



**CITY OF HELENA  
Bill Roberts Golf Course Advisory Board  
Time Stamped Summary  
March 21, 2023 - 12:00 PM  
City County Building 316 N Park Ave Room 426**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/mDdGuJWKgwW9ieTDxFPUYFtGzS\\_t718S7f1ipK8hvjwy-qOVTxnqlmGES6fgEWnD.kzBMVFnyg\\_fqCoO7](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/mDdGuJWKgwW9ieTDxFPUYFtGzS_t718S7f1ipK8hvjwy-qOVTxnqlmGES6fgEWnD.kzBMVFnyg_fqCoO7)

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**(00:00:16)** Roll Call was taken, and the following all responded present:

Board Members:

Jack Gregg

Collin Brown

Susan Court

City Staff

Parks Director Doug Smith

Golf Course Superintendent Steve Link

Golf Course Pro Shop General Manager Tod Fitterer

Parks Administrative Assistant Heather Kahler

The following members were absent:

Art Pembroke – Excused

Chris Smith – Excused

Additional guests and members of the public present:

Kathy McDonald

Doug Olson

Ryan Schwochert

Dr. G

**Minutes**

**(00:00:57)** **A.** January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
Motion was made to approve the January minutes by Collin Brown, seconded by Susan Court, all in favor.

February 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes – No minutes to approve since no quorum, voting or business conducted during the February meeting.

## Regular Items

**(00:02:23) A. School District Use Discussion**

Board Member Collin Brown wished to discuss an option of having a high school class called Lifetime Sports bring students to the course to introduce them to golf a few days in May. Golf Course Operations Manager, Tod Fitterer addressed the board and shared what he did for the classes last year. Collin addressed the board his concerns of introducing youth to golf and made a few suggestions. Tod said that there are some youth programs, thanked him for the ideas and said he plans on continuing and growing the youth programs.

**(00:12:37) B. Reports**

**Parks Director Report**

Parks Director Doug Smith addressed the board saying that the Golf Budget was finalized with the City Manager and City Finance Director and is ready to be presented to the City Commission on April 19, 2023.

**(00:13:40) Golf Superintendent Report**

Steve reported that they are monitoring the course on when to open. Snow, ice and ground frost are still an issue. He will communicate to Tod as the conditions get better as to when opening day will be. Two staff members have returned and are hard at work preparing for the season. The driving range nets are getting repaired. Steve said he is worried about the turf because of the lengthy snow and ice coverage. The lake at hole 16 is empty so that is another sign of the leak. Steve has been researching some options on how to fix it. Further discussion continued about experience, ideas, opportunities and impacts.

**(00:25:08) Golf Pro Report**

Tod Fitterer presented the financial report noting they are on track with the budget. The weather is causing an issue with lost revenue because the course is not open. Tod addressed the board that his new Golf Pro Assistant will be starting tomorrow and have a lot of projects to begin. Further discussion continued about some positive aspects. Tod shared that the simulators have recently been repaired. There is a promotional sign going up on the fence and a few more advertising campaigns in the works. Tod brought up additional ideas on cart/bench sponsorship opportunities.

**(00:40:50) League Reports**

Doug Olson with the men's league said no new changes and still scheduled to start as planned. Still have 18 teams per night.

Kathy McDonald reported nothing new and still scheduled to start as planned.

## **Public Comment**

**(00:43:20)** Ryan Schwochert of the Helena Citizens Council asked golf course staff when the simulator leagues are going to end. Tod answered by saying the league has not been running because of the repairs that were made but open play has been booked.

## **Member Communications / Proposals for next Agenda**

**(00:44:50)** Heather addressed the board that there is currently a public service announcement being published for the two board openings. Heather updated the board that the Clerk's Office is going through each of the City's board, and the Golf Advisory Board is looking to be reviewed late summer, early fall but will update the board as she gets updated.

## **Adjournment**

**(00:46:15)** There being no further business before the advisory board, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.