

Willowbrook/Willowcreek Greens Committee Minutes
4 April 2024 Riverview Meeting Room

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

Brad Zimmerman was introduced as a new member and WC Men's Club representative.

Those present: Brian Duthu, Chuck Manning, Harry Emerson, Linda Hardman, Laura Horvatich, Gale McKinney, Cristi Dorsch, Dawn Russo, Louise Sartorio, John Bressett, Neal Fry, Brad Zimmerman, Bob Long, Mark Smith, Tom Foster (Guest), Jean Emerson,

Harry Emerson called for any corrections/additions to the minutes. Gale McKinney made a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting with corrections. Dawn Russo seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Reports:

Brian Duthu, Director of Golf presented his April report, which is attached.

In answering questions Brian said there is a subcommittee working on the 3/5 cart issue and when exceptions should be made, if any.

They are also looking into a way golfers would be responsible to pay for their tee times when those tee times are awarded.

They are continuing to look into the option of booking 9 holes instead of 18 when needed.

Three wheeled carts are allowed on the courses and do not count in the three cart rule.

Chuck Manning, WB/WC Superintendent presented his April report, which is attached.

Chuck discussed his task management list, which is attached. This gives Chuck and members a view of the tasks being accomplished and what is waiting for personnel or resources.

In answering questions it is apparent we do not know the number of benches on the courses. A check will answer that question and Brian told Chuck he can replace broken benches.

It was noted that grass is growing around stakes and Chuck asked that we drive around worn-out areas instead of through them.

The 5th hole on WB has mainly dirt around the tea area. It is a very shady spot so they will try sod. There was a suggestion to make steps in the area to alleviate the water flow.

WC 1 has a homeowner that drains his pool about 143 yards from the green which causes problems.

Some of the surrounds are starting to dry out even after all the rain. Chuck informed us this is due to the grass transition.

Old Business:

The attached priority sheet was presented and discussed the members.

- It is difficult for rangers to use their rewards in paying for golf.

- A paid starter could help rangers and the pro shop keep groups flowing.

- Signage for 90 degrees has been placed on holes 1 and 10.

- WB is still looking for yellow tees. This may be folded into the water remediation work.

- The members approved the priority list as presented with the budget items broken into capital funds and operation budget items.

Beautification- Laura Horvatich said the next steps are to place metal plants around the bathrooms and the pro shop. She will order the pieces and have them delivered to the greens crew.

New Business:

The GAC will be meeting the second Thursday this month.

The lottery has in place a penalty for no shows. Groups or individuals with habitual no shows will be moved down the priority list when requesting tee times from the lottery.

Comments/Issues:

Gloria Stump, WC/WB Head Starter reported there were three comment cards.

The twilight and super twilight rates are too low, and rates should be raised a bit. The crowds coming to play at those times makes it difficult for the pro shop which has one person behind the desk.

Pat Plants, WC Men's Club Monitor, said something about crossovers on Wednesdays. ?

Christi Dorsch, WC 18 Hole, asked if only two courses would use crossovers during the summer, and is it possible to have all courses straight sheet in the summer.

Dawn Russo WC 9 Hole President, said all is good and they are thankful for the additional lights by the pro shop.

Mark Smith, WB, passed out a picture of turf wear around WB5 tee box. Discussion is above.

Neal Fry, WB Men's, said all is good.

Brad Zimmerman, WC Men's said that many members think that golf is free after 5 o'clock. You should have a card indicating you are no fee, or a month pass for playing after 5:00.

There being no further business Laura Horvatich moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Louise Sartorio and approved by the members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57.

Submitted by

Jean Emerson, Secretary

Director of Golf Report

April 2024

Pro Shops

We played 45,926 rounds in March, of those 21,619 were played by Annual No Fee (Resident) and Annual Surcharge passholders. Remaining rounds were played by Cardholder Daily (9,788), Cardholder Guest (6,282), RCSC Staff (881), Non-Resident passholder (1,282) and Public (6,074). Total rounds were 1,169 greater than prior year.

The bump rate (those golfers requesting a tee time through the lottery that were unsuccessful), for March showed improvement similar to the first two months of this year. Overall we had an increase in the number of requests of 10.0% (17,700 in 2023 versus 19,470 in 2024), however the number of golfers bumped dropped by 3.11% (1,913 in 2023 versus 1,498 in 2024). Overall our bump rate was 7.69% for the month.

Saturday golf clinics held in March were very well attended. Each week had over 100 students attend the clinics. Over the four Saturdays students learned or brushed up on, the basics of chipping, putting, iron play and driving. Free golf clinics will be offered again in November. Through April we have had 74 students participate in our Get Golf Ready program. Get Golf ready classes will also be available again, beginning in November.

Snack Shops

Snack shops closing time is 5:00 p.m. and will remain so until rounds begin decreasing in April. Snack Shops have the discretion to remain open longer on particularly busy days.

Golf Courses

With 100-degree days right around the corner, the pace of transition from winter rye to summer Bermuda can be expected to increase. With the switch to perennial rye this year we will also be gradually chemically spraying the fairways to assist with the transition. To promote Bermuda growth fairway heights are lowered to open the grass canopy, which permits the Bermuda grass to receive more sunlight. During this time of transition, it will not be uncommon to see brown patches on the course as the rye dies and the Bermuda begins to grow. Slow release fertilizer will be applied to all courses, to provide the Bermuda nutrients for summer growth. Courses have aerified greens using solid tines, to address compaction resulting from winter play.

Our annual USGA visit is scheduled for Thursday, May 16 and will be conducted by Brian Whitlark from the USGA Green Section. Like last year we are inviting two representatives from each Green Committee to accompany us for their course visit. We will be spending approximately one hour per property, it does move quickly. Therefore, we recommend having a list of questions/concerns each committee would like addressed ahead of time. In addition to the Green Committee the RCSC Board of Directors, also attends along with course maintenance personnel. The itinerary for the visit is included with this report, times may be adjusted if we run into delays.

**GREEN COMMITTEE OF WILLOW BROOK/CREEK GOLF
COURSE
SUPERINTENDENT REPORT April 4, 2024
CHUCK MANNING**

COURSE CONDITION:

As the Bermuda grass is starting to green up, we are starting to water the roughs on a more consistent schedule. With that said, Bermuda is greening up, but it will be a while before it really starts growing.

Please fill your divots and repair your ball marks so that those golfers behind you can enjoy their game as well.

With the dormant roughs please be diligent in extinguishing your smoking material

BROOK

Greens: HOC .190" / Soil temperature 50⁰
Stimp Reading 8.2"
Fairways: HOC .500"
Tees, Collars, and approaches: HOC .500"
Green banks/ Street Fronts: HOC 1.5"
Rough: HOC 1.5"

CREEK

Greens: HOC .130" / Soil temperature 50⁰
Stimp Reading 9.5"
Fairways: HOC .500"
Tees, Collars, and approaches: HOC .500"
Green banks/ Street Fronts: HOC 1.5"
Rough: HOC 1.5"

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:

1. Trimming desert
2. Divots
3. Trimming trees
4. Top dressing greens
5. Trim trees
6. Spraying out rye grass

PROJECTS COMPLETED

1. Complete fertilizer program
2. Completed pesticide/Herbicide applications
3. Divots
4. Completed trimming Creek deserts
5. Top dress greens
6. Top dressed and seed driving range tee

STAFF:

Willow Brook Creek is fully staffed.

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

