

Willowbrook/Willowcreek Green Committee Minutes

February 4, 2021 at Tailsman Hall

Present: Judy Lawrence, Chuck Manning, Chris Liam, Gloria Stump, Marcia Grenier, Sue Richmond, Polly Fischette, Barney Alanis, Mary Ann Rispoli, Jim Fitzsimmons, George Wolf, Mike Conrad and Jean Emerson (minutes).

Absent: Laura Horvatic, Tim Willhite, Brian Duthu and Terry Chubb.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by chairperson Judy Lawrence.

Minutes of the January meeting were emailed to each member. There were no corrections, so the minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

Chris Linam, Assistant Director of Golf, reported for Brian Duthu, Director of Golf. Chris reviewed Brian's written February 2021 report, which is attached along with the 2021 Aerification/Verticutting schedule. If there are questions on dates for verticutting, aerification or overseeing contact Chris. The schedule will go to the Golf Advisory for finalization.

Questions were:

- 1) Straight sheets – Straight sheet versus split sheet decisions go through the Golf Advisory committee, but the final decision is made by the RCSC Board. There may be more straight sheets in the future than there were pre Covid. The decision for continuing straight sheets is made each month and will continue until Governor Ducey determines we are in Phase 3. Some groups like split sheets because it allows their groups to finish together. Many like straight sheets because there is no wait time between the front and back nine. The courses lose revenue on split sheets due to the times that must be blocked to allow the crossover. If your group is interested in keeping straight sheets go to the Golf Advisory and/or Board meetings and let your voice be heard.
- 2) Groups of five have been an issue for years. The people wanting groups of five are more vocal at meetings, but in reality, groups of five are in the minority. Although Sun City courses allow groups of five everyone still plays in under 4 ½ hours.
- 3) It was suggested that the width of the fairways could be increased by mowing to the yardage markers. Chris will pass this suggestion on.
- 4) Availability of golf carts – there are problems supplying golf carts to players that need them. This is due to the fact that only one person can be in a cart and the lack of cart storage at many courses. The best remedy at present, is to make sure the pro shop knows you need a cart and they can order extra carts to meet the demand. When the Covid restrictions are lifted two people per cart will be permitted.
- 5) The number of carts on the course – by April, the courses will have a year of data on how the grass has been affected by the increased number of carts. This information will inform the decision of the number of carts allowed when we come out of the pandemic restrictions.
- 6) North and South seem to have longer grass than the other courses. Chris said all courses should be mowed to .6 inches or below, so he will check.

Chuck Manning, WB/WC Course Superintendent, distributed and reviewed his written report for January 2021. The report is attached.

Answering questions, Chuck said the bunkers are raked on the bottoms and edges and the sides are smoothed daily. The greens are not verticut in the winter because the rye grass cannot tolerate the procedure. Rolling the greens only helps for a few days so they do not roll. Since it is warming up, gibberellic acid is being used on the greens to help the grass grow. The sunken plugs are being addressed and the training of the crew is ongoing.

Gloria Stump, WB/WC Head Starter, reported that all is going well.

Marcia Grenier, WC Women's 18 Hole Club, reported the Memorial tournament last Tuesday had 80 participants. She thanked the pro shop for collecting the sweep fee and said she would do this in the future. March 2nd is the start of the Club Championship for three weeks.

Sue Richmond, WC Women's 9 Hole Club, reported that golf had been canceled for the last two weeks in January due to the weather. They also canceled the Low Gross/Low Net tournament over concerns of Covid exposure. They have 50 paid member and average 30-35 golfers each week. About half of their golfers are using yellow tees. The course appears to be in excellent condition. They have only been playing the front 9, but starting this week they will begin alternating between the front and back. They will play our Fun Day on March 16th on Willowbrook back 9.

George Wolf, WB/WC Ranger, reported there are only two rangers. One is on duty every day, but they need to add more to cover the afternoons.

Polly Fischette, Men's Club Monitor, reported all is going well. She was thanked for doing an excellent job.

Barney Alanis, WC Men's Club, reported that the only weakness is the greens, and all else is great and the members are happy.

Mary Ann Rispoli, WB 18 Hole Beautification, reported her appreciation for the new marker on WB #15.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Barney Atlanis and seconded by Marcia Grenier. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Emerson