

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

May 4, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Community Recreation Center

10640 N Clubhouse Drive, Cedar Hills, Utah

Present: Denise Andersen, Mayor, Presiding
Councilmembers: Laura Ellison, Ben Ellsworth, Mike Geddes, Kelly Smith
Absent/Excused: Brian Miller
Chandler Goodwin, City Manager
Charl Louw, Finance Director
Jeff Maag, Building Official
Kevin Anderson, Public Works Director
Hyrum Bosserman, City Attorney
Colleen Mulvey, City Recorder
Others: Lt. Cameron Paul, Jason Harr

This work session of the City Council of the City of Cedar Hills, having been properly noticed, was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mayor Andersen.

1. Discussion on the Golf Course Driving Range Fence

Chandler Goodwin stated that the scope of this project was unknown. The problem was when the golf course was originally installed it was installed with a 35-foot fence; it was sufficient because there was not anyone living near the course. As homes started getting put in the fence was raised to 50 feet and they felt that was sufficient. A windstorm blew over the poles and since they had not heard complaints from residents with the 50-foot fence, they replaced the 50-foot wooden poles with 50-foot steel poles. However, they had heard about an issue where a number of golf balls were going over the fence. A study had been done the year before and it was estimated that two to four percent of balls hit were going over the fence. A trajectory study had been done last year which was based on the top 10% of PGA players. Mr. Goodwin presented the results of the study and compared them to the current course net.

Mr. Goodwin said they had priced out what it would take to raise the nets which was a half million dollars. The two different proposals were to raise the net to 75 feet or 100 feet. He said it was important to note that the nets were being raised by a significant margin. The two portions of net that were of concern were at the intersection where people walked and at the end of the net because it wasn't long enough. Over time there have been significant improvements to the golf clubs' people were using, and people were driving farther than they were ten years ago.

Mr. Goodwin stated one of the bids proposed raising the nets to 100 feet with the understanding that they still would not be getting 100% containment. They would not be able to stop malicious people from trying to drive over the nets. At the time, there was \$365,000 earmarked for this project. In June they would transfer more money from the General Fund to this line item and he hoped this project would receive some of that money. The next idea was to try to find new developments in golf courses to achieve more containment. The idea was to change the use and

make it more of a practice area with chipping areas. Additionally, they could also install a netting system where people drove right into a net.

Mr. Goodwin said staff wanted to look at what they were trying to achieve. A few of the goals were: 1) Address containment; 2) Not create more of a golf maintenance crew and add to the golf budget; and 3) Three, the financial aspect. Currently the driving range brought in around \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year, but the main reason people came to the golf course was to play golf. Mr. Goodwin said he considered the driving range an amenity to the golf course but not the destination itself.

Mr. Goodwin said staff wanted the course to be a destination course. By altering the range they could provide more of an allure to the course and contain more balls. The City had money put aside for a project regarding the driving range, but the question with raising the nets was that it wasn't going to stop all of the balls. They wanted direction from Council regarding altering the driving range.

C. Geddes commented he was against spending money on raising the nets for a small percentage of containment. He wasn't opposed to working out a compromise and liked the idea of a practice facility.

Mr. Goodwin said he thought this could be done in a tasteful manner that would add an amenity to the golf course. C. Geddes commented they did not need to just have a driving range. He liked the idea as long as there was not a huge cost for maintenance, and he would rather put the \$300,000 into the course instead of a net. Mr. Goodwin said they were getting staff on board with the idea, and they were open to it if the job was done right.

Mr. Goodwin said they were looking into synthetic instead of grass to cut down on maintenance. C. Ellsworth commented they had had requests over the years for youth programs and this would be perfect for that.

Mr. Goodwin said people did not go to expensive golf courses for driving ranges. Mr. Louw commented that most of the golfers golfed three times per week; therefore, giving them an area to warm up would mean a lot to them. He had been reaching out to golf course architects to talk about pricing. C. Geddes commented he felt that was a way better use of City funds.

C. Ellison agreed that paying money for a net that wouldn't contain all of the balls wasn't a good idea. C. Smith said she lived on the golf course in St. George and dealt with the same thing and was against the net. There was discussion about the good neighbor policy.

Mr. Goodwin stated they would start working on a plan. The driving range would stay open for the time being, but they would start rolling out a practice facility plan.

2. Discussion on City Council Park Assignments

C. Smith stated they had received a letter from a resident about trash and other issues in the parks. It occurred to her that no one was specifically in charge of monitoring this task. She

suggested that each Councilmember take on responsibility for one of the parks to help stay on top of these issues.

Mayor Andersen commented this was not to step on the Beautification, Recreation, Parks, and Trails Committee; rather, it was to help them keep an eye on the matter. Parks were the heart of the City and people wanted to come to parks that were clean. Getting residents involved in protecting the parks would give them a sense of personal investment in the parks. She stated there were five big parks and five pocket parks.

Mayor Andersen asked about Doral Park. Mr. Goodwin replied that Doral Park was created because it was a property that a home could not be built on. He heard that people liked to take toddlers there because it was a smaller park; however, it wasn't in the best shape. It was on a corner and could be easily mistaken as someone's backyard because it only had a swing set.

Parks were assigned as followed:

- YCC – Harvey Park
- C. Smith - Pine Hollow & Timpanogos Cove
- C. Geddes - Heritage & Sunset
- C. Ellison – Mesquite
- C. Ellsworth - Cedar Run & Doral
- C. Miller – Bayhill
- Mayor Andersen – Heiselt's Hollow

Mayor Andersen said that once a month they would have an event where people would go and pick up trash and check things out. She wanted the Councilmembers to be in charge of their designated parks and could handle the assignment however they wanted.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. on a motion by C. Ellsworth, seconded by C. Geddes, and unanimously approved.

Approved by Council:
June 29, 2021

/s/ Colleen A. Mulvey, MMC
City Recorder