

Finally, the parks commission has the Oak Knoll Golf Course data they need. As I suggested in my previous testimonies, good decision making requires good data. We now know that one lake of water supplies 35 days of irrigation for the greens and that it would cost \$20,000 to fill the lake with city water. And we learned it much too late.

The state of the Oak Knoll greens is tragic. The pictures from the working meeting don't nearly convey their deplorable state. It didn't have to be that way. We lost an entire lake full of water this spring due to a leak. No one noticed that the lake was going down until it was empty? Ask any old-timer and they could tell you that every spring when the irrigation is turned on, leak occur. Some "acts of nature" can be anticipated. With our late spring rains, just a fraction of that lake full of water would have been enough to span the time until the TID supply was released. To add insult to injury, the commission passed an unnecessary, unnecessarily restrictive motion precluding any use of city water on the golf course. It looks to me that a few weeks of city water could have saved the greens at least to this date and would have been paid by the continued patronage of golfers, those that are not showing up now. Don't think that Oak Knoll golfers haven't seen how green other Ashland city parks are. In summary, the condition of the greens is directly attributable to the actions and inactions of the parks department.

My reading, after watching the commission meetings for a while, is that there are members of the commission who have little interest in the golf course and just wish it would just go away and may be actively working toward its demise. As an income producing property, Oak Knoll Golf Course should be maintained to same standards as other Ashland parks. At least let the course go out with its head held high. Don't mismanage the course to oblivion.

I am hoping that the irrigation plan that comes out of your next meeting provides a way forward and that the commission resolves to give the course the attention and creative thinking that they have applied to other parks endeavors.

Jim Hatton

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