

Board of Parks Commissioners
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 12:00 PM
Council Chambers
1369 25 Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

1. Statement of compliance with Open Meetings Act.

Open Meetings Act

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1407. Act, how cited.

Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1409. Terms, defined.

For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such

individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the

members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual meetings authorized; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the

meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority;

(xiii) A natural resources district; and

(xiv) The Judicial Resources Commission.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as

would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the organization may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing. The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by virtual conferencing.

(3) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in
Open Meetings Act

number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsections (5) and (6) of section 84-1413.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and

(f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

(7) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public web site the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the web site at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of

the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the web site at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public web site for at least six months.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1415. Open Meetings Act; requirements; waiver; validity of action.

No motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting as defined in section 84-1409 of a public body as defined in such section shall be invalidated because such motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action was made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting or meetings on or after March 17, 2020, and on or before April 30, 2021, pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order which waived certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

2. Minutes of February 1, 2022, meeting.

BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on February 1, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1369 25 Avenue, Columbus, Nebraska.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on January 26, 2022, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the members of the Board of Parks Commissioners. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

1. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT.** Chair Hansen announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room. Present were Members Jon Brezenski, Robbin Cutsor, Jack Gutierrez, Brad Hansen, Sandra Jochens, Gary Puetz, Bruce Schmidt, and John Shadle. Member Nick Larson was absent. City staff members included Public Property Director Doug Moore, Park Superintendent Ron Dush, Park and Recreation Coordinator Betsy Eckhardt, and Account Clerk II/Records Clerk II Linda Nickeson.
2. **MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2022, MEETING.** The minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Gutierrez and a second by Schmidt. Brezenski, Cutsor, Gutierrez, Hansen, Jochens, Puetz, Schmidt, and Shadle voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Larson was absent.
3. **COLUMBUS YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT.** Brent Johnston was present to answer questions regarding the 2021 season and pointed out that a new member will be joining the board this season, replacing Jerry Drymon.
4. **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ANNUAL REPORT.** Steve Farmer reviewed the 2021 season and confirmed that tournament expenses reflected on the financial report were for out of town games, the cost of uniforms and caps is included in the organization's annual budget, and that the only fundraiser held was a youth baseball camp. Moore stated that the city is in the process of accepting letters of interest for Pawnee Park baseball field lighting and pointed out that the addition of bleacher railings will be costly as ADA requirements will necessitate a complete reconstruction.
5. **WILDERNESS PARK OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT.** Kay Arlt stated that both her term as president and that of Brenda Preister as director of marketing will end August 31, 2022. The organization is actively seeking both replacements as well as a director of coaching. She reviewed the 2021 season in detail and stressed that development of the parking area north of the fields and expansion of the north storeroom are essential for growth of the soccer programs.
6. **PUBLIC PROPERTY DIRECTOR REPORT.** Dush reviewed park activity. Moore

stated that he is opposed to placing port-a-potties throughout the parks as they are unsightly and targets for vandalism.

7. **FINANCIAL ACTIVITY OF COLUMBUS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION.** A motion was made by Cutsor and seconded by Gutierrez to go into closed session. The subject matter to be discussed shall be financial activity of Columbus Softball Association. The reason for going into closed session is for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. City Administrator Tara Vasicek, Public Property Director Doug Moore, and Park and Recreation Coordinator Betsy Eckhardt will be included in the closed session. Hansen announced that a motion has been made to go into closed session. The subject matter to be discussed shall be financial activity of Columbus Softball Association. The reason for going into closed session is for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. City Administrator Tara Vasicek, Public Property Director Doug Moore, and Park and Recreation Coordinator Betsy Eckhardt will be included in the closed session. Brezenski, Cutsor, Gutierrez, Hansen, Jochens, Puetz, Schmidt, and Shadle voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Larson was absent. Hansen announced that the board of parks commissioners has voted to go into closed session. The subject matter to be discussed shall be financial activity of Columbus Softball Association. The reason for going into closed session is for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. City Administrator Tara Vasicek, Public Property Director Doug Moore, and Park and Recreation Coordinator Betsy Eckhardt will be included in the closed session. The board of parks commissioners went into closed session at 12:43 p.m. The board of parks commissioners exited closed session at 1:09 p.m. with a motion by Cutsor and a second by Shadle. Brezenski, Cutsor, Gutierrez, Hansen, Jochens, Puetz, Schmidt, and Shadle voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Larson was absent.
8. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
: Linda Nickeson

3. **Columbus Area Youth Football Organization annual report.**

Columbus Area Youth Football Organization Report - 2021 Season

2021 Participation Numbers										
	3rd	4th	TOTAL #	# OF FLAG TEAMS	5th	6th	TOTAL #	# OF TACKLE TEAMS	Total	potential 5th/6th
CENTRAL CITY	7	5	12	1	12	12	24	1	36	17
COLUMBUS	21	18	39	3	23	34	57	2	96	41
COLUMBUS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	12	10	22	2	16	5	21	1	43	26
LAKEVIEW	4	9	13	1	12	5	17	1	30	21
LEIGH/CLARKSON	7	7	14	1	7	8	15	1	29	14
TWIN RIVER	7	12	19	2	2	1	3	0	22	14
Total	58	61	119	10	72	65	137	6	256	133

2021 FINANCIALS		
DESCRIPTION	DEPOSITS	EXPENSES
INCOME FROM REGISTRATION	\$23,947.00	
CITY OF COLUMBUS (RENT/ELECT)		\$194.00
PAINTING OF FIELDS		\$700.00
FERTILIZER/SPRAYING		\$1,500.00
BALLS/EQUIPMENT/JERSEYS		\$4,370.00
TSHIRTS		\$5,246.00
INSURANCE		\$2,013.00
ADVERTISING		\$300.00
END OF YEAR PIZZA PARTY		\$1,858.00
LAUNDRY		\$202.00
ATHLETIC TRAINER		\$1,790.00
REF'S		\$2,295.00
TOTALS	\$23,947.00	\$20,468.00

Notes for Park Board Meeting

We had 256 participants in the league this year, that includes 119 3rd and 4th graders and 137 5th and 6th graders. Of these participants, 169 came from Columbus, Columbus Catholic and Lakeview teams, so the City of Columbus is well represented in this league. We also had teams from Central City, Clarkson/Leigh and Twin River.

Overall, participation numbers were down slightly this year because we lost the teams from David City. They did not have enough kids to form a tackle team, so their 5th and 6th graders moved to playing a 7 vs 7 league in Wahoo. Because parents of the 5th and 6th graders also has 3rd and 4th graders, their flag team(s) moved also. Lamont and I think that we may get them back in the future.

This was the first year that we split Columbus Catholic students into their own teams. We had talked about it for a number of years, but this year Coach Linder asked that we make the move. The thought was that it may help them getting Catholic school kids to come out for youth football. I think that the move was well liked by both Coach Linder and Coach Williams, it allows both of the high school coaching staffs to be a little more involved in the development of players. I know both coaching staffs are trying to be better at vertical integration of their teams, having all players run similar drills, consistency with technique and have similar plays or schemes.

We did not purchase a lot of equipment last year. This year we will need to get about a third of our helmets reconditioned and we plan on ordering new jerseys for each team. We will work with each tackle team to develop “cool” new jerseys that the kids will get excited for.

Overall, the season went great, again we are appreciative of the new storage/restroom/concession facility. It has really helped with fan and participation friendliness. The only thing that we would request for consideration from the City’s budget is the construction of some shade structures. I think that the construction of a shade structure on the concrete where the old building set would be great and then if we could erect some shade structure on the south field that would be great. We play most of our games in August and September and we have games all day long. Some of those mid-afternoon games are really hot and there is no place to get out of the sun out there.

Lamont and I would like to thank Ron Dush and the rest of the park crews, they are always great to work with and we get numerous comments that we have some of the best grass fields in the area. Also, thanks to the park board for your support year in and year out.

Sincerely,

John A. Zwingman

4. Columbus Youth Baseball League annual report.

INCOME/EXPENSE REPORTING FORM

Organization CYBL Columbus Youth Baseball League
 Year 2021 Report At Centennial Fields

	Income	Expenses	Net
Fees			
Concessions	13,000	11,000	2,000
Tournaments			
Special Events			
Special Fund Raisers <i>raffles</i>	4,400	1,200	3,200
Entry Fees			
Registration Fees	13,000	15,000	- 2000
Other			
Total			3,200

Park Improvements Completed	Cost
<u>Paid off city for Agri-Lime</u>	5,178.89

Park Improvements Planned	Estimated Cost

Park Maintenance Expenses (Your cost for field preparation, irrigation, etc.)	Cost
<u>Field Prep - chalk - etc</u>	2,000

Number of Participants (List as appropriate for your organization, i.e., leagues.)
 List of Board members & Park Department contact person.

237 Kids on 20 teams
Lakeview brought 51 kids on 4 teams

CYBL 2021

Checking account

1-1-21 - \$5,253.56
12-31-21 - \$1,671.65

of Players

rookie - 49 - 4 teams
minors - 62 - 5 teams
majors - 63 - 5 teams
pony - 63 - 6 teams

237 - 20 teams

Expenses

Nebr. Dept. of Revenue - 102.61
City of Columbus - rent & electric - 315.37
City of Columbus - Agr. Lime - JAN. - 2,500
City of Columbus - Agr. Lime - Oct. - 2,678.89
webb page 80
PO Box & stamps - 156
Walmart - 63.07
Col. Music - speaker cables - 42.80
SA Lawn Care - Fert. etc. - 600
Foreman Lumber - chalk - 327.42
UPS Store - 303.27
Meeting Supplies - 298.14
player refund - 80
ATV ins. - 169
Ginger Moon INS - 1,994.14
Big Red Printing - 366.69
Nebr. Sports - 2,226.89

Lakeview -
rookies - 26 2 teams
minor - 14 1 team
major - 11 1 team

51 4 teams

HyVee - 6,051.10
Cash Wa - 3,599.65
Hadley-Braithwait - 1,540.55
} 11,191.30

Deposits

April - 17,530
June - 2,445
July - 7,717

Didn't use checking account to pay umpires, concession help, or field prep.



Hopefully we will
be adding new
board members this year

CYBL Board of Directors

Subscribe to our Newsletter (emailist.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball)

COLUMBUS YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE!!!

P.O. Box 2082
Columbus, NE 68602

Name	Position	Phone	Profile
Stacy Steffen (directorinfo.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball&id=342433)	President	402-750-9790 call or text	View Profile
Linda Smith (directorinfo.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball&id=301631)	Secretary	402-276-2713	View Profile
Brian Oppliger (directorinfo.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball&id=445023)	Treasurer	402-750-7356	View Profile
Dan Britt (directorinfo.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball&id=496167)	Board Member/Chief Umpire	402-270-4302	View Profile
Erv Kopp (directorinfo.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball&id=496165)	Board Member/Concessions	402-910-2245	View Profile
Jeff Peabody (directorinfo.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball&id=496166)	Board Member/Website	308-216-1490	View Profile
David Badura (directorinfo.asp?url=columbusyouthbaseball&id=521191)	Board Member	402-910-1870	View Profile

5. **Columbus Mariners Baseball League annual report.**

INCOME/EXPENSE REPORTING FORM

Organization: Columbus Mariners Baseball Year: 2021 Report

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>
<u>Fees</u>	20875	12847	8022
<u>Concessions</u>	Not run	Not run	
<u>Tournaments</u>	47195	47195	0
<u>Special Events</u>	2389	2171	218
<u>Special Fund Raisers</u>	24949	25307	-358
<u>Entry Fees</u>			
<u>Registration Fees</u>			
<u>Other</u>	Grant, 1800	1800	0
<u>Total:</u>	97208	89320	7888

Park

Improvements Completed

Cost

Gerrard park concrete around dugouts, gravel in low wet areas, batting cage repair	12000
L screens, and nets erected	

Park Improvements Planned

Estimated Cost

Add Agri lime, yellow fence topper	8000
	1500
City Funding Requested:	

Park Maintenance Expenses (Your cost for field preparation, irrigation, etc.)

Cost

4 wheeler maintenance and payments	1800
Caulk	400
Electricity	250

Number of Participants (List as appropriate for your organization, ie., Leagues List of Board Members & Park Dept contact person
Dave Gustafson: President – Chris Mustard: VP – Cory Reeder: Treasurer – Nick Young: Secretary Dave Gustafson, Cory Reeder, Logan Bronson, Chris Mustard, Nick Young, Scott Camron - Members

6. **Columbus Baseball Association annual report.**

COLUMBUS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 1612 Columbus NE 68602-1612

Helping Columbus Youth Discover Baseball

OFFICERS:

President: Tom Meays
Vice President: Ron Schilling
Secretary: Brad Hansen
Treasurer: Bernie Fleischacker

BOARD MEMBERS:

Jack Pekny Eric Ceder
Jason Bell Travis Bock
Ken Robinson Tom Freimuth
Steve Farmer

INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT FOR

ORGANIZATION: CBA

Year 2021 Report

Income:

Beginning Balance	34,062.71
Fund Raising(Signs)	1,850.00
Totals:	35,912.71

Expenses:

P.O. Box Fees (2 yrs)	268.00
Stamps/envelopes	203.61
Schieffer Signs	990.00
PP Fence Padding	412.00
PP Cables and Locks	67.36
PP Home Plate Mat (CHS)	389.99
Totals:	2330.96

Ending Balance (2021) 33,581.75

CBA has invested over \$130,000 in recent years for various projects such as:

- A. Renovations to baseball fields at Pawnee Park, Centennial, Gerard, and Armory fields.
 - 1. Purchasing agrilime for application at all fields
 - 2. Installing warning track, renovation of bull pins, safety capping material used to install on top of fence railing in outfield. Press box replacement. upgrade replacement of field irrigation all at P.P field
- B. We have currently donated \$20,000 to Mariners organization for renovations at Gerard Park which are still ongoing.

Future improvements include a complete renovation at Pawnee Park field. This project will be completed in 2 phases at a cost of approximately \$800,000.

- 1. Phase I is replacement of lighting system at PP field. Current lighting and wiring will be completely removed and new energy efficient LED customized and fully programmable lighting installed. Cost was estimated at \$350,000.
- 2. Phase II is replacement of current grass/dirt infield with artificial turf. This would include removal of old surface, grading and installing proper drainage material and installing artificial turf to infield only. The circles surrounding the bases and home plate would remain natural compound. Cost approximately \$400,000.

CBA would like to see Phase I completed during off season of 2022.

Phase II completion would be determined when funds are acquired to start construction

CBA has already established a \$50,000 matching grant from Columbus Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. CBA is also working closely with City to acquire matching funds of \$50,000 and more to finish funding for lighting.

Phase II funding will be a collaboration of grant funding, private donations, CBA and City of Columbus.

7. **Advertising signs located at Pawnee Park, Centennial Park, and Berne Square baseball fields for the 2022 baseball season.**

Pawnee Park Sponsor Signs

The following signs were taken down on 7/26/2021 from Pawnee Park Field:
All will be put back up for the 2022 season.

American Legion Baseball
Pekny & Associates, CPA's, PC
Columbus Public Schools Foundation
Columbus Steel Supply
Cornerstone Insurance Group
Schieffer Signs
Valmont Newmark
Quail's Nest
Mead Lumber
Mueller Sprinklers
Hometown Insurance Agency
B-D Construction
Big10 Sport Bar & Grill
Behlen
Ernst
Northland Communications
Columbus Junk Removal
Casey's
Woerth Construction
Northtown Stylists
Union Bank & Trust
Creston RFD
Pat Sackett Electric, Inc.
CBA
Gass Haney Funeral Home
Columbus United Federal Credit Union
Owens Wealth Advisors
Bo's West
Columbus Bank and Trust Company
R&S Track Maintenance, Inc.
First United Methodist Church
Godfather's Pizza
Great Plains State Bank

From: Tom Meays
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 10:58 AM
To: Judy Meays
Subject: Fwd: List of signs

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Meays <tlmeays@frontiernet.net>
Date: August 16, 2021 at 9:20:42 PM CDT
To: gary_sansoni@yahoo.com
Subject: List of signs

Here is list of signs at Armory & Centennial

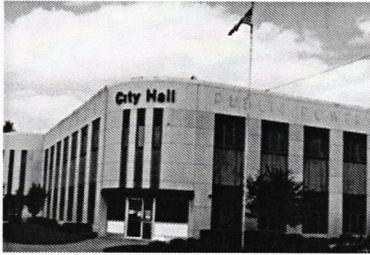
Armory

Gene Steffen Ford
Northland Communications
Columbus Community Hospital
Valmont
Gaver Tire
Mikes Auto
ReMax
KTTT/KJSK
Capitol Electric
Platte River Designs/Landscaping

Centennial

Columbus Children's/ CCH Pediatric Clinic
CPS Bank
Columbus Monument
B-D Const.
Pekny
Columbus Community Hospital
BT's Bar & Grill
Hometown Ins.
Bank of the Valley
Nebraska Sports
Home Realty
KTTT/KJSK
State Farm
Columbus Family Practice
Bierman Const.
Ernst Auto (2)
Mueller Sprinklers
Holiday Inn Express
Valmont
Capital Electric
Bank First

8. Update on Van Berg Family Learning Center.



The City of **Columbus**

FILED

FEB 22 2022

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Phone (402) 562-4224 • Fax (402) 563-1380

CITY CLERK
COLUMBUS, NEBR

TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION FOR CITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

If you have a specific topic that you would like a city committee to consider at a future meeting, please complete the information below and submit to the City Clerk's office. The item will be reviewed and forwarded to city staff for appropriate action or scheduled for a future meeting of the appropriate committee if necessary. You will be notified of the staff recommendation or action taken on your request or when the item will be presented to the committee for consideration.

Name: Tom Freimuth

Address: 1964 West Camino Real St.
Columbus, NE 68601

Telephone Number: 402-212-6979

Email Address: tdfreimuth@gmail.com

Date of Request: 2/22/2022

Description of Requested Topic: (Please be as specific as possible and use additional sheets of paper if needed.)

I am an attorney who helped the Columbus
Golf Association for. I would like to give a
very brief update on the Van Berg Family
Learning Center. Brent McGrew, the head
PGA Teaching Pro may join me.

For Administrative Purposes Only:

Date Request Received: _____

Action Taken: _____

Follow-Up Needed: _____



COLUMBUS GOLF ASSOCIATION

3965 Lost Creek Drive
Columbus, NE 68601

February 17, 2022

Mayor Jim Bulkley
2424 14th St.
P.O. Box 1677
Columbus, NE 68602

Dear Mayor Bulkley:

We are Directors of the Columbus Golf Association (“CGA”), a nonprofit organization formed in the aftermath of the flood that damaged the Quail Run Golf Course in 2019. We are contacting you in support of Brent McGrew, the Head PGA Teaching Professional at Quail Run and Van Berg Golf Courses. We are hopeful that the following information will help demonstrate Brent’s value to the community. As a part of this effort, we also wanted to provide you an update regarding the development of the Van Berg Family Learning Center, which Brent has spearheaded.

We have all known Brent well since he arrived in Columbus in 2006 and have nothing but positive things to say regarding his qualities as a person, teacher, and golf course/event manager. The enclosed testimonial submitted by Travis & Abbie Tessororf regarding Brent’s positive impact on their two teenagers echoes the feelings of many in the community.

Brent is smart, resourceful, friendly, and he works well with people of all ages and backgrounds. His ability to coordinate and conduct golf events in a well-organized and fun manner amazes us.

Brent has impressive qualities in terms of work ethic, commitment, and initiative. His 75-member youth program at Quail Run & Van Berg spanned eight weeks in 2020, and he worked over 50 hours per week during that period – this work was in addition to his many other commitments at Quail Run and Van Berg. Brent’s youth program, designed to accommodate COVID-19 concerns, involved over 70 individual half-hour lessons per week in 2020, together with a “Play Day” two times weekly. These efforts helped Brent receive the U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Teacher award for 2020 (see enclosed 2020 press release).

As you know, part of the CGA’s mission is to continue to demonstrate the value of the 9-hole Van Berg Golf Course to the community. As a part of this mission, Brent convinced the CGA to work with City of Columbus officials to convert Van Berg to a learning center for youths and beginning golfers. In this regard, and as a refresher, we are enclosing the one-page mission statement for the Van Berg Family Learning Center (“VBFLC”) prepared by Brent that the CGA formally presented to you and the City Council in October of 2020.

Brent’s efforts regarding the VBFLC illustrate his leadership and organizational/fundraising abilities. Immediately after the aforementioned October 2020 City Council meeting, he obtained signage funding in the total amount of \$1,900 from Duo Lift Manufacturing (\$1,000) and the CGA (\$900) to establish a graduated tee-box format to accommodate youths and beginners, and he implemented several other initiatives in 2021 including marketing and work force assembly to launch the VBFLC by early June of last year. As a part of this VBFLC launch, Brent coordinated the following youth programs/events in 2021 (these programs are also highlighted in the enclosed Telegram article written by Nate Tenopir entitled “Rebirth at Van Berg”):

1. "Clubs for Kids" program sponsored by The Columbus Motor Company (flyer enclosed - \$1,500 donation).
2. "Race to the Optimist Cup" for teenagers 13 - 18 sponsored by the Optimist Club, which started with a weekly 9-hole event at the VBFLC on 6/8/2021 and ended with an 18-hole event held 7/27 (flyer and Columbus Telegram article attached – 22 participants). Brent worked with City Councilman Ron Schilling, an Optimist Club member, in securing a \$3,500 donation for this program in 2021.
3. 12U program at the VBFLC sponsored by Nelnet & ALLO that began on 6/9/2021 and ran three days per week to the end of July (see enclosed flyer). Brent's goal is to have approximately 80 boys & girls in this 12U program each year – 82 participated in 2021. Brent worked with Tom Freimuth, a local attorney who is an 18-year Board Member of Nelnet subsidiary Nelnet Education Loan Funding, Inc., in securing a \$2,500 donation for the 12U program in 2021. As you know, Nelnet and ALLO are large Nebraska-based employers that began doing business in Columbus in 2021 – Nelnet owns a large share of ALLO.
4. "Teen Academy" held at Quail Run for 22 participants that ran for four weeks sponsored by the Sertoma Club (flyer enclosed – Brent plans to run the Teen Academy at the VBFLC this year provided that Quail Run returns to use as an 18-hole venue by June). Brent worked with City Councilman Rich Jablonski, a Sertoma Club member, in securing a \$500 donation for this program in 2021.
5. City Championship for youths held at Van Berg in late July had 105 participants. Brent obtained a \$630 donation from Hy-Vee for this event.

The VBFLC efforts summarized above helped Brent receive the U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Teacher award for 2021 (see enclosed 2021 press release) – thus, he is a repeat honoree! This recognition, together with his reputation in helping Head PGA Professional Doug Dunbar successfully host several Nebraska State Boys & Girls State Golf Tournaments at Quail Run prior to the 2019 flood, convinced the Cornhusker State Games organizers to coordinate with Brent to host golf events in Columbus this summer and beyond. In addition to this achievement in terms of stimulating the local economy, Brent's future Learning Center vision is to bring people to Columbus via events and tournaments sponsored by various organizations including U.S. Kids Golf, Nebraska Junior Golf Tour, Drive Pitch and Putt, and PGA Junior League.

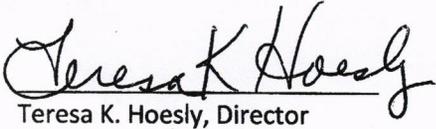
Brent's popularity and connections in Columbus help him effectively promote golf at both Quail Run and the VBFLC. In this regard, we also note that Mr. Dunbar's monthly golf reports submitted to the City show that he and Brent have significantly increased revenue, rounds and events at both Quail Run and Van Berg since their arrival in Columbus in 2006.

Brent and the CGA understand that Columbus municipal golf operates at a deficit, and we fully understand that City officials have a duty to taxpayers to minimize if not eliminate this deficit. That said, we believe it is important to note that Mr. Dunbar and Brent have no control over golf course maintenance and improvements -- a significant portion of Quail Run and Van Berg operations in terms of expense.

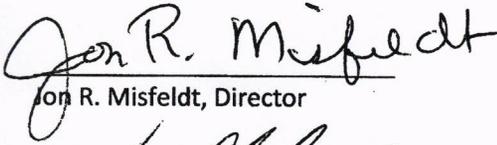
Brent is a Columbus homeowner and wants to continue his work in Columbus as a Head Teaching Professional. We encourage you and other City of Columbus officials to meet Brent to learn more about his value to the community and his plans for the future of the Van Berg Family Learning Center.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact the CGA's President, Jon Misfeldt, at 402.276.0850 or misfeldtj@discovers.org, if you have any questions or comments.

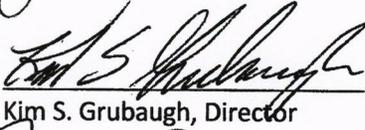
Sincerely,

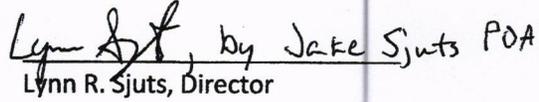

Teresa K. Hoesly, Director

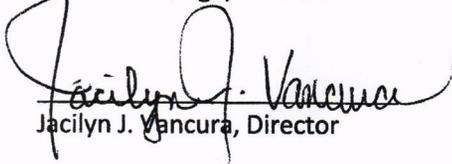

Charles R. Jensen, Director

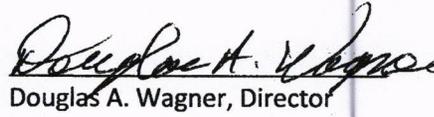

Jon R. Misfeldt, Director


John N. Petersen, Director


Kim S. Grubaugh, Director

 by Jake Sjuts POA
Lynn R. Sjuts, Director


Jacilyn J. Vancura, Director


Douglas A. Wagner, Director

- CC: Columbus City Council (via email w/ enclosures as attachments)
Parks Board (via email w/ enclosures as attachments)
Mr. Dwayne Smith
Ms. Tara Vasicek, City Administrator (via email w/ enclosures as attachments)
Mr. Doug Moore, Public Property Director (via email w/ enclosures as attachments)

✓ via Hand Delivery Also



From: Dr. Travis Tessendorf [mailto:drt@tessendorfchiro.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Assistant Pro
Subject: FW: Letter of support for Brent McGrew

Brent,

Just wanted you to know that we sent a letter to Ron Schilling at the city council on your behalf. Read below.

Thanks
Travis

From: Dr. Travis Tessendorf <drt@tessendorfchiro.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Ron Schilling <rschilling@neb.rr.com>
Subject: Letter of support for Brent McGrew

Mr. Ron Schilling,

Because you are a member of the Columbus City Council, we wanted to share with you our gratitude and support for Brent McGrew who is one of the golf professionals at Quail Run Golf Course.

In the summer of 2020, we enrolled our 13 year old daughter Cambell for private lessons with Brent McGrew at Quail Run. She had only golfed a handful of times. After private lessons, Brent encouraged Cambell to enroll in the Columbus Youth Golf Program at Vanberg golf course. She signed up and had a wonderful experience. Not only did she meet some new friends, but it also improved her golf game. It was also during that summer that our son, Cooper, expressed an interest in golf. Because he is left-handed, clubs are hard to come by. Brent went out of his way to ensure that Cooper had clubs to rent, therefore allowing him to experience golf. Because of this, we have since purchased clubs for him and he continues to enjoy golfing. This summer (2021), our daughter again took part in the Columbus Youth Golf Program and private lessons with Brent. This was a very positive experience for her.

This past summer, Cambell decided to transfer to CHS. With Brent's encouragement, she tried out for and successfully made the CHS golf team. Her golf game has a long way to go, but the greatest win for us was that this allowed our daughter to compete and be a part of a team. Her newfound love of golf has also given her confidence and allowed her to connect with new students at a new school. Not only did she make the golf team at CHS, but she was recently selected to the student council at CHS. We attribute much of her confidence, success, and will to compete to Brent and his willingness and patience to work with her.

Because of the positivity and professionalism of Brent McGrew, both of our children will now be lifelong golfers. They both feel comfortable and welcomed because of the lessons they both learned from Brent.

Sincerely,

Travis and Abbie Tessendorf

Rebirth at Van Berg

McGrew, CGA transforming Van Berg into course for youth/beginners

NATE TENOPIR
The Columbus Telegram

In the long run, it may be a blessing in disguise.

Brent McGrew, the head PGA professional for Quail Run and Van Berg golf courses, has had more time on his hands the last two summers. Following the flood of 2019 and subsequent redesign of Quail Run into a temporary nine-hole course, there's less on his plate.

Of course, he'd rather be busy with 27 holes to look after. But in the meantime, McGrew and the Columbus Golf Association have developed a plan for the future of Van Berg and how it can serve the needs of the community as a place for youth, beginners and seniors.

McGrew began to roll out that plan with the Teen Golf Academy that opened Friday, one of three youth programs beginning over the next few weeks.

Since a presentation was made to the Columbus City Council last October about the potential at Van Berg, the facility has been renamed the Van Berg Family Learning Center (VBFLC). At that presentation, the city council and Mayor Jim Bulkeley agreed to reevaluate the need for Van Berg following repairs at Quail Run and with enough time taken to realize the impact of the VBFLC.

Quail won't be operational again as an 18-hole course until next year. The VBFLC is leaving the harbor for its maiden voyage this summer.

"I always felt like there's a use for Van Berg. Being busy and running two golf courses, there wasn't always time for things like this. Now that I'm down to nine and nine, I can dedicate some time towards that," McGrew said. "...It's something I've always wanted to do. The need to do it, the need to show the purpose for Van Berg to be open and that it could be a positive for the community is



NATE TENOPIR, THE COLUMBUS TELEGRAM

Quail Run/Van Berg head PGA professional Brent McGrew takes a photo with his U.S. Kids Golf bag earlier this week at Van Berg Golf Course. McGrew and the Van Berg Family Learning Center are rolling out several youth and beginners programs this summer.

something I've always wanted to be a part of."

McGrew was recognized as a top 50 kids coach by U.S. Kids Golf earlier this year, thanks in large part to his efforts last summer. McGrew's junior golf program adjusted for the pandemic and turned it into a program more focused on individual time together.

He figured 30 to 40 kids would sign up. McGrew had 75 and saw tremendous improvement from start to finish.

"I really appreciate it. I haven't won a whole lot of awards. But to be honest, the award was those kids getting a lot better last year," he said. "That's the thing I like more than anything, but it's nice to be recognized for that."

That kind of response and more threats on the future of Van Berg had McGrew and the Columbus Golf

Association (CGA) seeking ways to demonstrate the value of the course.

In Lincoln, the Ager Learning Center was recognized as the Nebraska PGA Facility of the Year in 2018 for its efforts in growing and teaching the game of golf. The VBFLC was envisioned as taking a similar approach with similar programs.

In Columbus, the first summer of the VBFLC includes a Teen Academy, U.S. Kids Golf Columbus Summer Golf Program and the Race for the Optimist Cup.

The Teen Academy is held each Friday in June for players age 13-17 for two hours in the morning and followed by a round of golf afterward. In addition to the instruction players receive during the clinic, the program includes a one-hour one-on-one teaching lesson with McGrew and the Youth on Course (YOC) card. The YOC allows players

to have a round at Quail Run and Van Berg for just \$5. Other courses with reduced rates are listed as well.

The U.S. Kids Golf Columbus Summer Golf Program is for players 12 and under. The program opens Wednesday and runs through July 28 with training on Wednesdays and two-player scrambles on Thursdays.

The \$145 fee (\$75 for each additional sibling) will introduce new players to the game in a way that makes it fun to continue learning. For example, rather than teeing off on the normal tee boxes at Van Berg, a short driving range is being built to help players gauge their abilities.

Wherever they hit it on the range consistently will correspond with a number displayed at that distance. That number will have its own tee box at various spots on each hole to encourage a two-shot maximum approach to the green.

"It gives them a chance to score. A lot of kids and beginners, when they're starting, by the time you get to the important part of the game, they've given up," McGrew said. "They haven't learned how to chip or putt. Now, they'll be driving the ball down there a lot closer to the green. They'll get down around the green in two and have a chance to score."

The program is filling fast and only has room for 27 in each age group.

"When you keep on scoring, the game is fun. You lose interest when the scores start going up," McGrew said. "It's hard to see improvement unless you're seeing improvement around the green - you're chipping and putting and learning how to score."

The race for the Optimist Cup is for players 13-18 consisting of weekly play that earns points for various age groups. The players compete every Tuesday for nine holes starting next week for six Tuesdays. There are also three other dates as part of the city championship that are 18-hole events and earn the players double the points.

At the conclusion of the program, the top players in each age group win

a fitted Callaway Epic Driver. Other prizes include a fitted putter, fitted wedge, a dozen balls and a Callaway glove.

McGrew will be starting a beginners program later this summer and next summer hopes to have leagues for families and couples.

Those interested in the program can reach him by email at bmcgrew@pga.com or by phone at 402-564-1313.

"I want to make it comfortable for kids to come out, their parents to drop them off and come out and play golf," McGrew said. "What I miss seeing is, when I drive around town there aren't any kids out on their bikes riding around. Why aren't there any kids on the basketball court? Why isn't there anybody over there on the tennis court?"

Van Berg has been under threat of closure before. In 1991, Columbus residents voted on the Van Berg Preservation Measure and approved the maintenance of the course as is. Once Quail Run opened that same year, a consultant reported back to the city council that Columbus couldn't support 27 holes of public golf.

However, following a public petition and vote of 4,413 to 525 on the measure, Van Berg reopened shortly after. Since then, more than one City Administrator has floated the idea of closure. There is a clause in the contract for the land that was donated by the family of Marion Van Berg. But some city administrators have indicated they had found ways around that clause.

The Columbus Golf Association began its initial stages of creation following the damage at Quail Run in 2019. Initially, the purpose was to find ways to aid the cleanup and repair process along.

When more ideas were mentioned about eliminating Van Berg following the reopening of Quail Run at 18 holes, McGrew and the CGA stepped in.

Nate Tenopir is the sports editor of The Columbus Telegram. Reach him via email at sports@columbustelegram.com.

VBFLC

Trade in Trade up

Clubs for Kids Program

Sponsored by.....



This program is designed to keep the correct size and weight of clubs in your child's bag. This is going to be a critical factor when developing proper swing mechanics as your child grows and strengthens. Unfortunately The old saying "they will grow into them" is GONE. We also realize the added cost to parents if they have to buy a new set every time their little one grows a couple inches. Thanks to one of our sponsor's, Columbus Motor Company has pitched-in made it possible for us to develop a program that will insure your golfer has clubs that fit correctly with minimal cost to the parents.

The program works like this:

1. Parents will pay the **WHOLESALE** price for the first set of clubs
2. Each year the player will be measured and fitted with the correct size clubs.
3. Parents will return the used set and pay \$20.00
4. The clubs that you bring back will be re gripped, refurbished or if necessary, replaced so that they can be made available to the next player.
5. When your player is ready to move up into his or her adult clubs, you will return the junior set and receive a 100% credit back on of your initial investment towards his or her adult set.
6. What if they quit playing? Return the set and you will get back 50% of your initial investment.
7. What if I already have a US Kids set? You can get right into the program, just trade your set in and get the next size. Because you paid retail your first trade will be at no charge.
8. By agreeing to this program you agree that all clubs remain the property of the VBFLC

Current Set Prices as of 7-1-2021

(prices subject to change)

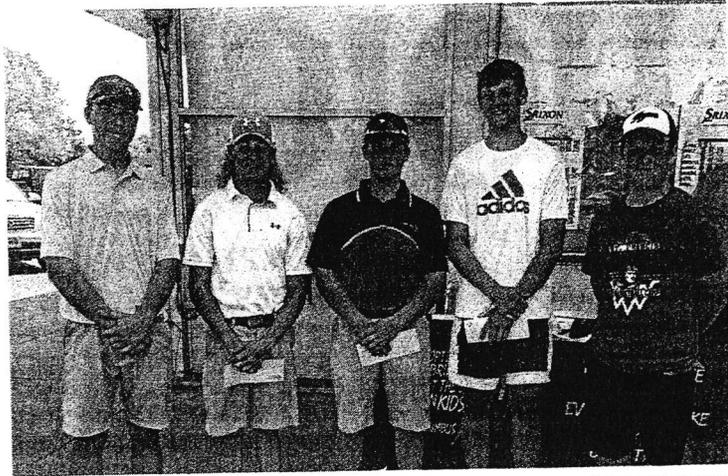
- 63" - 7 club set \$260
- 60" - 7 club set \$240
- 57" - 7 club set \$230
- 54" - 7 club set \$220
- 51" - 7 club set \$210
- 48" - 7 club set \$190
- 45" - 6 club set \$190
- 42" - 5 club set \$150
- 39" - 5 club set \$135

Inaugural Optimist champs crowned

Schneider, Kitt complete championship runs in first summer of event

NATE TENOPIR
The Columbus Telegram

Editor's note: This story first published in the July 29, 2021, edition of The Columbus Telegram. Do you enjoy staying up-to-date about local happenings and would prefer to get your news sooner than later? Do your part and help support community journalism by supporting the journalists who also call Nebraska home. Get a digital subscription for cheap by visiting <https://bit.ly/3vO8TR7>. Don't wait!



COURTESY PHOTO

Champion golfer Kurt Schneider, middle, takes a photo with other competitors for the Race to the Optimist Cup after Tuesday's final round at Van Berg Family Learning Center. With Schneider are, from left, Clay Brandenburger, Zandyr Kohl, Mason Whitmore and Andrew Kosch.

The two names that have had a stranglehold over the first summer of the Race for the Optimist Cup finally reached the finish line on Tuesday.

Kurt Schneider and Hannah Kitt, as they've done since early June, continued to win and made history as the first champions in the history of the event.

Schneider shot a 5-over 77 at Van Berg Family Learning Center and cemented his status as the top player in the league with his sixth win of the year. Hannah Kitt was the top player in the league each week and continued that dominance with a 94—the only girls player to shoot under 100.

For their efforts, Schneider and Kitt receive a fitted Callaway Epic Driver.

"At first when I saw (the announcement of the league) I didn't necessarily think I could win but I thought it was a great opportunity to play golf and maybe get some prizes," Schneider said. "After the first week, I had full confidence that I could win it.

"I've been working pretty seriously at golf the past couple years now."

Schneider didn't participate in the first nine-hole event of the season on June 8 and was also away from the course on July 13. But in between he won three times and set himself up for a victory lap, of sorts, if he played well at last week's Junior City

Championship. When Schneider came through and won that as well, his lead was essentially insurmountable.

The first six weeks awarded the winner at Van Berg 150 points, second received 120, third 100, fourth 90 and on down from there. Both day one of the Junior City Tournament, at Elks Country Club, and day two, at Van Berg, were worth double points.

That was the case earlier this week as well when the golfers met one last time at Van Berg for 18 holes. Schneider had a lead of more than 200 points, wasn't pleased with his front nine, but had enough of a cushion to enjoy the trip back into the clubhouse.

"With that big of a lead, all I told myself was, 'Don't slop around and whatnot? I tried to play my best round, and I didn't. I shot a 42 on the front nine and was six over and said, 'Well, what the heck are you doing now?'" Schneider said. "Then I went on to shoot 1-under on the back. I just told myself, 'Play golf; play it like you know how to. It shouldn't be hard. Play a decent round and you'll be in there.'"

The bittersweet part of the win was the top prize. Schneider had saved up and bought himself a top of the line Callaway Maverick driver last year.

"But free is free," he said.

Kitt became the first girls champion of the Race for the Optimist Cup with a summer that

included a win at every event other than the Junior City Championship. She didn't miss a week of competition and consistently handed in scorecards around the mid-40s.

Kitt shot a 47 her first time out, won with a 49 in week 2, took the top spot on a 43 in week three, won weeks four and five on a pair of 45s and scored a 44 in week six. Her margins of victory were 13, five, 11, 11, two and 10.

The incoming Lakeview senior, unlike Schneider, who's set to be a Viking sophomore, hasn't yet had a fitted driver in her bag. Both she and Schneider will get their Callaways back next week with the proper shaft and grips. Kitt can't wait.

"My goal was to improve every week, but my main goal was to get to the 90s to prepare for my fall season, which I did right at the end," Kitt said. "(Winning each week) was really awesome to see. I've improved a lot since the last two years of my high school season, and I've been working really hard. It was cool to come in and see I had the lowest score. Everybody was improving each week, but it's always a good feeling to have to see you have the best score."

She was fifth at the Junior City Championship when she shot 101 at Elks then 110 at Van Berg but then shaved off 16 strokes from that second round for the Optimist win.

VanBerg Family Learning Center presents the...

2021

"Race to the Optimist Cup"

A Teen Summer League for Boys & Girls 13 to 18 (on or before July 27th)

Weekly competitors, based on his or her score, will earn points within their respective age groups. The "Race to the Optimist Cup" includes six 9-hole events for regular points and three 18-hole major events in which competitors will earn double points. The top point earners in each age group will have their name permanently etched on the Optimist Cup. The \$60 entry fee includes: Youth on Course (YOC) card, green fees for all events as well as entry into the City Championship. Players who already have a YOC card may deduct \$10.

Divisions of Competition

Boys 13 to 15 (on or before July 27th) Girls 13 to 15 (on or before July 27th)
Boys 16 to 18 (on or before July 27th) Girls 16 to 18 (on or before July 27th)

Top point earners in each age group will also receive the following:

1st ...Fitted Callaway Epic Driver 2nd ...Fitted Odyssey Putter 3rd ...Fitted "Jaws" Wedge
4th ...1 Dozen Chrome Soft Balls 5th ...Callaway Glove

TOURNAMENT DATES & TIME

Tuesday 6/8.....VB (9 HOLES) Tee Times 8 am to 10 am
Tuesday 6/15....VB (9 HOLES) Tee Times 8 am to 10 am
Tuesday 6/22....VB (9 HOLES) Tee Times 8 am to 10 am
Tuesday 6/29....VB (9 HOLES) Tee Times 8am to 10 am
Tuesday 7/6.....VB (9 HOLES) Tee Times 8am to 10 am
Tuesday 7/13....VB (9 HOLES) Tee Times 8am to 10 am

Wed 7/21...Elks C.C. (18 Holes) City Championship (Double Points)

Thur 7/22....Quail Run G.C. (18 Holes) City Championship (Double Points)

Tue 7/27....Van Berg G.C. Optimist Cup Finals (Double Points) Tee Times 8am to 10 am



2021 RACE TO THE "OPTIMIST CUP"

Player Name: _____

Age: ___ Birth Date: ___/___/___ Email: _____ Phone: _____ Gender: M/F

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ Phone: _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____ Phone: _____

Please Remit Entries to: Quail Run GC, 327 South 5th Street, Columbus NE, 68601



2021 Columbus SUMMER Golf Program

Boys & Girls Ages 12 & under

Our 2021 Summer Golf program will begin on Wednesday, June 9th and last thru Thursday, July 29th.

The format is a bit different than in the past so be sure to carefully review the schedule.

More learning opportunities, more playing opportunities, more individualized instruction.

Instruction will be led by PGA Professionals and Certified U.S. Kids instructors Douglas Dunbar and Brent McGrew (Coach "B"). Together they have combined experience of over 50 years in developing and mentoring young players as they travel the pathway to success. U.S. Kids Golf Certified Coaches are recognized as experts in teaching golf to kids ages 12 and under, and in 2020 Coach "B" was awarded the honor as one of the top 50 U.S. Kids instructors worldwide. As part of the new 2021 program, players will receive easy-to-follow instruction booklets described as "The Simple Path to Learning Golf" ("Player Pathway"). The Player Pathway manual provides the perfect program for kids, parents, and coaches as it has an easy to follow curriculum combined with awards, providing players a path to progress from beginner to elite player. Players ages 6-8 will receive Level 1 and 2 booklets, players ages 9-10 will receive Level 2 and 3 booklets, and players ages 11-12 will receive Level 3 and 4 booklets. Each Level includes achievement pins for Full Swing, Around the Green, Putting, Course Knowledge and Scoring, plus a Master pin. U.S. Kids logoed Hats and Visors may also be purchased at The Van Berg Family Learning Center at the discounted rate of \$15.

CLINIC SCHEDULE

Wednesday June 9...Instruction

Thursday June 10... Intro to Scramble

Wednesday June 16...Instruction

Thursday June 17... Scramble League

Wednesday June 23...Instruction

Thursday June 24... Scramble League

NO CLASSES JULY 4TH WEEK

Wednesday July 7... Instruction

Thursday July 8... Scramble League

Wednesday July 14... Instruction

Wed & Thur July 21 & 22...City Championship

Wednesday July 28... Final Skills qualifying

**End of Year Scramble awards and pizza party
Thursday July 29th...8am shotgun start**

GROUPS / TIMES

Wednesday & Thursdays

6 – 8 years old (8am to 9:30am)

9 – 10 years old (9:30am to 11:00am)

11-12 years old (11am to 12:30pm)

On Thursdays parents are welcome to come out and start developing the parent-caddy relationship. Both instruction days and play days will be held at the Van Berg Family Learning Center.



Cost \$145 and \$75 per Additional Brother or Sister

Includes: 5 weeks of PGA Instruction, 5 weeks of skill challenges and on course instruction, complimentary golf @ Van Berg Family Learning Center when accompanied by an adult (kids will be allowed to play by themselves after successful completion of the program), driving range pass and bag tag, booklets and achievement pins, T-shirt, Youth-on-Course (YOC) card that allows kids to play at participating courses for \$4 to \$5, and 10% off on all U.S. Kids clubs and apparel. Also includes a season-ending scramble w/ pizza and prizes!

Sign up Early....(Limited to first 27 kids in each age group)

Child(s) Name & Age: _____ (m/f)

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child(s) Shirt Size YS _____ YM _____ YL _____ AS _____ AM _____ AL _____

For more info contact Coach "B" at bmcgrew@pga.com (402)564-1313



City of Columbus Teen Golf Academy June 4th to June 25th Boys and Girls Age 13 to 17

The academy is designed to get our young players ready to "take it to the course". The \$80 program fee includes: 4 two-hour clinics, a Youth on Course (YOC) card, a one-hour private lesson with Coach "B" and open play after clinics. As an added bonus, a range pass at Quail Run is also included. The YOC card will allow players to play Van Berg or Quail Run for \$5. The YOC card will have participating courses listed. Players who already have a YOC card may deduct \$10 from the \$80 program fee.

Clinic Dates and Times

Friday June 4th
Friday June 11th
Friday June 18th
Friday June 25th



Private Lesson with Coach "B" may be scheduled after June 25th

*Clinics will be from 9am to 11am at Quail Run G.C.
Players will be encouraged to play following the clinics.*

Sign up Today!

Players Name: _____ Age: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Best 9 Hole Score _____

For more info contact Coach "B" at bmcgrew@pga.com (402)564-1313

For Immediate Release

coaches@uskidsgolf.com

2021



BRENT MCGREW

Quail Run & Van Berg G.C.'S
Columbus, NE

McGrew named Top 50 Kids Coach by U.S. Kids Golf

Peachtree Corners, Ga. – Brent McGrew, from Quail Run and Van Berg Golf Courses, located in Columbus, NE, has been honored as a Top 50 Kids Coach by U.S. Kids Golf, the world's leading organization in developing young golfers. The Award recognizes coaches who have excelled in developing players, fostering a positive environment, and using the best available resources to help advance their students.

The Top 50 Kids Coaches of 2021 includes golf professionals from 30 states, and five international countries. Each year, award recipients include coaches who work at public, private, resort and municipal courses.

"We are proud to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of these coaches," says Dan Van Horn, President and Founder of U.S. Kids Golf. "Their dedication and commitment to the game, and more importantly, their students, is a great benefit to the facilities they represent, the families they serve, and especially, the young players who are starting this lifetime journey of golf."

Since 2004, the U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Kids Coach award, is widely recognized as the pinnacle achievement for junior golf coaches worldwide. Candidates are evaluated by a selection committee from among the Certified Coach candidates based on a variety of factors. These include innovation, creativity, retention, communications, parental engagement, organization, and the ability to instill a passion for the game in young golfers. Award recipients will be recognized in a variety of ways including being featured in various media platforms sharing their expertise.

Award winners will be recognized on Wednesday, January 26, during a special presentation at the PGA Show in Orlando.

Top 50 Kids Coaches – Class of 2021

O.J. Amaya... Chula Vista Muni G.C.... Bonita, Calif.
Allie Andersen... Summit Golf School - Gleannloch... Spring, Texas
Christopher Armanini... Ka'anapali Golf Courses... Lahaina, Hawaii
Cole Baker... Golf Etc... Bismarck, N.D.
Drew Belt... Tupelo C.C.... Beldon, Miss.
Jonathan Botelho... Paradise Family Golf... Middleton, Mass.
Lee Bromley... Cardiff Golf Centre... Cardiff, U.K.
Brian Burgwyn... Prestonwood C.C.... Cary, N.C.
Gavin Burns... Man O' War Golf... Lexington, Ky.
Daniel Byrd... Tanglewood Park G.C.... Clemmons, N.C.
John Byrne... Royal Tara G.C.... Navan, Ireland
Evie Carter... The Golf Centre... Leicester, U.K.
Matt Clinger... Harpeth Valley Golf... Nashville, Tenn.
Brock Elder... Forest Oaks C.C.... Greensboro, N.C.
Jamie Engelkemier-Lovato... Henry Brunton Golf Acad.... Irvine, Calif.
Carly England... Merry-Hill G.C.... Breslau, Ont.
Matt Eschenburg... Summit Golf School - Augusta Pines... Spring, Texas
Adam Fangman... Lassing Pointe G.C.... Union, Ky.
Brittany Ferrante... The Village Club of Sands Point... Sands Point, N.Y.
Neil Gowan... Legend Oaks G.C.... Summerville, S.C.
Michelle Grafos... Esmeralda G.C.... Spokane, Wash.
James Hanson... Huntmore G.C.... Brighton, Mich.

Laura Holmes-Landon... Michelle Holmes School of Golf... Virginia Beach, Va.
Blake Isakson... Moon Valley C.C.... Phoenix, Ariz.
Preston Johnson... Charleston Muni G.C.... Charleston, S.C.
Denise Kafferly... Eglin G.C.... Niceville, Fla.
Timmy King Jr... RTJ - Highland Oaks... Dothan, Ala.
Aaron Koerner... Crane Creek C.C.... Boise, Idaho
Don Kueper... Carlyle Lake G.C.... Carlyle, Ill.
Taylor Lambertsen... Exmoor C.C.... Highland Park, Ill.
Bradley Lawrence... Hamilton G&C.C.... Ancaster, Ont.
Kenneth Leech... Don Law Golf Acad.... Boca Raton, Fla.
Eugene Marais... Els Perf. Golf... Ecopark, Vietnam
Justin Martin... Bobby Jones G.C.... Atlanta, Ga.
Paul Maurer... Troy G.C.... Elkridge, Md.
Brent McGrew... Quail Run & Van Berg G.C.... Columbus, Neb.
James McIntosh... Riviera C.C.... Coral Gables, Fla.
Jimmy McMullen... Salem Glen C.C.... Clemmons, N.C.
Joe McNeil... Golf Club of Texas... San Antonio, Texas
Tara Morris... C.C. at Castle Pines... Castle Rock, Colo.
Miriam Piland-Rice... Mike Bender Golf Acad.... Lake Mary, Fla.
Andrew Pratt... Moore's Mill Club... Auburn, Ala.
Juli Roberts... Twin Rivers G.C.... Oviedo, Fla.
John Rudolph... Fieldstone G.C.... Greenville, Del.
Suzy Smith... Diamondhead C.C.... Diamondhead, Miss.
Andrew Spaulding... Broadlands G.C.... North Prairie, Wis.
Evan Teplitsky... Evan Teplitsky Perf. Acad.... Klagenfurt, Austria
Kyley Tetley... The Club at Indian Springs... Broken Arrow, Okla.
Shelby Thibodeaux... WindRose G.C.... Spring, Texas
Chris Yoder... Scioto C.C.... Columbus, Ohio

Master Kids Coaches – Class of 2021

J.P. Bedard... Niagara Falls C.C.... Lewiston, N.Y.
Jonathan Bullas... Laurel Oak C.C.... Sarasota, Fla.
Barry Churchill... Stonebridge G.C.... Monroe, N.C.
Alfredo Da Corte... Campodoglio Golf... Chiari, Italy
Janis Kleiman... Ironwood G.C.... Fishers, Ind.
Dave Malone... Pine Lake G.C.... Lincoln, Neb.
Tom Reid... Sunningdale Heath G.C.... Sunningdale, U.K.
Kathleen Robinson... KMR Golf Acad.... Oakland, Calif.
Laura Tyler-Cook... Frosty Valley Resort... Danville, Pa.
Bob Usher Jr... Grey Oaks C.C.... Naples, Fla.
John Wainwright... Longleaf G&FC... Southern Pines, N.C.
Thomas Watkins... Whisper Lake C.C.... Madison, Miss.

About U.S. Kids Golf

U.S. Kids Golf is the world's leading organization for growing, promoting and enhancing golf among youth and families. Founded in 1997, U.S. Kids Golf offers three distinct lines of clubs in up to nine sizes, hosts more than 1500 tournaments – including the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship held annually in Pinehurst, NC, and has over 1600 members as part of its Coaches Institute. Additionally, the organization is active in several projects and campaigns designed to grow the sport among important demographics. U.S. Kids Golf is recognized by the National Golf Foundation as one of the "Top 100 Businesses in Golf" based on influence, innovation, and social good among other criteria.

Connect with U.S. Kids Golf

Website: www.uskidsgolf.com

Coach Website: <https://www.uskgcoach.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/USKidsGolf

Twitter: www.twitter.com/USKidsGolfFDN

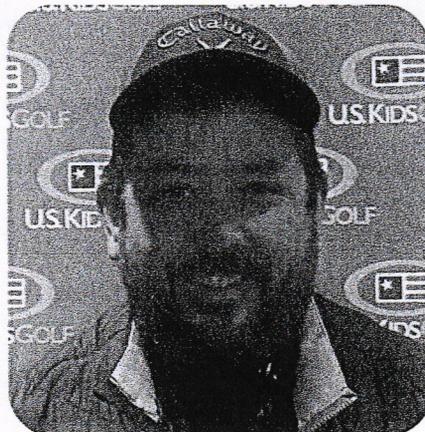
Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/USKidsGolfFDN>

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For Immediate Release

coaches@uskidsgolf.com

2020



BRENT MCGREW

Quail Run & VanBerg Golf Courses
Columbus, NE

McGrew named Top 50 Kids Coach by U.S. Kids Golf

Peachtree Corners, Ga. – Brent McGrew, from Quail Run & VanBerg G.C.'S, located in Columbus, NE, has been honored as a Top 50 Kids Coach by U.S. Kids Golf, the world's leading organization in developing young golfers. The Award recognizes coaches who have excelled in developing players, fostering a positive environment, and using the best available resources to help advance their students.

The Top 50 Kids Coaches of 2020 includes golf professionals from 24 states, and three international countries. Each year, award recipients include coaches who work at public, private, resort and municipal courses.

"A good coach teaches golf. A great coach instills a love of golf. These are great coaches, the best." explains Dan Van Horn, the President and Founder of U.S. Kids Golf. "To make learning exciting and fun is a gift, and we're excited to honor these coaches as the best of the best in bringing young players into the game."

Presented since 2004, the U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Coach award, is widely recognized as the pinnacle achievement for junior golf coaches worldwide. Candidates are evaluated by a selection committee from among the Certified Coach candidates based on a variety of factors. These include innovation, creativity, retention, communications, parental engagement, organization, and the ability to instill a passion for the game in young golfers. Award recipients will be recognized in a variety of ways including being featured in various media platforms sharing their expertise.

Top 50 Kids Coaches – Class of 2020

Bridget Ackley... Osprey Point G.C.... Boca Raton, Fla.
Jeff Allen... Lake Merced G.C.... Daly City, Calif.
O.J. Amaya... Chula Vista G.C.... Bonita, Calif.
Christopher Armanini... Ka'anapali G.C.... Lahaina, Hawaii
Cole Baker... Golf Etc. Bismarck... Bismarck, N.D.
Jennifer Bermingham... Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club... Coto de Caza, Calif.
Thomas Bishop... Lakewood Ranch Golf & C.C.... Lakewood Ranch, Fla.
Alice Brown... Ace Golf Learning Center... Riverview, Fla.
Jonathan Bullas... Laurel Oak C.C.... Sarasota, Fla.
Barry Churchill... Stonebridge G.C. ... Monroe, N.C.
Matt Clinger... Harpeth Valley Golf Center... Nashville, Tenn.
Rachel Clopton... Bobby Jones G.C.... Atlanta, Ga.
Alfredo Da Corte... Campodoglio G.C.... Paderno Franciacorta, Italy
Richard Degree... Sugar Creek Golf & Tennis Center... Atlanta, Ga.
John Dipollina... Lyman Orchards Golf Center... Middlefield, Conn.
Nix Duncan... Cherokee Town & C.C.... Atlanta, Ga.
Jamie Engelkemier... Strawberry Farms G.C.... Irvine, Calif.
David Esch... Pecan Grove C.C.... Richmond, Texas

Matt Eschenburg... Gleannloch Pines G.C.... Spring, Texas
Adam Fangman... Lassing Pointe G.C.... Union, Ky.
Brittany Ferrante... The Village Club of Sands Point... Sands Point, N.Y.
John Galyean... Hasentree C.C.... Wake Forest, N.C.
Glenn Garnett... Man O War Golf... Lexington, Ky.
Neil Gowan... Legend Oaks G.C. ... Summerville, S.C.
Bill Hall... The Legends at Parris Island... Beaufort, S.C.
Noah Horstman... Southern Oregon Golf Academy... Medford, Ore.
Blake Isakson... Moon Valley C.C.... Phoenix, Ariz.
Preston Johnson... Charleston Municipal G.C.... Charleston, S.C.
Denise Kafferly... Eglin G.C.... Niceville, Fla.
Dorothy Kasper... The Golf Dome... Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Janis Kleiman... Ironwood G.C.... Fishers, Ind.
Don Kueper... Carlyle Lake G.C.... Carlyle, Ill.
Ryan Macey... Bradenton C.C.... Bradenton, Fla.
Rafael Machado... Golfers Inc.... Panama City, Panama
Dave Malone... Pine Lake Junior Golf Academy... Lincoln, N.E.
Brent McGrew... Quail Run & VanBerg G.C.... Columbus, N.E.
Jimmy McMullen... The Golf Academy at Salem Glen... Clemmons, N.C.
Tara Morris... The C.C. at Castle Pines... Castle Rock, Colo.
Carly Peister... Merry-Hill G.C.... Breslau, Ontario
Miriam Piland-Rice... Mike Bender Golf Academy... Lake Mary, Fla.
John Rudolph... Fieldstone G.C.... Greenville, Del.
Pamela Saladino... The Beloit Club... Beloit, Wis.
Daniel Sheldon... Ruth Lake C.C.... Hinsdale, Ill.
Trent Siever... The Foothills G.C.... Phoenix, Ariz.
Hoppy Smith... Diamondhead C.C.... Diamondhead, Miss.
Laura Tyler... Frosty Valley Resort... Danville, Pa.
Stephen Ventre... Paradise Family Golf Driving Range... Middleton, Mass.
John Wainwright... Longleaf Golf & Family Club... Southern Pines, N.C.
Thomas Watkins... Whisper Lake C.C.... Madison, Miss.
Nick Wiseman... Jane Frost Golf Performance Center... East Sandwich, Mass.

Master Kids Coaches - Class of 2020

Kerry Bower-Herr... Victoria Hills G.C.... DeLand, Fla.
Emily Burns... Cantigny Golf Links... Wheaton, Ill.
Linda Campbell... The Peninsula Club... Cornelius, N.C.
Frankie Chan... Tai Po Nine Eagle Golf Park... Hong Kong,
Leon Faulkner... Bayview G.C.... Sydney, Australia
Lauren Gates... Augusta Pines G.C.... Spring, Texas
Andy Little... Little Golfers... Surbiton, United Kingdom
Travis Lynch... The Trails of Frisco... Frisco, Texas
Brian Moose... RiverCrest G.C. and Preserve... Phoenixville, Pa.
Oliver Oliquiano... Island Pacific Golf Academy... Kapolei, Hawaii
Michael Phillips... Los Alamos G.C.... Los Alamos, N.M.
Jane Rosenberg... Black Gold G.C.... Yorba Linda, Calif.
Evan Sales... Angel Fire Resort... Angel Fire, N.M.
Daniel Shea... Michelle Holmes School of Golf... Norfolk, Va.
Brody Whetham... Sawmill G.C.... Fenwick, Ontario

About U.S. Kids Golf

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Connect with U.S. Kids Golf

Van Berg Family Golf Learning Center

An Accredited US Kids Golf Facility

Our Vision: To become the area leader in developing and educating golfers with an emphasis on juniors and beginners by providing and promoting a golf course designed to give players a pathway to success in life as well as golf.

Our Mission: To provide a family-friendly golf facility designed around the education and development of juniors and beginners. We will provide an interactive golf course, clubhouse and short-game area designed around fun and learning. We will become the area leader in player development and will bring people to Columbus via events and tournaments sponsored by various organizations including US Kids, Nebraska Junior Golf Tour, Drive Pitch and Putt, and PGA Junior League. We will work in conjunction with our sister course, Quail Run Golf Course, and in cooperation with the Elks Country Club. Our goal is to accomplish our mission while eliminating financial burdens on the City of Columbus by relying on a restructuring of fees and support of local businesses and nonprofit organizations that share our vision.

9. Facilities and programming changes for Aquatic Center and Gerrard Park.



The City of Columbus

RESPONSIBLE • RESPONSIVE • REPUTABLE

Administration Office (402) 562-4232

Fax (402) 563-1380

Memorandum

DATE: February 25, 2022

TO: Park Board & City Council Members

FROM: Betsy Eckhart, Park and Recreation Coordinator
 Doug Moore, Public Property Director
 Tara Vasicek, City Administrator

RE: Park and Recreation Division Changes

DISCUSSION:

Beginning in 2022 the City of Columbus will be responsible for the programming, operation and maintenance at Gerrard Park. Gerrard Park fields are historically used by Mariners, Columbus Havoc (Combined Bullets and Fire&Ice), Outlaws, and all adult leagues. In prior years the Columbus Softball Association (CSA) facilitated the programming, operation and maintenance at Gerrard. Over the last year, it has come to the City's attention that the CSA was not operating the facility according to the operation agreement. The City has been obligated to pay a number of outstanding expenses of the CSA to maintain relationships with umpires, irrigation companies, tournament coordinators and staff. For these reasons, the CSA is not able to continue.

Gerrard park programming positively impacts thousands of residents every season. The City believes it is important to continue to offer the programming that has previously been taking place at Gerrard.

City Staff have estimated the operation costs of Gerrard Park. That information is attached here. You will see that the net expense to the City is conservatively estimated to be approximately \$67,000 just to operate Gerrard as it has been previously. The City does not have this expense budgeted, so we have been exploring any and all ways the existing general fund revenues can support this operation. In addition to staff required to maintain the facility at Gerrard, there will also be staff needed to assist with programming and coordination with users of this facility and others the City is working to increase utilization at. In exploring way to fund this operation, we believe we can 'right size' the hours at the Aquatic Center and effect minimal patrons, but create significant savings. Below are organizational charts illustrating staff currently and proposed. This includes adding a Park and Recreation Manager position, and 1 additional Park and Rec Coordinator position. In the table below, we have included the cost of these additional positions. After reviewing all general fund departments there is not any other department, which can be adjusted operationally or otherwise and save as significantly with effecting as few people as at the Aquatic Center. The general fund includes general administration, police, fire, library and other park and rec facilities.



The Aquatic Center budget for this fiscal year is \$543,538.00. The majority of that expense is maintenance and staffing. The Aquatic Center is mostly utilized in the mornings. There are many times when 1-4 city employees are at the facility and there are less patrons than staff. This is not an efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Because of these facts, we believe hours at the Aquatic center can be reduced, which would save significant operation expense. The reduction in hours will effect some users, but the mass majority of users will be able to adjust to the new hours or not be effected at all by 'open hours'. The savings could then be utilized on the programming, operation and maintenance at Gerrard and additional Park & Rec staff, which will positively impact thousands more people than using those funds at the Aquatic Center has historically.

Option 1 – No Change

- Hours: 16 yrs + 8 am – 4 pm, <5 yrs Noon – 4 pm, all ages 4 – 8 pm (6 – 8 pm Nov-Feb),
Weekends: Noon – 4 pm

Option 2 includes expenses for the following:

- Right sizing hours to peak use times. Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 1:00 pm (all ages)
 - Have some funds included for afternoon and evening swim lessons.
- Closed on weekends.
- Closed during the summer while the Pawnee Plunge is open.
- No change in use to CHS Swim team or the one YMCA swim meet.
- Evening Programming. (Fitness classes) Does not require lifeguards on staff.

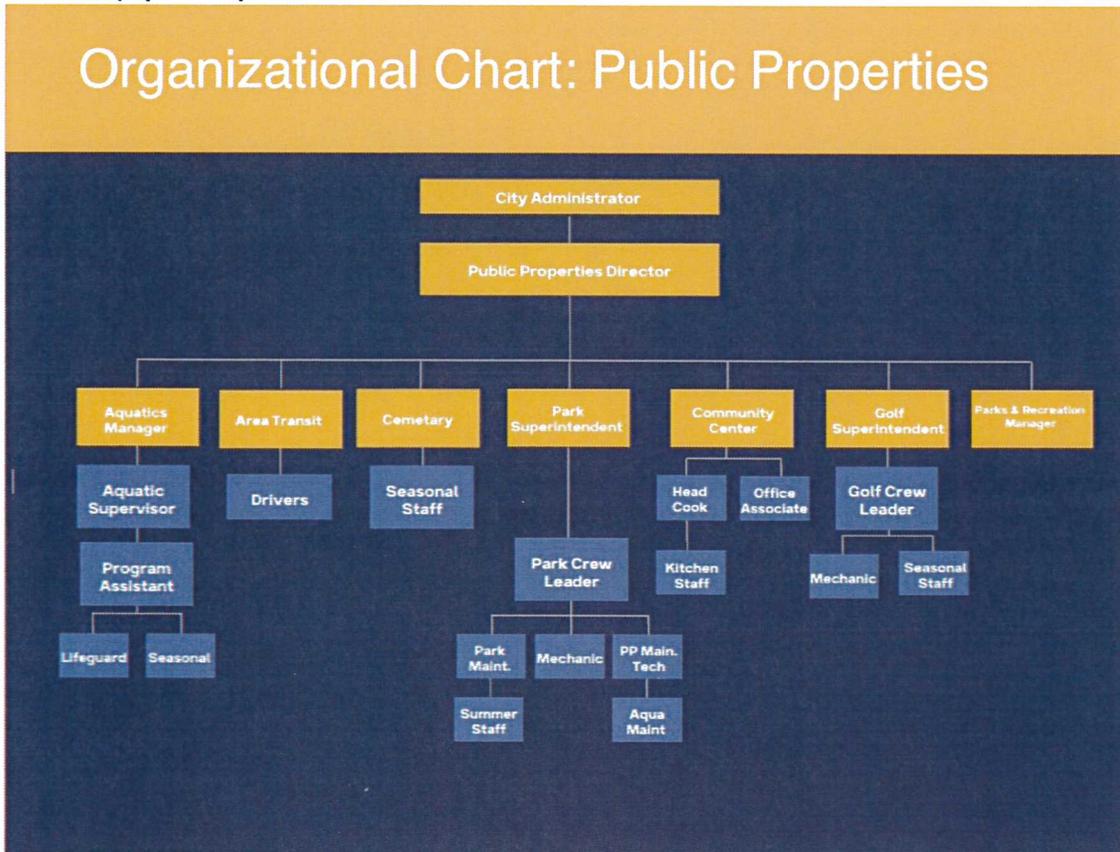
AQUATIC CENTER		
	OPTION 1	OPTION 2
	No Change	Right size hours to match use of the facility.
Days Open	323	197
Cost to Operate	\$ 513,538	\$ 241,293
Cost per day	\$ 1,590	\$ 1,224.83
Net Operating	\$ (445,688)	\$ (173,443)
Operation Savings	\$ 0	\$ 272,245
Gerrard Operation & Park & Rec Positions		
Operation of Gerrard		\$ 66,408
New P&R Coordinator(s)		\$ 121,170
New Expenses:		\$ 187,578
Increase wages of Summer & Seasonal Employees		
Total Wages	\$251,846 (2021 actual)	\$330,000
Change in total cost	\$ 0	\$ (6,513)

The bottom row in the above table represents an increase to summer and seasonal wages including: Lifeguards currently starting at \$10.25, increased to a starting hourly rate of \$14.00
All summer and seasonal wages will be increased, some more than others, based on ease or difficulty in filling the positions historically.

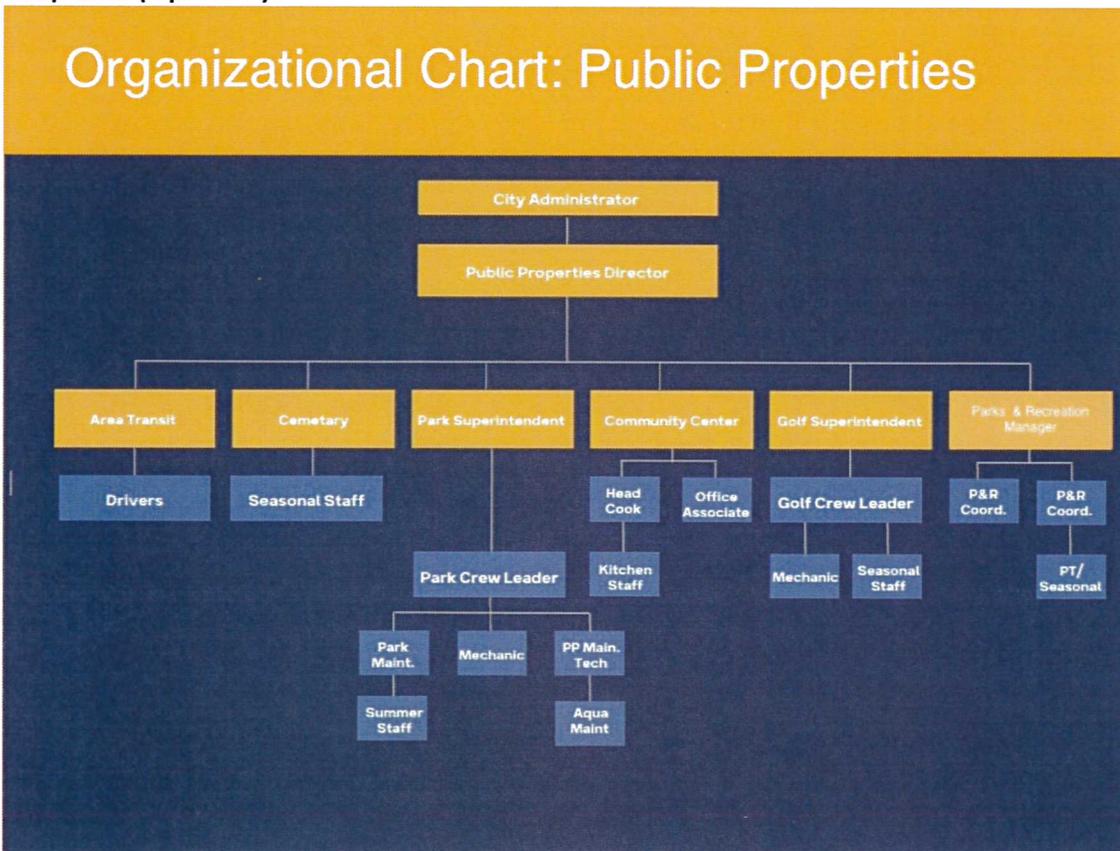
If approved, the described changes would take effect in May when the Pawnee Plunge opens for the summer season. Until that time, the Plunge will continue to operate as it is currently. When the Plunge opens in May, it will be open from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm for Aquatic Center members to utilize.

Organizational Structure

Current (Option 1):



Proposed (Option 2):



Estimated Budget for Gerrard

	Revenue	Expense
Adult Softball Team Registration	\$ 14,875.00	
Columbus Havoc Usage Charge	\$ 2,600.00	
Columbus Lakeview Usage Charge	\$ 600.00	
Outlaw Usage	\$ 800.00	
CCC-Raiders Usage	\$ 1,050.00	
Tournament Income		
Mariners (2 weekends)	\$ 1,050.00	
Lakeview (1 Weekend)	\$ 1,050.00	
USSSA Softball (3 Weekends)	\$ 21,000.00	
USSSA Baseball (2 Weekends)	\$ 14,000.00	
Donations	\$ 1,000.00	
Concessions	\$ 5,000.00	
Total Revenues	\$ 63,025.00	
ASA Membership Dues		\$ 1,120.00
League Placement Payouts		\$ 2,000.00
League Tournament Payouts		\$ 2,000.00
Field Maintenance		
Personnel (1 TD, 3 Maint, Concessions)		\$ 79,413.00
4 wheeler		\$ 3,000.00
Drag		\$ 1,000.00
Gas		\$ 400.00
4 Wheeler Maintenance		\$ 1,000.00
Field Chalk		\$ 2,000.00
Sprinkler Repairs		\$ 400.00
Paint for Picnic Tables		\$ 1,000.00
Concession Insurance		\$ 800.00
Concession Inventory		\$ 5,000.00
Misc. Expenses		
State Umps		\$ 30,000.00
Printings		\$ 200.00
Mailings		\$ 100.00
Total Expenses		\$ 129,433.00
Est 2021 Gain/Loss	\$ (66,408.00)	

10. Public Property Director report.



The City of *Columbus*

PUBLIC PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Director (402) 562-4240

Fax (402) 562-4265

March 2022

Monthly report

Taking applications in all departments for seasonal and summer staff

Park Department

- Storm damage at Centennial, Wilderness and Sock Pond being repaired
- Some minor tree damage at other parks
- Have completed winter equipment repairs
- Trimming trees throughout park system
- Replacing damaged wood posts and cable in Pawnee Park
- Repairing and painting some benches in Frankfort Square that have been chipped
- With warm, dry weather, watering young trees weekly
- Completely repairs to damage to Pawnee Park bridge
- Adding wood chips to all playground areas
- Painting inside of restrooms and Memorial Stadium
- Repairing worn picnic tables
- Drainage work at Frontier Park completed
- Staff attended Landscape Update (Nebraska Extension Office)
- Setting up tennis courts, ballfields, track, soccer fields for spring seasons
- High school spring practices start on February 28
- Start to turn on restrooms and irrigation as weather permits
- Pawnee Park baseball field lighting project
- Cleaning up shelter belt north of bark park
- Received letters of interest for Pawnee Park field lighting

Park and Recreation

- Actively scheduling fields and facilities
- Applying for grants for facilities and programming
- Going over agreements with organizations
- Fundraising continues on Fitness Court at Sunset Park
- Working on plans to operate Gerrard Park softball fields this season
- Informed by Nebraska Game and Parks didn't receive grant for construction of horseshoe courts at Frontier Park
- Youth day sign up is March 12, 9:00-11:00am 1C Church

Aquatics report

- Painting office area at Pawnee Plunge
- Have received letters of interest for construction of family slide
- Normal operations at Aquatic Center
- Contacting last year's staff at Plunge
- Starting lifeguard classes
- Installed new posts and rope at entrance to Pawnee Plunge
- Installing new entrance sign at Pawnee Plunge (destroyed during windstorm)

Golf report

With the nice weather, a lot of play during winter, will probably have more winter damage than usual

Quail Run and Van Berg both open weather permitting

Very little damage during recent storms, mostly small branches down and a small tree at Quail Run was blown down

Staff going through all the equipment and making repairs and sharpening reels

Staff recently attended an irrigation/computer workshop in Omaha presented by Toro irrigation which is the system at Quail Run

Staff attended Nebraska Turfgrass Conference in Omaha

Replacing posts and cable around Van Berg

Put in new fire door at Van Berg pro shop

Had new sheetrock installed at Van Berg pro shop

Membership and Daily Admissions - January 2021

Membership

Annual Memberships Aquatic Center Individual	72
Annual Memberships Aquatic Center Group	772
Program Admittance Memberships 50 Admissions	59
Monthly Memberships Aquatic Center Individual	10
Program Admittance Memberships 25 Admissions	2
Annual Memberships Combo (AC & PP) Group	55
Annual Memberships Combo (AC & PP) Individual	4
Totals for Membership	974

Admission

Aquatic Center Admission Fees - Youth (4+)	105
Aquatic Center Admission Fees - Adult Admission (16+)	108
Aquatic Center Admission Fees - Senior Admission (55+)	4
Aquatic Center Admission Fees - Swim Lesson	64
Aquatic Center Admission Fees - Swim Team	597
Aquatic Center Admission Fees - Staff	5
Aquatic Center Admission Fees - 3&U	5
Totals for Admission	888

Totals for *AC Park Board Admissions Report* 1962

Aquatic Center Revenue - January 2022

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>
Passes	\$1,665.00
Admissions	\$864.00
Swimming Lessons	\$1,147.50
Programs	\$150.00
Merch/Misc Sales	\$19.00
Building Rentals	\$500.00
Equipment Rentals	\$33.00
Total Revenue	\$4,378.50

2022 JANUARY GOLF ACTIVITY REPORT

ROUNDS	2022 QR	QR (2021)	2022 VB	2021 VB	2022 VB pass	2021 VB pass	FootGolf 2017		FootGolf 2020	
Jan	0	0	21	35	48	61	Players	Rentals	Players	Rentals
Feb		0		4		7	185	57	9 / 82	7 / 75
March		1204		183		277	\$1,829.20		\$1,080.45	
April		2661		602		633				
May		2751		1200		875	FootGolf 2018		FootGolf 2021	
June		3291		1003		826	Players	Rentals	Players	Rentals
July		3093		1218		991	300	217	133	87
Aug		3176		1752		963	\$3,412.60		\$1,487.15	
Sept		2011		463		298				
Oct		1495		320		190	FootGolf 2019		FootGolf 2022	
Nov		726		67		84	Players	Rentals	Players	Rentals
Dec		392		36		86	10/180	2/66	0/0	0/0
	0	20800	21	6883	48	5291				

Rounds By Comparison					* WEATHER	\$\$\$ GOLF COURSE REVENUE \$\$\$					
	QR	VB	Total Rds	DAYS	Total Rev	QR	VB	Passes/Punch			
2006	14,145	3,636	17,781	33	380,114.13	250,815.13	51,345.00	77,954.00	Jan-Dec 2006		
2007	13,856	3,921	17,777	37	374,656.70	247,502.95	52,484.75	74,669.00	Jan-Dec 2007		
2008	16,490	3,322	19,812	29	392,168.16	269,130.62	45,071.64	77,965.90	Jan - Dec 2008		
2009	24,044	5,805	29,849	30	440,517.65	296,032.27	54,070.01	90,415.37	Jan-Dec 2009		
2010	20,100	4,708	24,808	39	430,316.66	282,355.79	44,678.10	103,282.77	Jan-Dec-2010		
2011	17,231	4,255	21,486	51	403,737.50	256,447.20	44,311.40	102,978.90	Jan-Dec 2011		
2012	20,763	5,554	26,317	36	453,582.16	281,325.80	42,449.43	129,806.93	Jan-Dec 2012		
2013	17,780	6,833	24,613	32	435,869.17	242,846.89	58,229.51	134,792.77	Jan-Dec 2013		
2014	19,116	6,493	25,609	34	456,925.82	267,817.90	52,747.99	136,359.93	Jan-Dec 2014		
2015	21,206	7,014	28,220	47	466,655.67	267,674.40	58,490.34	140,490.93	Jan-Dec 2015		
2016	24,008	7,029	31,037	35 + 8	473,738.90	286,042.87	52,593.92	135,102.11	Jan-Dec 2016		
2017	21,905	6,230	28,135	43	478,110.61	275,744.95	54,269.26	148,096.40	Jan-DEC 2017		
2018	21,434	6,224	27,658	49	474,776.79	269,995.46	59,190.46	145,590.87	Jan-DEC 2018		
2019	10,083	8,001	18,084	x	278,628.11	113,332.47	84,097.59	81,198.05	Jan-DEC 2019		9 HOLES CLOSED AT QUAIL
2020	17,810	10,898	28,708	x	347,698.60	167,879.17	97,728.87	82,090.56	Jan-DEC 2020		9 HOLES CLOSED AT QUAIL
2021	20,800	12,174	32,974		438,628.65	209,528.41	112,344.03	116,756.21	Jan-DEC 2021		9 HOLES CLOSED AT QUAIL
Jan-Dec 2022	2022	0	69	69	14,116.93	5,102.79	196.35	8,817.79	Jan-Dec 2022		

11. Adjournment.