



## General Government & Social Services Committee

January 12, 2016

### Summary and Motions

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Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. All Committee Members were in attendance. Vice Mayor Kay was also in attendance.

#### I. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by Scutchfield to approve the 11-3-2015 General Government & Social Services Committee Summary & Motions, seconded by Akers. The motion passed without dissent.

#### II. Review of Ethics Ordinance

CM Evans stated that all of the Subcommittee's suggestions have been submitted to the Ethics Commission for comment, and the Subcommittee will meet after receipt of the Ethics Commission's comments.

CM Lamb asked when the Ethics Commission is scheduled to meet again. Andrea Brown, with the Department of Law, stated that the Ethics Commission met in December and discussed the recommendations and will provide an official response after meeting as a whole to approve the memorandum. CM Lamb inquired if this would be completed in time for the next Committee meeting, and Evans confirmed that it would.

#### III. City Golf Discounts for Veterans

Moloney introduced the item, and stated that he has worked with Monica Conrad, Director of Parks and Recreation, to develop a proposal for discounts for veterans at LFUCG golf courses.

Monica Conrad, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the proposed golf discounts for veterans. Conrad stated that Council must approve discounts exceeding the 20% threshold established in the 2012 Golf Operations Business Plan, which was approved by Council. Conrad stated the proposed rate is the lowest possible rate and will result in a rate that is consistent and trackable. She further noted this does not include golf cart rental, and that Veterans can also play for free on Veteran's Day.

CM Moloney stated his appreciation Conrad's efforts, and noted that Veterans can also purchase a loyalty card which may also be used for additional discounts.

In response to a question from CM Gibbs, Conrad stated that the new rates would be easier to track and will provide an opportunity to increase business, as Veterans may bring others to play rounds of golf and make purchases at the pro shop. CM Gibbs inquired about golf course revenue city-wide. Conrad replied that there was a 10% year-over-year increase in revenue,

which she attributed to increased advertising efforts and favorable weather. CM Gibbs asked if any of the courses run on a deficit, and Conrad stated that she would provide this information.

CM Scutchfield noted that the current discount for veterans is approximately 14%, and that the proposal increases the discount to as much as 67%. She stated that she is uncomfortable with such a large increase in discounts without information regarding the number of golf course users would be impacted. CM Scutchfield further stated she did not like the unusual variety of discount amounts and that she feels they would be problematic for accounting. Conrad stated that the discounts mirror the dusk-to-dark rates at each course, which would make the discounts easier to implement for both veterans and employees.

CM Henson inquired about the difficulty of determining if an individual is a veteran. Conrad stated that veterans receiving benefits have an ID card. She added that the rate would be honored for anyone stating they are a veteran. CM Henson further inquired if there is a senior discount, which Conrad affirmed.

CM Akers stated she would like to see a list of all discounts. Conrad stated that she would provide this information to the Council Members. CM Akers suggested they add Bluegrass Community and Technical College students to the list of those who receive discounts. She also inquired about current methods of tracking discounts. Conrad stated that staff tracks the specialty rates as a single group and that the new proposal would allow them to track veterans and military members separately. CM Akers stated that the discounts are too drastic, and that she would prefer to start tracking the number of veterans utilizing the courses prior to applying discount changes.

CM Bledsoe stated that we already subsidize our courses, which is why they run at a deficit, adding that no private course could operate the way we do. Bledsoe inquired why discounts are combined, and suggested considering using no more than one discount per individual. CM Bledsoe suggested tracking players by zip code to determine who uses the courses outside of Fayette County.

CM Evans stated her agreement with the previous comments and inquired if there has there been outreach to military organizations.

Vice Mayor Kay inquired if discounts are the same on weekdays and weekends, to which Conrad replied that they vary. Vice Mayor Kay stated that the proposed weekend rate is very steeply discounted in comparison, and should be reconsidered.

CM Moloney reviewed the recent history of golf course rates, and stated that rates can be adjusted later if there are issues after implementation.

CM J. Brown stated he believes this is a good opportunity for the city to provide a benefit for veterans. He noted that the discounts would increase participation, and stated that he is appreciative of the ability to track discounts.

CM Henson inquired if it would be possible to remove discounts with the exception of military and veteran discounts. Conrad stated that the proposal allows current discount rates to remain in effect, with additional discounts for veterans. Henson stated her support for the proposal.

In response to a question from CM Evans, Conrad stated that the proposed discount changes would require Council approval. She stated that rates had not been adjusted since last approved by Council in 2012.

A motion was made by CM Moloney to support a Resolution to provide City Golf Discounts for Veterans as presented, seconded by CM Henson. The motion passed with a 7 – 3 vote. (Yay: Bledsoe, F. Brown, Gibbs, Henson, Lamb, Moloney, J. Brown Nay: Akers, Evans, Scutchfield)

CM Lamb requested Law to draft a resolution to report out to the full Council.

#### **IV. Boards, Agencies & Commissions – Membership, Vacancies, Etc.**

CM Lamb referenced an email update that the Council had received regarding Boards, Agencies and Commissions.

CM Scutchfield stated she would like to keep this item in committee to determine if changes need to be made in the information being reported. CM Lamb added that this item is not on the current referral list for the Committee and would need to be added by motion.

A motion was made by Scutchfield to refer Boards, Agencies & Commissions membership and vacancies to the General Government & Social Services Committee, seconded by Akers. The motion passed without dissent.

#### **V. Items in Committee**

A motion was made by Moloney to remove City Golf Discounts for Veterans from Committee, seconded by F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Evans to adjourn, seconded by Henson. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

D.S. 1.20.2016

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_-2015

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO OFFER ALL ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY DISCOUNTED RATES ON DAILY GREEN FEES AT GOLF COURSES OWNED BY THE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 – That the Division of Parks and Recreation be and hereby is authorized to offer all active service members and veterans of the United States Military the following discounted rates on daily green fees at the following golf courses:

Kearney Hill Golf Links: \$12.00 per 18 holes;

Gay Brewer, Jr. Course at Picadome: \$9.00 per 18 holes;

Lakeside Golf Course: \$7.00 per 18 holes;

Tates Creek Golf Course: \$7.00 per 18 holes;

Meadowbrook Golf Course: \$7.00 per 18 holes.

Section 2 – That this Resolution shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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