

**TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

Meeting Date: June 14, 2010

SUBJECT: Resolution adopting Criteria for Awarding Free Play and/or Cart Privileges at the Black Mountain Golf Course

AGENDA INFORMATION

Agenda Location: New Business
Item Number: 8-B
Department: Recreation and Parks Department
Contact: Jim Orr, Recreation & Parks Director
David Ballard, Golf Operations Manager
Presenter: Marcy Onieal, Town Manager

BRIEF SUMMARY: The Black Mountain Board of Aldermen has voted only twice to award free golf privileges at the Black Mountain Golf course, since the original establishment of the course in 19XX. The first occasion was the award of free lifetime greens and cart fees to former Town Manager Al Richardson, on the occasion of his retirement after 13 years of service (see attached minutes). This award was in keeping with the Town's custom of providing every retiring employee with a modest token of the town's appreciation for years of service. The second occasion was on November 14, 2005 when, upon motion by Mayor-elect Will Kennedy, the Board chose to honor the service of outgoing Mayor Michael Begley with "free lifelong membership in the Golf Course", presumably with the same rights and privileges extended to any full dues-paying member of the course.

It has only recently come to light that over a number of years, some elected officials, former managers/administrators, and recreation/golf course staff have, of their own accord, taken liberties to extend complimentary golf privileges without express authority, or at least without record having been made of such authorization.

In response to: 1) recent requests for extension of complimentary play (e.g. by the staff and board of the ABC Commission last fall), 2) inquiries by some aldermen, board & commission members and the general public, and 3) ongoing rumor and innuendo with regard to golf course operations, the town manager is seeking explicit direction and authorization from the Board of Aldermen with regard to awarding free play and cart privileges at the Black Mountain Golf Course.

The topic of free golf privileges most recently arose at the Board's budget workshop of June 3, 2010 in context of the Aldermen's discussion regarding the proposed FY10-11 budget for the Golf Fund. To the surprise of many in attendance, information shared at that meeting led to the awareness that the extension of free golf privileges has been far more widespread over the years than town officials have historically acknowledged. The board directed the manager to research

the matter more fully and return to the June board meeting with a proposal for discussion and possible adoption.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION: To adopt criteria awarding free play and cart privileges at the Black Mountain Golf Course as proposed [or as discussed and amended]

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A (in-kind contribution from Golf Fund)

ATTACHMENTS: 1) Background Info; 2) Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2005 and XX, 2001; 3) Resolution

MANAGER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The manager requests that this item be continued to a later date, in order to give staff time to fully investigate the history of granting free golf privileges and to develop options for the board's consideration in light of recent revelations.