

Willowbrook/Willowcreek Greens Committee Minutes
1 February 2024 Riverview Meeting Room

Harry Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 am.

Those present: Brian Duthu, Chuck Manning, Harry Emerson, Bob Long, Neal Fry, Laura Horvatich, Linda Hardman, Gale McKinney, Cristi Dorsch, Dawn Russo, John Bressett, Tom Foster, Jean Emerson,

Harry Emerson called for any corrections/additions to the minutes. Tom Foster made a motion to accept the minutes of the December meeting. Gale McKinney seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Harry introduced Larry McWain - he is filling divots on all Willowbrook tees! Thank you, Larry.

- **Reports.**

Brian Duthu, RCSC Director of Golf: Brian read his February report that is attached, as well as the aerification/verticutting and overseed schedules. Brian said at this time the plan is to overseed all courses.

Chuck Manning, WB/WC Superintendent: Chuck read his February report which is attached as well as the sheet showing work completed and in progress.

A member asked Chuck to work on the bunker on hole 8 left of the green. In answer to a question on the various heights of the grass on the tee boxes and elsewhere Chuck said the Bermuda is coming up and the grass will even out as the growth gets stronger. There were questions on the condition of the driving range. To give the range a break the mats will be in place for two weeks. Please encourage those you see to use the mats.

Chuck mentioned that where the grass is missing by the cart paths, they will have to lay down sod when the weather warms up a bit.

Old Business:

2025 Budget Formulation

Members were given a handout "Golf Input to RCSC 5 Year Strategic Plan". The members were asked to send their comments or suggestions to Harry. The first step is always to determine what the members want and proceed to the funds needed to achieve those goals and to process to pay for the goals.

The ADWR plan has been submitted by Brian Duthu and he feels positive about the success of the plan. Tif tuff will help with water remediation as well as fixing the lake to remediate the water loss.

Beautification

The discussion was about combining WC/WB beautification efforts. Both committees have money in their treasury and the decisions should be joint in deciding what to do. One thought was to combine the collection boxes. Another suggestion was to find some way to park the carts

by the course bathrooms to allow other carts to proceed to the tee boxes without driving off the path.

Laura Horvatich, Gail McKinney and Linda Hardman will meet in February to sort out the details.

New Business:

Updates from Golf Advisory Committee

- The Golf Advisory Chair has proposed changes to BP17 to put the decisions for the courses under The Director of Golf and not the RCSC Board.
- The WB/WC Greens Committee voted to accept the changes.
- One head ranger has been hired at North to make changes and grow the program throughout all the RCSC courses.
- There was a question on banning smoking on the courses. Since this is outside there is not a president and it would be hard to enforce. One suggestion was to stop selling cigars at the courses.
- There is still lots of comments on the 5 vs 3 golf carts.
- Comment cards will be automated soon, and you will be able to track where your comment card is in the process.
- It was noted that the ladies have better communication with their members than the men do.

Comments/Issues

Tom Foster moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 and seconded by Cristi Dorsch

WILLOWBROOK/WILLOWCREEK GREENS COMMITTEE AGENDA
February 1, 2024@7:00 am, Riverview Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES from the November Meeting

REPORTS

- BRIAN DUTHU - RCSC DIRECTOR OF GOLF
- CHUCK MANNING - WB/WC SUPERINTENDENT
 - Report
 - Comment card trends
 - Progress Tool update

OLD BUSINESS

- 2025 Budget Formulation. Discussion and recommended additions/deletions/changes from members. (new handout)
- Next beautification effort?

NEW BUSINESS

- Update from December Golf Advisory Committee
 - GAC chair proposed change to BP 17-Harry/Brian
 - Changes to Ranger program - Brian
 - Smoking on the courses question – Harry
 - Lots of 5 vs 3 cart discussion
 - Coming automated comment cards-Brian
- Other topics?

COMMENTS/ISSUES

1. GLORIA STUMP - WB/WC HEAD STARTER
2. PAT PLANTS - WC MEN'S CLUB MONITOR
3. LAURA HORVATICH - WC 18 HOLE BEAUTIFICATION
4. GALE MCKINNEY - WC 9 LADIES /HOLE BEAUTIFICATION*
5. CRISTI DORSCH - WC 18 HOLE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSN*
6. DAWN RUSSO - WC 9 HOLE PRESIDENT*
7. LINDA HARDMAN - WB 18 HOLE LADIES*
8. LOUISE SARTORIO - WB *
9. Vacant. - WB LADIES*
10. JOHN BRESSETT - WB MEN*
11. NEAL FRY - WB MEN*
12. Vacant - WB MEN'S*
13. TOM FOSTER - WC MEN'S REP*
14. BOB LONG - WC MEN'S REP*
15. HARRY EMERSON - WC MEN'S / Chairman*

GUEST COMMENTS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Director of Golf Report

February 2024

Pro Shops

Preliminary rounds for January were 33,147, the total was 591 greater than prior year. Preliminary revenue shows Green Fee/Car: Fee revenue missing budget by \$51,199 and exceeding prior year by \$16,964. Merchandise missed budget by \$9,959. Driving Range revenue also missed budget by \$8,315.

For 2023 we played 348,602 rounds. rounds breakdown is as follows:

- 18.05% of total rounds played by Annual (Resident) No Fee Passholders YTD
- 34.48% of total rounds played by Annual Surcharge Passholders YTD
- 16.06% of total rounds played by Resident Cardholders YTD
- 4.64% of total rounds played by Annual (Non-Resident) Passholders YTD
- 13.02% of total rounds played by Public Golfers YTD
- 10.90% of total rounds played by Guests
- 2.85% of total rounds played by Staff

The bump rate (those golfers requesting a tee time through the lottery that were unsuccessful), for January had similar results to December. Overall we had an increase in the number of requests of 9.36% (17,282 in 2023 versus 18,899 in 2024), however the number of golfers bumped dropped by 3.45% (1,837 in 2023 versus 1,357 in 2024). Overall our bump rate was 7.18% for the month.

On March 7th Lakes East/Lakes West will be hosting the annual Teal Ribbon Tournament. The event is open to ladies and men and no handicap is required. It is a 9 hole event with a 9:30 shotgun start and lunch follows play at Sundial. Proceeds benefit the University of Arizona Cancer Center for Ovarian Cancer research. The entry fee is \$35.00 per person, entry forms may be picked up and turned in to any pro shop.

Snack Shops

Snack shops are now closing at 5:00 p.m. on a consistent basis, and will continue to do so until business begins slowing in April.

Golf Courses

The preliminary aerification/overseed schedule was presented to the Golf Advisory Committee last month. We will continue our practice of a single, more aggressive aerification. We will also continue to solid tine aerify more frequently. Solid tines do not impact the green surface to the extent of hollow tines and do not require course closures. Fairway verticutting will begin at the end of April and in two day blocks. As the Lakes East and North courses were not overseeded, the courses will not need to close for the verticutting event. Though it does not eliminate transition related issues, verticutting does open the grass canopy by thinning out the rye grass, allowing the bermuda base to recover from dormancy quicker. Representatives of Golf Advisory were asked to review the schedule with course committees, to resolve any conflicts ahead of time. We are changing the process this year by combining our fairway and green aerification events, each course will be closed for 12 days, with Willowbrook being the first on May 20. We are not planning on skipping the overseed process on any course next year, with the exception of Quail Run. The timing of the 2025 irrigation project will determine the viability of overseeding Quail Run for the 2024/2025 golf season.

2024 AERIFICATION/VERTICUTTING DATES

Golf Course will be Closed

Fairway Verticutting

Thu-Fri	April 18, 19	Willowbrook
Mon-Tue	April 22, 23	Willowcreek
Thu-Fri	April 25, 26	Riverview
Mon-Tue	April 29, 30	Lakes West
Thu	May 2	Quail Run
Mon-Tue	May 6, 7	South

Fairway/Green Aerification

Start	End	
May 20	May 31	Willowbrook
June 3	June 14	Willowcreek
June 17	June 28	Riverview
July 1	July 12	North
July 15	July 26	Lakes West
July 29	Aug 9	Lakes East
Aug 12	Aug 23	South
Aug 26	Sept 6	Quail Run

2024 OVERSEED SCHEDULE

Golf Course will be Closed

<u>Course</u>	<u>Overseed</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Off Cart Path</u>
South	Sept 23	Oct 11	Nov 1
Lakes West	Sept 23	Oct 11	Nov 1
Riverview	Sept 23	Oct 11	Nov 1
Willowbrook	Sept 23	Oct 11	Nov 1
North	Oct 14	Nov 1	Nov 22
Lakes East	Oct 14	Nov 1	Nov 22
Quail Run *	Oct 14	Nov 1	Nov 22
Willowcreek	Oct 14	Nov 1	Nov 22

As of 1-15-2024

- * If temperatures are too high for Sept 23 start first wave will be pushed back one week, resulting in one week overlap of course closures
- * Quail Run overseed dependent irrigation project, if slated to begin late 2024 or early 2025 overseeding may be skipped

**GREEN COMMITTEE OF WILLOW BROOK/CREEK GOLF
COURSE
SUPERINTENDENT REPORT Feb 1, 2024
CHUCK MANNING**

COURSE CONDITION:

We received 1.1' of rain in January which is about normal. This is the month that the Bermuda grass will start greening up, but be patient, nighttime temperatures need to increase before the Bermuda begins to grow.

Please encourage the use of the sand to fill divots on tees and fairways. Please repair ball marks on greens. The roughs are very dry so please properly dispose of smoking material.

BROOK

Greens: HOC .190" / Soil temperature 40⁰
Stimp Reading 8.9'
Fairways: HOC .600"
Tees, Collars, and approaches: HOC .600"
Green banks/ Street Fronts: HOC 1.5"
Rough: HOC 1.5"

CREEK

Greens: HOC .130" / Soil temperature 40⁰
Stimp Reading 9.9'
Fairways: HOC .600"
Tees, Collars, and approaches: HOC .600"
Green banks/ Street Fronts: HOC 1.5"
Rough: HOC 1.5"

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:

1. Trimming desert
2. Vacuuming leaves
3. Pushing sand in bunkers
4. Divots
5. Trimming trees
6. Top dressing greens

PROJECTS COMPLETED

1. Complete fertilizer program
2. Completed pesticide/Herbicide applications
3. Divots
4. Trimmed bush on #17 green blocking traffic
5. Made more sand scoop and have put them out where needed
6. Placed traffic stakes near #6 brook green
7. Put out ball washers and trash cans
8. Edged cart paths

STAFF:

Willow Brook Creek is short one staff member.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me. Cell: 623-332-6155 Office: (623) 248-4781 Email: cmanning@suncityaz.org

SHORT TERM ACTIONS REQUIRED	CURRENT STATUS	COMPLETE
Sand trap depth on 8 G R; and 9 G R	18 LA BL	1/10/2024
Replace twisted divot mix garbage cans	all new during overseed	1/5/2024
Replace sand trap rakes with new 24" version	Approval given at meeting	Ordered 1/5/24
Install Trash cans/ball washers on yellow tees	On hand; partially installed/Partly installed	
Remove dead trees on #18WC	Tree expert would like to see how they come out of winter and grow into the summer before cutting down	Waiting for mid summer
Submit work order for inoperative light in the overhand area	Submitted-no status yet	1/9/2024
Submit work order for striping parking at pro shop	Submitted-programmed for summer	Funded not sched
Solutions for excessive wear on par 3s particularly #11WC	Trying soak cycle putting more water down with time to soak in	Testing
Once a week mass effort on Driving Range	Set as a goal. Attempting to double up on Tu and Wed	Testing
LONG TERM ACTIONS REQUIRED	CURRENT STATUS	
Ensure weeds do not reappear as last year	Additional pre emergent product ordered with EOY \$	
Lighting budget request for WCWB parking lots and pro shop	Approved in FY 2024 budget; awaiting contracting	
WB Yellow Tee design and implementation request	Deferred indefinitely	
Implement the USGA guidelines for sand trap 'refresh'	Deferred to 2025	
WCWB Clubhouse is in need of a repainting	In current budget year projects awaiting sched??	
ONGOING		
* Focused trimming of the desert scape.	Contract?? No funds.	
Ensure roughs are not cut unevenly		
Ensure sunken cups and poor cup cuts do not reappear		
Spot seed the bare spots on the surrounds on as they appear		
Ensure weed control during weather crossover and summer		
Ensure the 'extra lap' green cutting does no damage	Still needs some attention on WC; good on WB	
Emphasize and minimize work truck damage		

Sod beginning of summer

Not when

Golf Input to RCSC 5 Year Strategic Plan

- **Strategic priorities for golf for 2025 - 2030**
- **Improve our course conditions and playability comparable to other area courses for the RCSC membership by:**
 - Implementing USGA guidelines for sand trap refresh, surround density and areas, other annual USGA recommendations
 - Replacing capital equipment in line with manufacturers recommendations
 - Programming desert scape refresh as required
 - Reducing staff turnover rate to 10% annually by closing the pay gap with our labor competition
 - Increasing staffing gap by attaining a minimum 85% manning level per USGA guidelines
 - Responding to member input for improvements
 - Other?
 - Other?
- **Implement a paid ranger program**
 - Improve pace of play
 - Protect valuable assets
 - Enforce policy
- **Develop a water remediation plan to meet ADWR goals by 2025**
 - Evaluate effectiveness and feasibility of TifTif conversion
 - Identify and schedule areas for desert landscape conversion
 - Other?
 - Other?
- **Methodology to attain these goals:**
 - Apply an annual CPI inflation escalator to resident and non resident fees
 - Cost and justify additional annual factor to attain annual goals