

**CITY OF SPARTA  
PARK BOARD AGENDA  
April 8, 2019**

City Hall

6:00 p.m.

1. Call meeting to order
2. Consent Agenda consisting of: Minutes of March 4, 2019, Park & Rec Director's monthly report for April, 2019, and monthly bills for March
3. Consideration of Revised Proposed Green Fees for River Run
4. Consideration of Rotary Club Monument for Blyton Park
5. Consideration of Concession Stand Bids
6. Consideration of Water Coolers on River Run Sparta Golf Course
7. Items for Future Consideration
8. Adjourn

A possible quorum of the Common Council may be in attendance at this meeting but no action will be taken by the Council.

Posted: 4-5-19

**CITY OF SPARTA**  
**PARK BOARD MINUTES**  
**March 4, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Jim Church, Josh Lydon, Alli Karrels, Tony Polkoski, (arrived at 6:04), Brian Harrie, Cori Koch

**ABSENT:** Kevin Schmitz

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brad Gilbertson, Mark Sund, Todd Fahning, Mayor Button, Dave Kuderer, Kevin Riley, Bruce Savall, Ryan Pawlisch, Garrett Geier, Mike from Mr. Hamburger

Jim Church called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**A motion was made by Josh Lydon and seconded by Alli Karrels to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting, Park & Rec Director's monthly report for March, 2019, and monthly bills for January and February. Motion carried 5-0.**

Garrett contacted 5 different golf courses to compare if our green fees and cart fees were in line with theirs. He presented a report showing that our fees are higher and would like to recommend that we lower our daily green and cart fees. There was discussion on different charges and specials. A motion was made by Josh Lydon and seconded by Jim Church to approve the revised green fees as presented. The motion was not unanimous so there was a roll call vote taken: Jim – Yes; Josh – Yes; Alli – No; Cori – Yes; Tony – No; Brian – No. Motion did not pass. The Board would like Garrett to come up with a new proposal and would like to see a comparison sheet from when the rates were last changed and the figures for last year.

Garrett also talked about having specials during the year to bring in golfers. The Board would like to continue to have the Spring and Fall specials and run specials during slow times. **A motion was made by Alli Karrels and seconded by Josh Lydon to approve the Special Rates for Spring and Fall. Motion carried 6-0.**

There were no actual bids that have come in so far regarding the Memorial Park Concession Stand, but Mike, from Mr. Hamburger, wanted to ask some questions as he may be interested. He currently runs a food truck and cooks as he gets orders. He was asking if he could operate his food truck and still sell some items from the concession stand. He would have 4 people working when open and park the food truck next to the concession stand building. The Board asked Mike to bring in pictures of his truck. This item was tabled until next month.

An item mentioned for future consideration or information was that Joanie will be retiring next January and Brad is restructuring his department. He included some job descriptions in the above consent agenda.

**A motion was made by Josh Lydon and seconded by Alli Karrels to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Hanson  
City Clerk

**Parks & Recreation Director's Report**  
**April 8, 2019**

**Adult Softball League**

All mailings have been sent out to teams, local teams get the tournament information 2 weeks prior to any non-resident team. Registrations will be coming in soon and we hope to have all the tournaments full ahead of time to allow plenty of time to plan and organize. I am looking for umpires for all of the leagues as those from past years are not able to umpire this season.

**Wrestling**

We had a great wrestling season this year! The parents were involved with the program which helps greatly! There were many great coaches that dedicated a lot of time and efforts into the program making it a very successful year. Without the dedication of the volunteer coaches we would not be able to keep this program strong and growing. We had 4 wrestlers qualify for the state tournament this year which was held in Madison the weekend of March 22nd. We had one wrestler place 6<sup>th</sup> in the state. All other wrestlers didn't place but had a great experience and each won a couple matches.

**3-5 year old Basketball**

This is a cooperative program with the Basketball Association and we have had a great response to the program. We had close to 70 kids signed up for the program. Ryan has been leading this program and has done a great job with the group keeping them moving and having fun.

**Gymnastics**

We started the spring session in March and we have close to 100 participants in the program. We have had consistent coaches for the past year. We could use a few more coaches and are always looking. Our staff is very young but seem eager to learn and have done a great job with the participants.

**Youth Soccer League**

The skills clinic will be held on April 6th this year. We have 91 participants in the 1-3 grade program and 36 in the 4-6 grade program. Soccer continues to be a popular sport and the numbers have remained very consistent from one season to the next. There are currently 39 registered for the Kindergarten program. We are still looking for a few coaches to help with both age groups but should be able to secure them before the start of the practice season.

**Adult Fitness Classes**

We have another full line up of fitness classes again this season. Classes continue to be popular and many classes are at capacity with a waiting list to get into them. We added another yoga class this session do to the demand for that type of class. For the first time we are running two classes during the same time period and it seems to be working good for both instructors.

**Pool**

Ryan continues to hire staff for the pool this summer and is nearly fully staffed. He has a training date planned for new guards and has secured the use of the pool at Ft. McCoy. We will be making some changes to the concession stand menu and pricing structure to try and increase revenue of the concession stand and provide a variety of options. We have purchased a point of sale system and will be adding the ability to accept credit cards at the pool this summer for both admissions and concessions. The point of sale system will allow us to better track what is being sold and provide a nightly inventory.

We have scheduled a routine inspection of the slide which needs to take place every 5 years.

We have purchased some new tubes for the lazy river/slide.

We plan to drain the pool the week of April 8<sup>th</sup> and start the cleaning process.

We are working with the school district on some possible changes to swimming lessons this summer. The school district counts swimming lessons as a summer school course and provides us with a teacher and staff to help run the lessons. There have been changes to the requirements for summer school classes and a fee cannot be charged for classes. We are working out a plan to offer swimming lessons free of charge for summer school students and then the school district will reimburse us the registration fees.

**Misc.**

All rehire letters have been sent out for the maintenance staff. Most of the crew is returning for the season and we are in the process of hiring the few positions that are open.

We are working with the fire department to do a controlled burn in Amundson Park. Controlled burns help to promote new growth, reduce the risk of fire by eliminating the fuel (dry grass).

We have purchased 6 AED's for placement in Recreational Facilities. We will place 2 at the Community Center, 1 at The Fitness Center, 1 at the Gymnastics Gym, 1 at the Concession stand and another at the Sparta Family Aquatics Center.

**Golf Course**

The golf course opening on Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup> and should remain open weather permitting. We are still waiting on warmer weather and the grass to green up before we know for sure how we fared during the winter. It was a tough winter with the snow, rain and ice combinations we had.

We will be changing weekend staff around a bit this year and utilizing seasonal staff to work on weekends. This will save the course a significant amount paid in wages. Sundays we will not be changing the cup locations and only mowing greens and emptying trash if they are full.

Flag locations will be marked by a small indicator flag that is located on each flag post. This eliminates the need for different colored flags based upon hole location and will allow for easier movement of the cups and should reduce time spent changing cups. With this change we will not have to carry around several different flags of different colors based upon hole location.

The fire department did a controlled burn of the prairie grass areas on the course on Wed. April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Golf & Park Bills March 2019

Vender	PP	PO	UP	Dept.	Description	Amount
1 All American Do It Center	x			Parks	Lumber	\$ 49.97
2 All American Do It Center	x			Parks	Lumber and brush	\$ 33.76
3 Amazon	x			Parks	Spot Markers, Exercise Bands, Sprayer	\$ 201.15
4 Amazon	x			Parks	Backlight	\$ 44.68
5 Auto Value	x			Parks	Air Filter	\$ 13.19
6 Auto Value	x			Golf	HD Air construction	\$ 13.19
7 Marc	x			Parks	Shipping	\$ 34.35
8 Reinders	x			Golf	Bell Craink Asm RH, Bell Crank Asm-LH, Fla	\$ 273.78
9 Sparta Post Office	x			Parks	Stamps	\$ 275.00
10 Sparta Co-op Services	x			Parks	Tires	\$ 126.00
11 Spectrum	x			G & P	Monthly Service	\$ 113.83
12 Viking Electric Supply	x			Golf	10 LED Dimmable	\$ 77.30
13 Walmart	x			Parks	Supplies for Neon Glow	\$ 137.64
14 All American Do It Center	x			Parks	Cable Ties, Adhesive Fastener, Mounting Squar	\$ 16.96
15 All American Do It Center	x			Parks	2x8x10	\$ 39.96
16 Amazon	x			Parks	Disinfectant	\$ 55.09
17 Amazon	x			Parks	Router Collect	\$ 11.99
18 Auto Value	x			Parks	Air Filter	\$ 10.99
19 Dalco	x			Parks	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 73.95
20 Evans	x			Parks	Neon Glow Party Booklet	\$ 50.00
21 Hobby Lobby	x			Parks	Neon Glow Party Booklet	\$ 41.45
22 The Home Depot	x			Parks	Impact Drill	\$ 209.95
23 Monroe Co Herald	x			Parks	Advertisement for Bids	\$ 323.00
24 Lynn builders	x			G & P	Roll up Door	\$ 1,350.00
25 Walmart	x			Parks	Special Rec Supplies	\$ 68.44
26 Walmart	x			Parks	Special Rec Supplies	\$ 8.78
27 Theisen's	x			Parks	Urethane Ginish	\$ 16.99
28 Auto Value			x	Golf	Oil Filter	\$ 3.35
29 Amazon			x	Parks	Baseballs	\$ 71.51
30 Amazon			x	Parks	Bases	\$ 599.85
31 Amazon			x	Parks	Double 1st Base & Anchors	\$ 1,200.82
32 The Hardware Store			x	Parks	Sidewalk Scraper, Hardware	\$ 29.74
33 The Hardware Store			x	Parks	Steel Grain Scoup	\$ 43.99
34 Theisen's			x	Parks	Chain	\$ 0.99
35 Amazon			x	Parks	Timing Belt	\$ 17.99
36 Auto Value			x	Parks	Oil Filters	\$ 40.55
37 Auto Value			x	Parks	Mudflaps, Steel Grinding Wheel	\$ 32.77
38 Auto Value			x	Parks	Spark Plug	\$ 2.99
39 Auto Value			x	Parks	Oil Filters	\$ 21.22
40 Auto Value			x	Parks	Oil Filter	\$ 3.50
41 B & B Plumbing			x	Parks	Repair Urinal Flush Valve	\$ 120.90
42 Best Kept Portables			x	Parks	Rental Units	\$ 249.75
43 Dalco			x	Parks	Urinal Screen	\$ 31.39
44 Dalco			x	Parks	Urinal Screen	\$ 25.50
45 Dalco			x	Parks	Waxed Sanitary Liners, Scensibles Bag	\$ 24.47

46 Evans Printing	x	Parks	Pool Passes	\$	88.00
47 Portland Implement	x	Golf	Oil	\$	114.76
48 The Hardware Store	x	Golf	Hardware	\$	1.99
49 The Hardware Store	x	Golf	Hex Nuts Zinc, HX CP G8 NC Y	\$	6,248.00
50 Premire Co-op	x	G & P	Fuel	\$	487.55
51 Premire Co-op	x	G & P	Fuel	\$	1,026.00
52 P & P Products	x	Parks	State Wrestling Shirts	\$	274.00
53 Theisen's	x	Parks	Screws	\$	5.82
54 Walmart	x	Parks	Flush Lever, Gain Ultra	\$	23.80
55 Clesen Proturf Solutions	x	Parks	Nutripel50	\$	910.00
56 Menards	x	Parks	Deadbolt Electronic Lock, Touchpad	\$	246.56
57 NuZum Building Supply	x	Parks	White Field Mark, Marking Lime	\$	1,316.00
58 Tube Pro Inc	x	Parks	Tubes	\$	522.00
59 Walmart	x	Parks	Sterlt-50G, Sharpie	\$	24.94

\$ 17,482.09

## REVISED Proposed Green Fees

Weekday 9	\$16.00	-\$10.00	w/cart	\$26.00	-\$13.00
Weekday 18	\$25.00	-\$13.00	w/cart	\$42.00	-\$15.00
Weekend 9	\$18.00	-\$9.00	w/cart	\$28.00	-\$12.00
Weekend 18	\$27.00	-\$13.00	w/cart	\$45.00	-\$14.00
Twu/Sen/Mil 9	\$13.00	-\$6.00	w/cart	\$23.00	-\$9.00
Twu/Sen/Mil 18	\$21.00	-\$9.00	w/cart	\$37.00	-\$12.00

### Non Member Cart Fee

9 Hole Cart	\$10.00	-\$3.00
18 Hole Cart	\$16.00	-\$3.00

### Member Cart Fee

9 Hole Cart	\$9.00
18 Hole Cart	\$15.00

Cart Fees For Members That Do Not have Personal Cart

### Rental Clubs

9 Holes	\$10 Flat Rate Fee 9 or 18 Holes
18 Holes	

\*Price difference between now and proposed fees

### Spring/Fall Rates

9 holes	\$12.00	# of rounds to break even per 20 rounds	
9 holes w/cart	\$19.00		
18 holes	\$20.00		
18 w/cart	\$30.00		
		Weekday 18	7.14 rounds
		Weekend 18	6.22 rounds
		Senior/Military 18	6.48 rounds

**We will come out ahead with 2-4 somes**

### 2017 vs 2018

approx 900 rounds less  
approx 1,400 less 18 hole carts

fill out tee times, it is a good problem to have  
Will always keep an eye on the tee sheet and give spacer times if necessary

No worries about running specials, advertise one set price

**Compete with the other courses in the area**

## Proposed Green Fees/Specials

Weekday :	\$16.00	-\$10.00	w/cart	\$25.00	-\$14.00
Weekday 1	\$23.00	-\$15.00	w/cart	\$39.00	-\$18.00
Weekend 9	\$18.00	-\$9.00	w/cart	\$27.00	-\$13.00
Weekend 1	\$25.00	-\$15.00	w/cart	\$41.00	-\$18.00
Twl/Sen/M	\$13.00	-\$6.00	w/cart	\$22.00	-\$10.00
Twl/Sen/M	\$20.00	-\$10.00	w/cart	\$36.00	-\$13.00

### Non Member Cart Fee

9 Hole Cart	\$9.00	-\$4.00
18 Hole Cart	\$16.00	-\$3.00

### Member Cart Fee

9 Hole Cart	\$8.00
18 Hole Cart	\$15.00

Cart Fees For Members That Do Not have Personal Cart

### Rental Clubs

9 Holes	\$8.00	-\$4.00
18 Holes	\$15.00	-\$9.00

\*Price difference between now and proposed fees

### Spring/Fall Rates

9 holes	\$12.00
9 holes w/c	\$19.00
18 holes	\$20.00
18 w/cart	\$30.00



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Veterans  
Memorial

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THE FIVE TREHEY BROTHERS

# WAUZEKA, WI

# Department of Public Health Guidelines for the Safe Handling Of Drinking Water, Ice and Dispensers

If you're using drinking water dispensers on your golf course you should follow these guidelines to minimize the transmission of communicable illnesses.

## Water and Ice

+ Water and ice must be from a public distribution system or an approved water supply that is tested to ensure conformity with applicable regulations.

+ The location of ice machines must be in an approved area.

## Water Dispensers

+ The water dispenser should be constructed of food grade materials and be easily cleanable.

+ The spigot should be of a gravity flow design to prevent contamination during use.

+ The dispensers should be cleaned and sanitized at least once every 24 hours. Use wash-rinse-sanitize method for sanitizing dispenser. The compartments of the sink should be of sufficient size to allow immersion of the container. For

containers too large to be immersed in the three-compartment sink, a clean and sanitize in-place procedure can be used. This includes use of a clean bucket and wash cloth for the detergent cleaning step, followed by rinsing the container at least three times with water, and finally, spraying the inside of the container and spigot with a sanitizer solution.

+ Provide an area to allow proper air drying of dispensers. Containers shall not be stored on the floor at any time.

+ Pay special attention to cleaning and sanitizing the dispenser nozzle.

*The water hose used to fill the dispenser must be food grade (garden hoses are not approved) and not stored on the ground or capable of being submerged into a drain. Hoses should be used exclusively for drinking water dispenser filling and not to fill other equipment or tanks*

## Dispenser Filling

+ The dispenser should be filled in an area free of environmental contaminants such as dust and insects.

+ The dispenser should not be placed on the floor while filling.

+ The dispenser should be filled in a room with smooth, dry, easily cleanable floors, walls and ceilings. The dispenser should be kept away from chemical storage or other contaminants.

+ The water hose used to fill the dispenser must be food grade (garden hoses are not approved) and not stored on the ground or capable of being submerged into a drain.

+ Hoses should be used exclusively for drinking water dispenser filling and not to fill other equipment or tanks (such as pesticide, herbicide, battery containers or used to clean other things).

+ Plumbing code must be met to protect the water supply. (Cross connections must not be present and backflow devices are required).

+ Wash hands with soap and water prior to handling water and ice.

+ Ice must be dispensed with an ice scoop (without coming in direct human contact).

+ To prevent direct hand contact with the ice, it is recommended that employees wear disposable gloves.

*(Continued on Page 15)*

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## Water Coolers –

(Continued from Page 8)

(Editor's Note: The following excerpts are from MGCSA members concerned about the water cooler issue. The following comments were posted on the University of Minnesota's Turf Talk at [www.turf.umn.edu](http://www.turf.umn.edu). If you haven't checked out this website yet, you're missing out on terrific education!)

Wondering what everyone is doing this year regarding drinking water on the golf course. With the Norwalk virus incident in Arizona last Fall, it seems that a substantial number of golf courses around the country are removing their portable water coolers. I was not too concerned until I had a recent conversation with Randy Allen from Tartan Park GC (Randy, please chime in). The Washington County Health Department is now enforcing very tight procedures for sanitizing and handling water coolers. Tartan Park has removed their coolers and golfers must buy bottled water. I am interested if other facilities will be following in their footsteps. Anyone?

– Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Keller GC

### Paul:

We are using a sprayable sanitizer after each use and using a special food grade hose to fill. We do not have the capacity to do the full "recommendation" by Washington Co, just doing the best we can. This is per our owners decision.

– Kevin Clunis CGCS, Tanners Brook GC

### Kevin:

We are doing the same as you are. We purchased a food grade hose (very expensive) and a case of foam disinfectant spray which my staff will spray on the spout of the cooler when they bring it to the cooler stands. Sanitizing every day is impossible, so we will do what we can and make a better effort than we have in the past. – Jeff Johnson, The Minikahda Club

### Jeff or Kevin:

Where did you purchase the sprayable sanitizer & food grade hose? Would Sysco carry those things? – Norma O'Leary, Silver Springs Golf Course

### Norma:

They should. We got our sanitizer from Upper Lakes Food. Don't know the price. The hose we got from Northern. Once again memory is shot on \$. Doing anything better than last year is good. – Kevin Clunis CGCS, Tanners Brook GC

### Kevin:

Thanks. Are the recommendations (or whatever they are) from Washington Co.

posted anywhere? My water jugs fit in our dishwasher, which needless to say sanitizes. Do you suppose that would fulfill the requirements that Washington Co. is suggesting? – Norma O'Leary, Silver Springs Golf Course

### Kevin and Norma:

Just received a letter this morning from the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association on Guidelines for caring for water coolers. It comes from John Archer of the State of Wisconsin,

Department of Health and Family Services, Bureau of Communicable Diseases. It has been adapted from the guidelines provided by the Maricopa County (Arizona) Environmental Services Department. The guidelines have been prepared by the Marathon County Health Department and the Wisconsin Division of Health and Communicable Diseases. A 3 or wiofamiyou need further information. – Guy Lohman, Voyager Village, Wisconsin

(Continued on Page 24)

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## Water Coolers—

(Continued from Page 15)

**Paul:** Sorry it took so long to get back to you. I have not had time to check this site lately. Since I last talked to you we have had a planned visit from a Washington County Health Department inspector. We wanted them to look at our operation and tell us what we needed to do. It is my understanding that Washington County has relaxed it's position a bit. I think we will see a new set of recommendations sometime in the future. This is what we came up with. Sanitize all coolers, pails and covers by running them thru our dishwasher every day. Have two sets of everything so while one set is on the course the other can be cleaned and air dried for use the next morning. All water filling must be done with a food grade hose hung from the ceiling so as not to ever touch the floor. The end of the hose is to not have any fitting on it, just the bare cut end. We purchased the hose from Fleet Farm on sale 50 feet for \$7.00. It's the same hose you use for RV applications.

Our 10 gallon igloos are then filled 1/2 full to address the weight issue. They are taken out in a clean cart along with covered pails of ice and water. The coolers are then put in place and filled to the top. We purchased the 22 quart pails from U.S. Food Service with covers for \$18.30 each. Some general rules to follow are never let buckets, coolers, covers or hose touch the ground. Sanitize coolers, buckets and covers daily.

Covers must remain on at all times when not in the act of filling, even when empty. Rubber gloves or sanitized hands needed for ice and water handling. Ice scoops need to be sanitized daily. Wash and clean cart used for transporting coolers daily. We have

reduced the total number of locations that have coolers and have added a glass front refrigerator type dispenser for bottled water at the golf shop. Hope this helps. It sounds like your on the right track Norma. -- *Randy Allen*

**To All:** After talking to the manufactures reps from Igloo Water Coolers they say DO NOT PUT IGLOO WATER COOLERS IN DISHWASHERS. The heat and pressure will break seals, contaminate the integrity of the cooler. And void any warranty. If anyone has any questions please give us a call at Turf Supply Co. Good Luck! -- *Tom McCann*

**Tom:** Thanks for the Heads-Up. -- *Jim Nicol, CGCS, Hazeltine National Golf Club*



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By: **Golfweek Staff Writer** | June 8, 2002 6:24 pm

Golfers who think they know about water hazards need to take another look. This time, the hazard comes in the form of drinking water that sits in a jug. Bottled water or fountain water is fine, but if you're thinking about taking a sip out of a freestanding container during a round, it could be hazardous to your health.

That's the aftermath of a recent incident at Thunderbirds Golf Club in Phoenix that caused a widespread stomach virus. More than 80 golfers, many playing in a youth tournament, were stricken July 16-25 with gastrointestinal ailments, including vomiting. One of the players, a 15-year-old, died, though the direct cause of death couldn't be traced to the virus. The likely cause of the outbreak is believed to be one or more maintenance workers who were sick at the time they filled the drinking water jugs.

Nils Beeman's death July 19 sparked an investigation of 157 golf courses in Maricopa County.

Looking into how course staff handled ice and drinking water, county health officials found substandard practices at 94 of them, a failure rate of 63 percent.

"The only reason the 63 percent wasn't higher," said health official David Ludwig, "is that a good number of the courses weren't using jugs. They had bottled water or drinking fountains."

The inspections turned up no relationship between price or private ownership and water quality. The investigation had an immediate effect in Maricopa County. Ludwig said all courses that failed changed how they delivered water to golfers. Thunderbirds now gives each golfer two free bottles of water from an outside vendor.

Maricopa's Environmental Services Department has since issued a wide-ranging set of rules for water, ice and dispensers. The new procedures encompass water sources, types of containers, their cleaning and storage, how to fill dispensers and personal hygiene.

Although regulations vary from county to county, health experts contacted by Golfweek's sister publication, Superintendent News, said that maintenance workers should not fill drinking water containers or handle ice that is put into them.

Only food and beverage workers should dispense water, whether in 10-gallon jugs or in bottles from an outside vendor, they said. Otherwise, it's safer for courses to rely upon piped drinking fountains or bottled water.

At Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort, Brad Kocher, CGCS, vice president of golf course maintenance, said his courses have installed water fountains. Also, he said, new course construction calls for a water fountain every three holes. "Except for water coolers carried by the rangers, we have eliminated fillable water coolers on the course," Kocher said. "All of our water is from chilled drinking fountains."

[MPR News](#) Reflections and observations on the news

[Weather](#)

## Where can a person get a drink around here? Some thirsty golfers out of luck

[David Cazares](#) August 3, 2010, 10:39 AM

[2 Comments](#)

On a sweltering day like today, a healing drink of cold water on a public golf course can be rather hard to come by. Turns out it's sort of a tough decision for Minnesota golf course operators whether to provide a few coolers for customers, many of whom develop a mighty thirst during a typical four to five hour round (especially those who walk rather than drive a power cart).

Anoka's Greenhaven course removed its on-course water coolers at the beginning of season.

"It was not an easy decision," said General Manager Larry Norland, who admits to a smidgen of worry about golfers becoming dehydrated.



*A water cooler enclosure sits empty near the 14th tee at Greenhaven golf course in Anoka, Minn. (MPR Photo/Bob Ingrassia)*

Norland said it was getting too expensive to comply with the Minnesota Department of Health's extensive [guidelines](#) for the safe dispensation of drinking water on golf courses. Norland figures it would run the course up to \$6,000 per year in extra labor costs.

The Health Department issued the guidelines in 2004 in response to the death of an Arizona teenager in 2002. The 15-year-old golfer died, and 82 others were sickened, after contracting the Norwalk virus. Arizona health authorities believe the common link was the on-course water coolers at the Thunderbirds Golf Course in Phoenix. The course ended up settling a lawsuit from the boy's parents for \$3 million.

Greenhaven golfers can get water inside the clubhouse at the beginning of their round, of course, and can fill up as they pass the building again during the course of play, but that's clearly less convenient and adds to the length of play. And as any golfer knows, courses try to get you to play as fast as possible.

Plenty of other Minnesota courses no longer provide drinking water, partly because they fear lawsuits over contamination. They include Theodore Wirth, Three Rivers, Pebble Creek, Southbrook, Albion Ridge and Glen Lake.

Many other golf courses have made the opposite decision of course, believing they can reduce the risk of health problems by careful handling of water. Indeed, there appear to be no accounts of golf course water cooler-induced illnesses in Minnesota.

"I don't know of any health instances at all," said Gary Edwards of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Workers at the Inver Wood golf course in Inver Grove Heights bleach their coolers every night, and wear gloves when filling them with clean water and ice.

"It can be a problem not having water out there for golfers," said Inver Wood manager Al McMurchie. "You can just as easily get sued as someone heat strokes on you."

It does cost extra to provide safe coolers, said McMurchie, but it's worth it from a customer service standpoint. "People get a bad taste in their mouths when they have to spend two bucks on a bottle of water," he said.

McMurchie says the Health Department checks on its water handling practices once a year.

Courses that continue to provide on-course water, or are watering their customers again after having pulled coolers for a time, include Meadowbrook, River Oaks, Bluff Creek, Chominix, Braemar and Ramsey County courses. Many are now using sanitary plastic liners in their coolers to minimize the risk of contamination.