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|  | **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY****US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND****HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON REDSTONE ARSENAL****4488 MARTIN ROAD****REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA 35898-5000****REPLY TO****ATTENTION OF** |  |

IMRE-MWB-G

MEMORANDUM THRU Director, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, (Mr. Derrick Gould/IMRE-MW), Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898

FOR Garrison Commander, (COL Thomas P. Holliday, Jr./IMRE-ZA),

Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898

SUBJECT: The Links at Redstone Golf Advisory Council Meeting Minutes –

5 April 2018

1. The Golf Advisory Council conducted a meeting 5 April 2018, The Links at Redstone.

2. The agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

3. The following members/representatives were present:

 Mr. Bill Stirling – Council President and Volunteer Committee Chair

 Mrs. Kay Theodoss – Secretary

 Mr. Tom Small – Handicap Committee Chair

 Ms. Kathleen Stirling – Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association (RSALGA)

 Mr. Trace Kea – The Links at Redstone, Manager

 Mr. John Cook – The Links at Redstone, Assistant Manager

 Mr. Ed Nunn – Chief, Business Operations Division

 Ms. Jan Berry – Member at Large

 Dr. Marvin Carroll – Member at Large

 Mr. Ron DeJong – Member at Large

 Mr. Tim Starostanko – Member at Large

 Ms. Frances Sullivan – Member at Large

4. The following members/representatives were absent:

 Mr. Gary Seal – Member at Large

5. Opening Remarks: Mr. Stirling opened the meeting at 1135.

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6. Golf Operations: Mr. Kea reported on the following:

 a. Nine new carts are on order for the electric cart fleet and the current plan is to order 35 carts per year for the next 4 years. The contract to install electrical outlets in the cart barn has been approved and the project is scheduled to begin this month. The cart barn will be outfitted with enough electrical outlets to charge 150 carts.

 b. Tournaments.

 (1) The Spring Kick-Off tournament is scheduled for Saturday, 14 April. Registration is open for the event.

 (2) The ARC tournament, the largest outside tournament of the year, is scheduled for Friday, 20 April. Both courses will be closed in the morning for tournament play.

 c. The bunkers are scheduled to be updated. The Links has 92 sand bunkers and the average cost to maintain them is $1,000 per year. In order to reduce maintenance costs in this area, 12 bunkers have been identified for removal. The Warrior sand bunkers will be evaluated and removed accordingly. For the bunkers in play, mounds with native grass will be created to maintain the difficulty and integrity of the course rating.

7. Handicap Committee Report: Mr. Small recommended that the sand bunkers that are being removed be marked to assist patrons that may play their ball into these areas. The handicap committee will mark areas on the course where sand bunkers have been removed as “ground under repair” and they will be identified by white paint. Players may proceed under the USGA Rules if they hit their balls into this area.

8. Volunteer Committee Report:

a. The updated parking pass policy issues parking passes to the top ten volunteers of the year based on hours logged. The parking pass is valid for one year only which will be notated on the pass. The policy was provided to all members and will be signed by Mr. Kea.

b. Mr. Stirling asked for an update on the range ball removal project. Mr. Kea stated that the new range balls have been ordered and will be delivered shortly and assistance is still needed to remove embedded balls.

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Mrs. Theodoss will provide an update to Mr. Stirling on whether the Boy Scouts may be able to assist in removing the balls. Mr. Kea offered to assist with Golf Merit Badge requirements for Boy Scouts that are able to assist with this volunteer opportunity.

c. Mr. Stirling asked about painting the gazebos/shelters and Mr. Kea stated that the gazebos have been refurbished and painted. The gazebo that was removed on Patriot #6 has an established flower bed around a crepe myrtle. Mr. Kea asked that volunteers wait on planting flowers until the crepe myrtle has a little more time to establish.

9. Ladies Golf Report: There has been only one official play day recorded since the start of the season. Ms. Stirling said the cold weather has contributed to the slow start.

10. Representatives/Individual Report/Open Discussion:

 a. Mr. Kea asked a member of the weekend group players to attend the meeting to address their concerns regarding the course and hear discussions during the meeting. Mr. Chris Fry expressed the collective concerns of the weekend members to determine rumors or fact in an effort to relay the information to his group.

 (1) One concern of the weekend members is the maintenance staff. The Links has 16 positions to maintain the course. There are currently 12 positions filled and an active recruitment for the four vacant positions. Maintenance staff is laid off during the winter months due to limited work on the course. All current staff members have returned within the last two weeks.

 (2) Another concern of the weekend members is maintenance of the course. Staff is always working on various golf course projects and priority is given to greens, tees, fairways, and rough, in that order. The growth of the Bermuda grass is delayed and the clovers have taken over the rough. Weather conditions have also limited the ideal spraying of weeds. The ability to maintain the course has been hindered by the harsh winter, the delayed start to spring, and rain. Mr. Kea expects that the course will start to improve as the weather improves.

 (3) Mr. Kea and Mr. Nunn understand the concerns of Mr. Fry and their group and they will work on these areas of concern. Patrons should see improvements to the course over the next couple months. They do ask that if there are concerns they should address these with Mr. Kea. He does want to work with the golfing community and continue to make this a quality golf course.

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 (4) Mr. Fry asked about the hours of operation for the Weeden Mountain Grill during the winter months, specifically closing early on weekend afternoons. Mr. Nunn explained that the amount of revenue generated during winter months does not justify operating the Grill at full capacity. The winter hours have been established the past couple of years. Effective 12 April 2018, the Weeden Mountain Grill hours of operation are as follows:

Monday – Friday: 1030 – 1330 and 1500 – 1900

Saturday: 0630 – 1500

Sunday: 0900 – 1500

Mr. Kea did mention that these hours may change based on usage.

 b. Mr. Small asked when the golf app would be available. Mr. Kea stated that the app is under beta testing and will hopefully be available in two weeks.

 c. Mrs. Theodoss asked when the Snack Shack(Starter Shack) near Patriot #9 would be open. Mr. Cook stated that the Shack is now open and a soda machine is currently available. There are plans to have a snack machine and ice machine installed.

 d. Mr. Stirling asked if a newsletter could be published to inform the golfing community of different events and initiatives at The Links. This would help in communicating information and could include fun facts about the course. Mr. Nunn is actively working on a newsletter and hopes to have a solution soon. Mr. Stirling also asked about towels for ball washers and volunteered to put new ones on the course if there are any available.

11. Mr. Stirling adjourned the meeting at 1228 and thanked everyone for their attendance.

12. The next Golf Advisory Council Meeting will take place Thursday, 3 May 2018, 1130, The Links at Redstone.

Encl WILLIAM W. STIRLING

 COL, USA (Retired)

 Golf Council President

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# **The Links at Redstone**

# **Golf Advisory Council Meeting**

# **5 April 2018**

1130 – 1135 Opening Remarks Bill Stirling

1135 – 1155 Golf Course Report Trace Kea

1155 – 1200 Handicap Committee Report Tom Small

1200 – 1210 Volunteer Committee Report Bill Stirling

1210 – 1215 Ladies Golf Report Kathleen Stirling

1215 – 1230 Representatives Individual Reports/

 Open Discussion

1230 Closure and Adjourn

**Next Golf Advisory Council Meeting is 1130, Thursday, 3 May 2018.**