



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Golf Superintendent Michael Leach
MEETING DATE: July 19, 2006
SUBJECT: The Crespi Pond Restoration and Preservation Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Crespi Pond Committee Recommendation

DISCUSSION:

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Crespi Pond report for the February 15 Council

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Michael Leach
GOLF SUPERINTENDENT

REVIEWED BY:

Digitally signed: I have reviewed this document

James J. Colangelo
CITY MANAGER

Consent Agenda Item No. 2A

June 27, 2006

Pacific Grove City Council
City Hall
Pacific Grove, CA

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a copy of the report that I sent you for the February 15, 2006 council meeting. In that report you will find a history of the Crespi Pond Committee and its involvement in the Restoration Project of the back nine of the Pacific Grove Municipal Golf Course. At the end of the letter there were recommendations regarding the committee and the restoration project.

As of this date, I have had no response to my letter. Do you want this committee to continue as suggested in the report? Do you want any supervision of the implementation of the plan other than the Golf Course Superintendent? This committee has devoted a significant amount of time over the years to this project. I hope you will give the committee the courtesy of a reply.

Sincerely,

Ted Hollister, Chair

cc: Bruce Cowan, Ron Kettlewell, Michael Leach, Nancy Mollring,
Mark Stromberg

CRESPI POND REPORT FOR THE FEBRUARY 15 COUNCIL

The Crespi Pond Restoration and Preservation Advisory Committee was formed July 19, 1995 to study the status of endangered species and their habitats on the Lighthouse Property and golf course. Our purpose was to recommend management and preservation procedures that would satisfy State and Federal requirements. The members of the Committee represented a broad spectrum of interest associated with the activities at the Lighthouse and Golf Course. Thus, there have been plant biologists, birders, museum directors, the golf course superintendent, golfers, representatives of state and federal Fish and Wildlife and citizens at large sharing their knowledge in pursuit of our goals. Our "draft" biological assessment and management recommendations were presented to the Council in December 1997.

Once the initial report was accepted, the Committee continued to develop a restoration and preservation plan for the Golf Course and Lighthouse Property that would satisfy State and Federal requirements. Once this plan was approved, it was hoped that a transfer of the property from the US Coast Guard would happen quickly. Paul Kephart of Rana Creek Habitat Restoration was hired to review the plan and work with the Committee and USFWS. After numerous meetings and review of several drafts, a final "draft" plan was approved in October 2002. The plan was approved by the Council and presented to USCG & USFWS. Finding its way through the Federal bureaucracy has been time consuming. The Crespi Pond Committee did not meet from June 25, 2003 until January 25, 2006 while USFWS reviewed & made revisions.

Several recommendations have been followed. To mention a few: an engineered grape stake fence installed along the 12th fairway/Oceanview is in place; endangered species have been protected and propagated with good results. Roping of areas to take them out of play from the golfers has been started as well as removal of iceplant to allow native species to return. A new irrigation system has been installed to provide improved control of the fairway edges and thus contain fairway grass appropriately.

The Plan is being implemented and revisions made as recommended by USFWS & our Biologist. The Final Draft was approved by USFWS on June 2, 2005, copies given to the City Council thereafter and California Coastal Commission approved on August 30, 2005. This Final Approved Plan was also a requirement of the transfer of the USCG/Point Pinos Property to the City of Pacific Grove. The transfer of the property was approved by the U.S. Congress from a bill issued by Congressman Farr. The transfer of the property has been a 4-year process and has received approval & necessary signatures from several agencies including General Services Administration (GSA), Department of Homeland Security and USFWS. The City is waiting for the final deed documents to be signed by the USCG.

As a result of the recent actions the Committee recommends the following:

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- 1) That the Committee continue to function but meet only annually or as needed. The annual meeting would review the progress of the plan and make recommendations as appropriate. The composition of the committee should continue to have a biologist, bird expert, environmental landscape consultant, golfer, and citizen(s) of Pacific Grove.
- 2) We believe that an effort should continue to be made to restore and preserve habitat attractive to birds. The area around Crespi Pond is known nationally for the variety of birds that are attracted to this location. We hope that various areas of the golf course can be made more attractive to the many species flying through. In addition, we would like to provide a good and safe experience for birders given that golfers are not always accurate with their efforts.

The Committee thanks the many people who have participated over the years in this project. In particular, we recognize the outstanding work of Paul Kephart and Michael Leach. We are proud of the changes that have taken place and will continue to take place as this plan is implemented.

Ted Hollister, Chair

Bruce Cowan, Ron Kettlewell, Michael Leach, Nancy Mollring, Mark Stromberg