

RESOLUTION NO. 14-017

**RESCINDING COUNCIL POLICY NO. 100-2
REGARDING COURTESY GOLF PLAY**

FINDINGS

1. When the City directly operated and maintained the Pacific Grove Golf Links, it allowed select categories of persons to play the course without charge. This “courtesy golf” practice is reflected in Council Policy 100-2, adopted in 1981. Courtesy golf was designed to recognize and reward certain individuals, including at various times, board and commission members, Council members, current employees, and retired employees. Council Policy 100-2 was amended numerous times over the years, changing the categories of individuals to whom courtesy golf was awarded and the conditions of that benefit.
2. Unfortunately, golf as an industry has changed significantly over recent years. The Pacific Grove Golf Links has had less success as compared to earlier years and the course has underperformed as a community resource. As one measure, the Golf Fund has lost money for 4 of the last 8 years. As another measure, the percentage of City residents playing golf at the course or otherwise directly benefiting from the course’s presence has declined.
3. After several years of extensive analysis, the City Council recently decided it was best to discontinue direct (in-house) operation and maintenance of the golf course. This decision was based on the Council’s desire to provide the greatest likelihood for the success of the course in directly and indirectly benefitting the greatest number of residents. The City has now engaged an independent affiliate operator of CourseCo, LLC to manage, improve, operate, and maintain the course.
4. As part of developing an approach to provide the greatest likelihood for future long-term success of the golf course, the City and CourseCo jointly reviewed a full range of current practices and the results being achieved. This review included a focused examination of the courtesy golf practice. Following this joint analysis, the City and CourseCo mutually concluded the courtesy golf practice requires change. Negotiated agreements between the City and CourseCo independently recognizes special circumstances whereby individuals are allowed a unique right to play the golf course without charge.
5. Modification of golf course policies and practices are included in the lease agreement between CourseCo and the City. As a result, Council Policy 100-2 has become out-of-date, and is no longer needed. Policy 100-2 needs to be rescinded, to eliminate any confusion.

6. This action does not constitute a "Project" as that term is defined under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15378, as it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE:

1. The foregoing Findings are adopted by the City Council as though set forth in full.
2. Council Policy No. 100-2 is rescinded, in its entirety.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
this 2nd day of April, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Kampe, Councilmembers Cohen, Cuneo, and Huitt.

NOES: Councilmembers Fischer and Lucius.

ABSENT: Councilmember Miller.

APPROVED:

BILL KAMPE, Mayor

ATTEST:

DEBORA THOMSEN, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAVID C. LAREDO, City Attorney