

## **Friends of Duluth Public Golf**

### Minutes of the Organizational Meeting

September 10, 2018

Enger Park Golf Course Pavilion

1. The meeting was called to order by President Chris Stevens at 5:30 p.m.  
Board Members present:

Chris Stevens (President),

Paul Paczynski (Treasurer)

Sue Harney (Executive Committee)

Trish Lilliberg (Executive Committee)

Dick Frank

Bob Pugliese

Dan Baumgartner

Board Members absent:

Tim Lee (Vice President)

Sulo Kangas

2. President Stevens reported on the recent Task Force meeting where capital infrastructure was discussed; including drainage, ponds, irrigation systems, clubhouse, and tees. The City Consultant, JJ Keegan, has completed the telephone survey questions and will be holding several focus group meetings with golfers and non-golfers. He is also doing statistical data on the courses related to days played, weather, economic stratification of players based on zip codes information already gathered. Duke Skorich's company, Zenith Research, will be conducting research with a telephone survey until they have collected 1000 responses for data analysis. Members were encouraged to take the phone survey if contacted, with a few in the audience already having done so. President Stevens will share the cost information with the Maintenance Committee. In-kind

donations from businesses, along with other ideas are all on the table for consideration and will be further discussed at the next FODPG meeting. The Task Force meets again this Thursday. The developer who is looking at Lester property has been given permission to prepare plans, drawings, etc. for City review. The City has told President Stevens that for 2019, both golf courses will remain open. Members were encouraged to share the information with their leagues and other interested golfers. Billy Casper and the cart rental contracts expire at the end of 2020. Members spoke of the need to have a two year contingency plan for renovations at one course while the other is open for the golf season.

3. Jeff Storlie, Mapping Specialist in the St. Louis County Planning & Development Department, was present to show the land maps for both Enger and Lester Park golf courses. The map data was collected three years ago for these maps, with parcel codes attached for each parcel included at each site. President Stevens highlighted the areas for development that is discussed at the Task Force meetings. Some of the parcels require a super majority of City Council votes and other parcels have more difficult requirements prior to a sale, up to and including legislative action. A land attorney would have to be consulted to answer specific questions on the parcels. The Developer is interested in parts of both the front and back at Lester since it would be more cost efficient for road and utility purposes. The City is very interested in the development piece for properties south of Skyline Parkway on the west side of the Enger driving range. There is nothing in writing at this time to address where/how the revenues would be handled from the sale of any golf course property.

4. Dan Baumgartner reported that \$5,500 was the profit on the Save Lester Scramble held August 17th. Members talked of opportunities to lower costs for start up golfers of any age, winter sports on the courses, and a new social media blast showing the excellent drone coverage of the courses including a YouTube ad. Weather conditions affect the profit margins for the golf courses and Spirit Mountain and will be in JJ Keegan's analysis.

5. The Tourism Tax application will be obtained and prepared.

6. The Finance Committee has not received the July financial materials. President Stevens will be contacting the City again for the information.

7. President Stevens will be speaking at the Lions Club and the Lester Men's League.

8. The next Meeting will be Monday, September 24 at 5:30pm in the Enger Pavilion. Committees immediately following the full board meeting. THE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.