GCSAA backpedals on relocation

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ATLANTA — Sensing that its members wanted more information before proceeding with the relocation process, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America removed a vote on the matter from the annual meeting's agenda.

The decision not to ask for an amendment to the articles of incorporation means the board of directors must win approval from its membership on the relocation of its headquarters.

"We realized that we didn't have all the facts out there," said new GCSAA president Jon D. Maddern. "This is the primary reason why the articles vote was pulled. There will be a vote [on relocation] and you [members] will have the information that you need to make a proper vote."

The association has also slowed the relocation process because it has not received any 'fantastic deals' from the top three cities that it has focused on (Jacksonville, Fla.; Orlando, Fla.; and Phoenix). City officials in Lawrence, Kan., are reportedly putting together a package to keep the GCSAA at its current headquarters.

The possible relocation of its headquarters was discussed at an all-day meeting in Atlanta last week.

According to Maddern, the primary reason behind the move was to improve the GCSAA's ability to interact with other golf organizations.

"The leadership of GCSAA believes today that to maximize the visibility of the association in the golf community, to continue to broaden the scope of membership services, and to continue to solidify its leadership role in golf requires a re-examination of the benefits of moving GCSAA to a high-traffic, golf-intense region," he said.

Many voting members felt statements like this underscored the perception that the GCSAA had already made up its mind to move.

"It kind of sounds to me like you're saying 'We believe we should move, now we're going to let you say yes or no,'" said Roger Hoffman, superintendent at Desert Winds Golf Course in Twenty Nine Palms, Calif.

Both Stephen Cadenelli and Gerald Faubel, who were presidents of the GCSAA during the time of the construction of the Lawrence headquarters, questioned why the association needed to move.

"I do not see us as a golf organization," said Cadenelli, superintendent at Cape Cod National Golf Club in Harwich, Mass. "We are a golf course management organization. I think there's a very significant difference there."

"And a foundation of what we do is educate golf course managers and superintendents," he continued. "And I'm in no way understanding how location is going to enhance the ability to do that or the value in which we ultimately develop and help our members in this association."

Faubel, superintendent at Saginaw Country Club in Saginaw, Mich., agreed.

"The PGA, golf professionals,"

Quality Grassing grabs Large Builder Award

By DEREK RICE

ATLANTA — Quality Grassing & Services Inc. took home its second Golf Course News Best Builder of the Year Award. The company, which is focused on small projects, was presented Best Builder of the Year awards in both 2001 and 2002.

Quality Grassing, which won the Best Small Builder Award in 1997, scored 108.1 out of a possible 110 points on the seven projects it completed in 2002. Also entered in this year's competition were Landscapes Unlimited, Ryangolf, Niebur Golf, Course Crafters and Weitz Golf.

"Among the projects Quality Grassing completed were Coosa Bend Golf Club in Gadsden, Ala., Harmony Golf Club in St. Cloud, Fla., and Adios Golf Club in Coconut Creek, Fla.

"Company president Howard Barnes accepted the award on behalf of his staff. Looking forward, Barnes said it is "should be just as busy for Quality Grassing as 2002 was."

"A lot of the work we did last year is really bringing us benefits this year," he said. "We get a lot of word-of-mouth."

Barnes said his company isn't willing to rest on its accomplishments. Winning the award "in the late 1960s and also spent time with architect John Bulla and builder Nick Seaman.

Glase Golf completed work on the Roger Warner-designed Quail Creek Country Club, the Mike Smelek-designed Bay Colony Golf Club and the Jason McCoy-designed Tiburon Golf Club in 2002. Looking to 2003, Glase said he doesn't see a slowdown in sight.

"We're still very busy," he said. "We see no change this year."