet / Appreciation Dinner - Michelle Rogers introduced herself and explained she has helped with lots of other non-profits to get fundraisers going. She believes the Board's idea for an appreciation dinner or membership drive banquet is good and if the Board planned to do it this year it should start immediately. School is starting; hunting season is approaching, then in November and December people are spending on Christmas and bills at the end of the year. She suggested the earlier the better, and figured on a four-week timeframe for fundraising, gathering items for a silent auction and party planning. She added that the golf course does not ask for money, and she feels there is a lost opportunity for revenue in the basement space rental. She said the Board should advertise that space more and maybe people would hold Christmas parties there, or craft vendor/workshops. She even offered to manage the space rental for the Board free of charge.

Shawn said the Board wants to do a banquet dinner - something appreciating our existing pass holders but also recruit new members and pass holders. Michelle suggested a spaghetti dinner, as it is the

easiest meal to plan. She could get all the hamburger donated and offered to help cook. She suggested another type of event would be a drop-in/carnival style with fun stuff for kids and different stations people can just drop in and check each thing out - or even hold different events each hour so people will stay for lots, or just drop by for one. Dave said that no one thinks about golf in late fall - they're thinking about fishing, hunting, Christmas. He suggested pushing the event until February/March to align with his statement last month about other courses pushing their pass holder sales to those months. Jeff asked Michelle if it would be possible to have her come back with some ideas for a March banquet. She agreed. She added that the course's Facebook page is underutilized. Most people communicate via social media so she suggested using Facebook more and even starting a Twitter account. She said she always tags the course when she's here - let people know you have a Facebook account and let your users push it out more. She suggested using it to get the word out for Women's League this way since their attendance really dropped this past year.

There was discussion on membership turnover in the Women's League, and Alana Long asked that Women's League be able to get their game plan for next year finalized and then out there to the course, the public, and anyone else who wants to share it.

Michelle will return at the October meeting. Michelle closed by saying that there are probably a lot of people who would help out with a fundraiser or membership drive event, you just need to ask them. Mable agreed and said many people do not step up, but if asked for their help most people feel honored and will step up. Jill Peterson introduced herself and said she and Michelle met via Facebook doing fundraising and event planning/coordination. She added that she recently moved back to Montana and is trying to get back into the community and felt this would be a good opportunity to meet new people and she would love to help out with this event.

**GVGA Member Comments:** Jack Rochford said he had three comments: 1) Lost Revenues - He asked why the course opens at 8AM (and not earlier). Dave replied that he or his staff needs to be there a half hour early, so the earlier we open the earlier his staff is there. Jeff answered that we were presented a petition last year to open early. The Board agreed and was open at 6:30AM and no one showed up. Only one person who signed the petition showed up to the meeting to discuss it, and then no one showed up at 6:30AM to play. We tried it last year - it just did not work. Jack sees a single player go by his house, then no one for a while then a foursome, etc. He has went out when he sees empty holes, or calls to get tee times and is told it is too busy. Dave said that we always pair people up. Crystal argued that she has never been asked to be paired up before, even on busy days. Jack just wondered if it is always busy, or he's told he can't just drive out on the course when it is empty, why are there so many empty holes. Dave said that a lot of people like playing as a twosome and he thinks some may not return if we start forcing them to pair up. He believes there is more lost revenue by not opening after tournaments. After the Tobacco Root he tried to come out and golf and was told the course was closed for the tournament. However, after play everyone was just sitting around and drinking or visiting and not golfing. He felt the course should reopen at those times and get paying customers back on the course. Dave said that he and his staff were on overtime and it had been too long a day. Jack's second comment: 2) The flowers that the Board got donated looked lovely - and he saw Crystal and the Hessen's planting them and thanked them for that. He said they are never watered and it was sad to

see them all dying. Crystal agreed and said she and the Hesses put in a lot of time planting those, as well as Crystal went and asked for the planters to be donated and the flowers. She will not be doing it again without someone watering them (she has watered them twice a week personally before or after golfing because they were bone dry). She suggested the drip-system or other irrigation system is fixed, or reinstalled to keep all the perennials plants in the ground from dying. Jack's third comment: 3) Why is calling in required when he sees the course is empty? Dave said it was so he or his staff knew there was someone else out there; so that if a bunch of people come at once they can spread them out. If the Clubhouse doesn't know someone is playing on Hole #3 or #4 and he tells someone to start on #2 for instance - it just would not be courteous. Crystal agreed and said that it is just common courtesy to call and let the Clubhouse know you are going out when anyone who comes in from one of those homes on the course. Jack said fair enough and that out of courtesy he would call from now on before jumping out onto the course. Jack closed that his main concern is for the future of this course. Him seeing the course empty he sees as lost revenue. The Board agreed that if the course is busy, we need to start pairing people up. The Board directed Dave to do more pairing up when busy.

There was a discussion regarding people with their own keys to the gates that have started golfing well before our opening hours of 8AM. No one knew who all had keys and John Champeny suggested just removing the key lock and replacing it with a combination lock.

**Old Business:** Mosquito District letter - Crystal drafted a letter granting the Mosquito District to enter the property and drive on the fairways to spray. The letter just said the legal description of the 26-acres that the course owns in Fairway Vista subdivision. John said that they could drive along the cart path and the rough areas and it would not hurt any sprinkler heads. Ray Noble had brought this to Jon Kamps' attention that the course pays taxes on that parcel, some of which go to the Mosquito District. Crystal explained the letter had already been reviewed by Jon, but she changed the signature line for Jeff Strickland to sign since Jon would not be able to be here tonight. Crystal Turner moved to allow Jeff to sign the letter. Bruce Felz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Block sales - Crystal admitted she has not finished the donation form letter. She did speak with Gene Townsend about who he had engrave the bricks for the Sacajawea Park and he said Bozeman Brick, Block & Tile. Crystal has two calls into them asking about it and will try again tomorrow. This item will be back on the agenda next month.

Retaining Wall - Bruce said that now that the new wall is installed it really shows what poor shape the railroad tie wall is where the flowers are. The walls are really leaning out in several spots, all the way around to the basement doors. He suggested we replace it with a keystone wall as well. Crystal said she would contact Kanta Products and see if they would help out at all.

Flagpole - Bruce said we should get that flagpole working again. Crystal said that a pass holder donated a new American flag last year and we have not hung it yet. The problem is that rope broke and is stuck up at the top. There are several people in town who have some sort of bucket - Crystal will contact them and see if they would use it to get the broken rope down so we can fix the flagpole.

Annual meeting - Jeff said the annual meeting is in September. We believe Crystal, Shawn and Scott are up for new terms if they wish. We need to advertise the annual meeting and the seat openings.

The next meeting will be on **September 14, 2017 at 6:00PM at the Clubhouse.**

Bruce Felz asked about the golf cart that burned up - is there a possible insurance claim we need to file? Dave said he told the insurance it was a lost value of \$4,500 (loss of cart, coolers, which were all full of beer).

Crystal Turner moved to adjourn. Shawn Long seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.