

Willowbrook/Willowcreek Greens Committee Minutes
6 April 2023 Riverview Meeting Room

Harry Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM April 6, 2023.

Harry welcomed Linda Hardman from Willowbrook. Louise Sartorio moved to accept the minutes from the March meeting. Gail McKinney seconded the motion and the minutes as published were accepted.

Those present: Brian Duthu, Chuck Manning, Gloria Stump, Polly Fischette, Louise Sartorio, Harry Emerson, Bob Long, Gail McKinney, Mary Ann Rispoli, Linda Hardman, Sue Brooks, Jean Emerson, and Laura Horvatich.

Brian Duthu, Director of Golf, read his April report which is attached. Questions to Brian were addressed. The use of only straight sheets for March has mixed reviews but an added advantage to course maintenance as the workers have 9 holes they can work on without stopping for golfers. There are advantages for the pro shops since they have no lags during crossovers and easier to manage the flow. April is a continuation of straight sheets and May 1st will see crossovers resume. The plan is to have the first hour straight sheet followed by crossovers.

Another question concerned the rangers going against the flow of the golfers. Brian said it helps the rangers see what is going on without having to wait at each hole for the same group to hit their balls.

Chuck Manning, WB/WC Superintendent, read his April report which is attached. In answer to questions Chuck explained there was a hydronic leak on green #4 on WB. The machines have sensor lights when a leak happens but often, they do not turn on until a few passes are made. Chuck said he has a group of three working on pin cutting/placement and the committee noted that the plugs are much better. A question was asked if it was possible to replace the range mats on a 1/3 replacement rate for the next 3 years. Brian is considering the request. The mats have given the driving range a much-needed rest during this unusual winter/spring and high level of use. The curbs of the cart path on WC #11 have a steep slope, representing an accident hazard and hopefully it will be remediated. The wet conditions accelerated the erosion in some areas. Chuck was asked to take a look at curbs in general and report back to the committee possible solutions to the issue. The issue of brown spots on the putting greens seemingly appearing last week was discussed. The issue was due to a sudden change of temperature and water will be increased to the greens.

Gloria Stump, WB/WC Head Starter, reported that she may get another ranger.

Cristi Dorsch, WC 18 Hole Women's Golf Assn, asked about the small rocks on the practice green, they seem to come from the parking lot. There were also questions about smoking in the table areas and it was answered that smoking is not allowed within 25 feet of a door.

Louise Sartorio, WC 9 Hole President, reported they had their Spring luncheon last week and the committee thanked her for the work on the flowerbed. Louise said there will be a new President for the 2024 year. The flower bed on #1 Tee WC has been thoroughly pruned, cut back, fertilized and other wise prepared for the summer.

Polly Fischette, WC Men's Club Monitor, reported that they finally completed the Men's Club Championship. Greg Owens from WC is this years club champion.

Bob Long, WC Men's Representative, reported he enjoys knowing what is going on so participants should not hesitate to sign up for committees. He did state there was an issue communication the specifics of the

ranger program and golf issues in general. Brian encouraged everyone to read BP #17 for more details.

Mary Ann Rispoli, WB 18 Ladies Beautification, reported she is very happy Linda Harriman has joined us.

Linda Hardman, WB 18 Hole Ladies Club, asked if the Bermuda clumps coming up were normal and will mowing/maintenance smooth surfaces. Chuck

Old Business

Actions to address pressure on lottery tee time bookings.

Straight sheet experiment to go through April

Raise annual outside pass by \$500 to \$3250 with cart effective March 2023

Implement the 90% floor for small groups effective 1 March 2023

No outside tournaments Nov thru March 2024

Looking at other tweaks

These actions were discussed and confirmed by Brian as being accurate and current. Some of these have a direct impact on reducing the overall demand and will cause an easing on the lottery. The straight sheet, while it easier to manage, it really only fixes one's ability to read the golf calendar, but it makes people feel better and the March effect is still too early to tell, so they will run it in April.

Beautification: Committee Revised Parameters Proposal-Laura//MaryAnn/

February motion did not pass at GAC

No interest at Golf Advisory for standardization across courses

After discussion of the proposed WCWB program policies MaryAnn expressed concerns regarding the focus of the proposed policy changes as they applied to WB. Item is tabled until May Greens Committee after more study. MaryAnn and Laura will jointly visit WCWB on Friday 7 April and propose changes to our policy. (original proposal discussed attached)

New Ranger Program Initiatives

GAC approved modifications to the ranger program to attract more volunteers:

- For each 4 hour shift worked the ranger gets \$2 golf voucher
- Requirement if 4 – 4 hour shifts per month
- Gas reimbursement remains the same
- Has generated some interest already

Input for 25 April USGA annual visit is attached to this report and will be submitted to Brian if no modifications are requested by Friday 7 April.. Harry and Cristi will accompany the WCWB portion of the USGA visit. Our input was reviewed by Brian and Chuck with no objection. (input attached)

Input for water remediation project is requested to the Greens Committee by 1 May. Brian distributed an architect's rendition of the work scheduled for this summer in the area between 2 tee box and 8 green on WC. This is every informative and a good example of the level of detail that is necessary for this multi-year project. He asked all to inform our sub groups of this effort and that they will see the area drying out in preparation for this effort. (Diagram attached)

NEW BUSINESS: None.

There being no more formal business, Linda Hardman moved to adjourn which was seconded by Bob Long. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 AM.

WILLOWBROOK/WILLOWCREEK GREENS COMMITTEE AGENDA
April 6 @7:00 am, Riverview Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES from the March 2 Meeting

REPORTS/COMMENTS

1. BRIAN DUTHU - RCSC DIRECTOR OF GOLF
2. CHUCK MANNING - WB/WC SUPERINTENDENT
3. GLORIA STUMP - WB/WC HEAD STARTER
4. CRISTI DORSCH - WC 18 HOLE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSN
5. LOUISE SARTORIO - WC 9 HOLE PRESIDENT
6. POLLY FISCHETTE - WC MEN'S CLUB MONITER
7. - WC MEN'S CLUB
8. HARRY EMERSON - WC MEN'S CLUB
9. BOB LONG - WC MEN'S REP
WB MEN'S REP
10. GALE MCKINNEY - WC 9 LADIES /HOLE BEAUTIFICATION
11. - WB 18 HOLE LADIES
12. MARY ANN RISPOLI - WB 18 LADIES BEAUTIFICATION
13. LAURA HORVATICH - WC 18 HOLE BEAUTIFICATION

OLD BUSINESS

- Outputs of February Golf Advisory Committee
 - Actions to address small group booking:
 - Straight sheet test in March will go thru April
 - Raise annual outside pass by \$500 to \$3250 w/cart effective 1 March 2023
 - Implement the 90% floor for small groups
 - No outside tournaments Nov thru Mar 2024
 - Looking at other tweaks
 - Beautification: Committee Revised Parameters-Laura/Louise/MaryAnn/Gale
 - February motion did not pass
 - No interest at Golf Advisory for standardization across courses
- New Ranger Program Initiatives (Chris) (handout at meeting)
- Input for water remediation still in progress for the May meeting
- Input for 25 April USGA annual visit , (handout at meeting)

NEW BUSINESS

- Approve proposed beautification policy
- Issues for upcoming Golf Advisory Committee?

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Director of Golf Report

April 2023

Pro Shops

Preliminary rounds for March were 44,845, the total was 2,556 fewer than prior year. The average high temperature for March 2023 was 71.29, down from 78.84 for March 2022. Both March 2023 and March 2022 had two days impacted by rain, however total rainfall for March 2023 was 1.47 inches compared to .15 inches for March 2022. Preliminary revenue shows Green Fee/Cart Fee revenue exceeding budget by \$19,169 and missing prior year by \$32,037. Preliminary reports show merchandise exceeding budget by \$4,203 and Driving Range revenue missing budget by \$1,459.

The straight sheet trial for March is now complete. For the month we received 18,385 rounds requests, an increase of 9% over the prior year 16,866 rounds requests. The bumps (number golfers not receiving a tee time) for 2023 1,962 and 1,448 in 2022. Based on the preliminary data presented to Golf Advisory in March, the committee voted to continue the trial for the month of April.

The March Golf Advisory committee also approved proposed modifications to the Ranger Program. The changes proposed were made in an effort to increase the number of Rangers. For each 4 hour shift worked the ranger will receive a voucher to receive a round of golf at RCSC employee pricing of \$2.00. The only requirement is that each volunteer a minimum of four (four hour) shifts per month, there is no maximum. Rangers using their personal cart will still receive reimbursement based on the total number hours of worked and the current average price of fuel. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer ranger should contact Chris Linam at clinam@suncityaz.org or by phone 623-876-8419.

We have scheduled a night golf event for Saturday April 22nd at Lakes East. Check-in will begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be 6:00 p.m. and play will start at 7:00 p.m. The format will be a two-person scramble, and the entry fee will be \$35.00. Entry forms are available at all pro shops, and we ask that the entries be turned in at Lakes East/Lakes West pro shop. Green fees will be paid on the day of play, entry fees will be due April 8th. The field will be limited to 56 players.

Snack Shops

Snack shops will continue closing at 5:00 p.m. until business shows obvious signs of decline in April.

Golf Courses

The end of March spring fertilizer applications began throughout our courses. We no longer utilize an outside contractor for this application, however you may notice increased activity in the early mornings. This application provides food to the bermuda grass as it continues to emerge from dormancy. The fertilizer used does have a pungent odor, however one or two nightly waterings is usually sufficient to remove the odor.

GREEN COMMITTEE OF WILLOW BROOK/CREEK GOLF COURSE

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT April 6, 2023 CHUCK MANNING

COURSE CONDITION:

April is the month we apply our slow-release summer fertilizer. We will be applying the fertilizer a head of play in fwys and roughs during play.

With the warmer temperatures coming, we will be increasing the water to the roughs and perimeters, but the nighttime temperatures are still a little low for good growth of the Bermuda grass.

Please fill your divots and fix your ball marks on the greens

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

BROOK

Greens: HOC .190" / Soil temperature 40^o

Stimp Reading 9.8'

Fairways: HOC .550"

Tees, Collars, and approaches: HOC .550"

Green banks/ Street Fronts: HOC 1.5"

Rough: HOC 1.5"

CREEK

Greens: HOC .130" / Soil temperature 40^o

Stimp Reading 10.4'

Fairways: HOC .550"

Tees, Collars, and approaches: HOC .550"

Green banks/ Street Fronts: HOC 1.5"

Rough: HOC 1.5"

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:

1. Complete fertilizer program
2. Completed pesticide/Herbicide applications
3. Divots
4. Trimmed deserts on Brook, Creek is completed
5. Repair high and low plugs
6. Top-dressed greens
7. Weed eated trees and tee signs

PROJECTS COMPLETED

1. Divots
2. Creek deserts trimmed
3. Top-dressed greens

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

WILLOWCREEK/WILLOWBROOK INPUT TO 2023 USGA CONSULTING VISIT

The purpose of this document is to provide WCWB Greens Committee input requesting emphasis during this visit. Those areas and a short discussion are listed below:

Holes to visit: WC 10; tee, two sandtraps, fairway, surrounds, green; WB 18 same.

BUNKERS: The finding from last year found 'the condition of the bunkers is firmer than desired' and this certainly has found its way into a number of golfer comments and complaints. WC WB is nearing or beyond the 7-10 year recommended time frame for bunker refreshment. We request as in depth analysis as possible and a firm recommendation as to proceed with this action or not. Additionally, what is your recommendation regarding replacement of sand bunkers with grass bunkers?

SURROUNDS: We expanded the area behind the bunkers and fringes this year to improve chipping/pitching lies and conditions. That has received very positive reviews. However, in the last month the grass density has thinned out considerably since overseed. The expanded surrounds will continue into next year. The price to pay for this is to extend tee box carries or narrow fairways which we are discussing for next year. Additionally, the height of cut has been a constant source of discussion/friction in the greens committee meetings. Any recommendations to lengthen the winter grass thickness until the Bermuda kicks in? Seed density? Aerating? Top Dress?

PUTTING GREENS. Same emphasis as last year particularly the height and quality of cut. A subset of this area are the extensive amount of **Black Spots** that we have on the Par 3 greens particularly due to timely repair of ball marks. Now that the summer grass is coming back it is starting to dissipate. Are there any techniques to minimize this during overseed or routine maintenance?

OVERSEED/TIFTUFF EXPERIMENT. While your report was laudatory regarding the decision to skip one long course and short course each year, this committee does not share in this course of action. The playability of the long courses particularly is markedly below that of the courses that were overseeded, and plenty of lower handicap players to share in this opinion. Last year you mentioned two courses that were running Tiftuf experiments, do you have any feedback from those courses/USGA?

FAIRWAYS. Same emphasis as last year. Comments on overseed apply here as well. There seems to be an emphasis on skipping overseeding rather than on quality of course and playability of the fairways and greens. Is this the direction USGA is going as national golf numbers are declining?

HEIGHT OF CUT IN GENERAL: There is guidance to keep all cuts very short, and we get a number of comments/complaints requesting longer cuts across the board. Could you comment in your report in all areas, the USGA guidance on this issue?

WILLOWCREEK/WILLOWBROOK BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

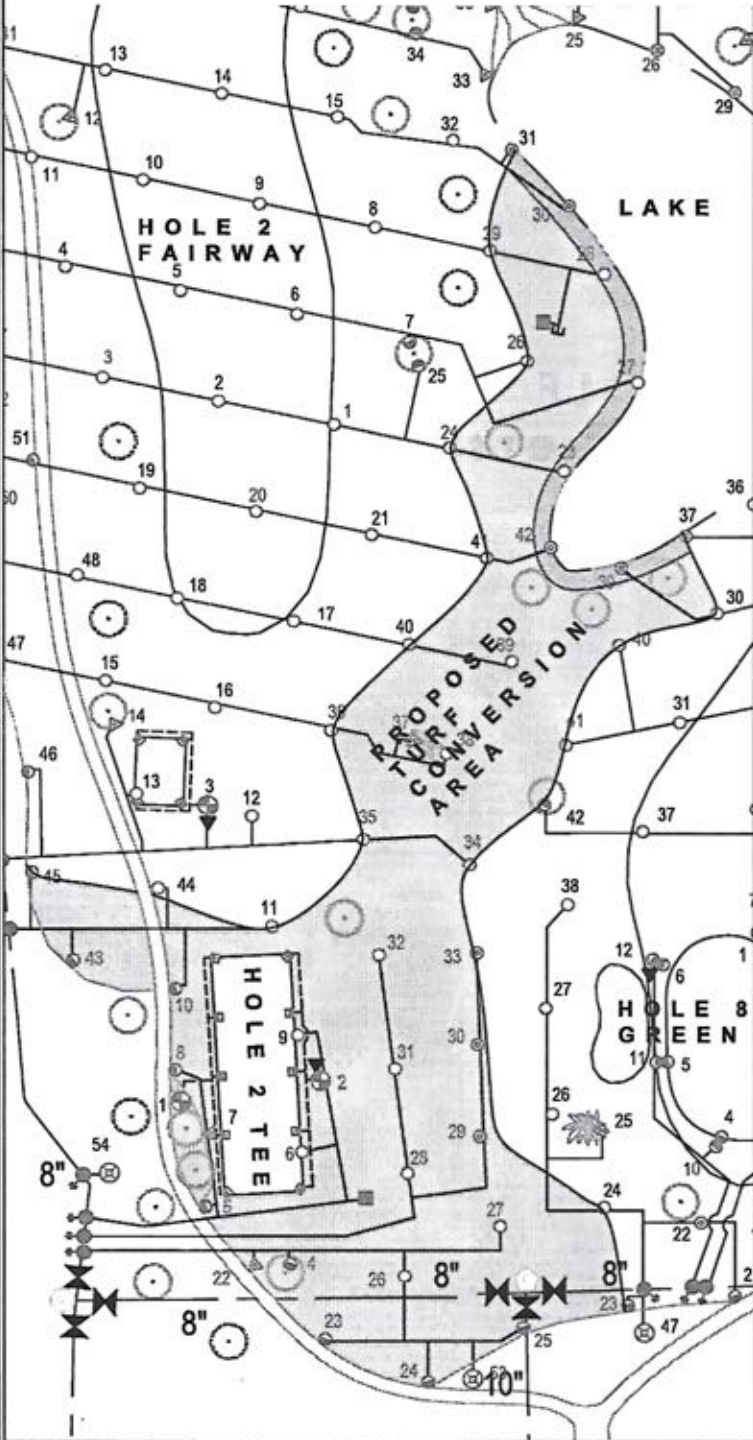
Background: The beautification representatives from each greens committee met and determined the following:

- No one looks at the markers on the course.
- People will not take a stroll through the area on the north side of Union Hills to look at engraved memorial markers.
- The cost of such a project would not be justified based on the above.
- Site preparation may take an excessive time frame to recover costs
- It is the opinion of many that these are golf courses and not cemeteries. While we like to honor our friends, people can remember them in another way.

Gail and Laura met at the course on Saturday, March 26th, to determine what is appropriate to place in the 3 areas by the pro and snack shops. They are the curbed areas holding large rocks and dirt. Recommendation is to install metal desert plants. Information at the Desert Steel web site, desertsteel.net. The cost for the product will be \$3,000 not including installation. Once this project is complete there will not be enough funds available to do an engraved stone project

- **Proposed Focus:** The primary focus of the WCWB beautification program will be on actual beautification measures that can be taken to improve the appearance and appeal of both golf courses. Some possible uses/projects:
 - Place decorative items in the three curbed areas around the pro and snack shops. (This project is in motion and we are moving forward.)
 - Assist with resources for existing flower gardens/displays. For example, the flower box off #1 tee box on WC may need additional supplies that are not provided by the golf course. The flower box will be maintained as long as we have someone willing to take care of it. At present we do have someone. If there comes a time there isn't a volunteer the usage of the box can have another focus.
 - Plant a tree in memory of departed loved one. This includes the tree but not markers. Location can be requested but WCWB Superintendent has location approval as well as the type of tree. Cost of tree and installation and \$50 will be borne by the requestor.
 - WCWB Beautification members will develop a process for the request and implementation
 - Benches with plaque's will not be purchased under this program
 - Existing markers that have become damaged will not be replaced
 - Markers that are displaced due to water remediation projects will not be replaced.
 - Markers older than 10 years will be removed and families will be attempted to be notified
- **Funds:** Funds are generated both by donation boxes for both courses, and the surcharge from requesting individuals.
 - The funds are maintained in a separate account managed by the Greens Committee beautification member
 - Funds can be used for any purpose that falls within the purview of this policy. Exceptions will be approved by the Greens Committee

WILLOWCREEK GOLF COURSE AOT Grant Turf Conversion Plan



PROJECT

Willowcreek Golf Course, Recreation Centers of Sun City (OWNER)
Project Area: 66,615 sq.ft.
Project Description: Turf conversion of project area, including adjustments to existing golf course irrigation and installation of new plant material and decomposed granite. Final limits will be defined through the process to provide the most efficient irrigation layout as possible.

DESIGN / BUILD TEAM

Golf Course Architect
Gary Brawley Golf Design (GBGD)
Contact: Gary Brawley
Ph: (602) 617-0038

Irrigation Consultant
Marvin Mills Irrigation Design (MMD)
Contact: Marvin Mills
Ph: (480) 797-1418

Contractor
SiteWorks Landscape (SW)
Contact: Jeff Meyer
Ph: (480) 820-1600

TURF CONVERSION PROCESS

1. GBGD or MMD to survey limit of work and provide field delineation.
2. OWNER to spray round-up to work area (2 - 3 applications).
3. MMD to stake irrigation changes.
4. SW to make adjustments to existing irrigation system.
5. SW to cut new 3" edge at turf limit and transition to existing grade.
6. GBGD to layout new "rip-rap" lake edge.
7. GBGD to stake new landscape plantings.
8. SW to install Madison Gold Rip-Rap along lake edge.
9. SW to install new drip irrigation.
10. SW to plant new plant material.
11. SW to finish prep and clean project area.
12. SW to install 2" layer of 1/4" minus Madison Gold D.G.
13. MMD to make adjustments to irrigation mapping and programming.
14. GBGD to provide documentation for the OWNER to submit as part of AOT Grant funding.

MATERIALS

<i>Species (5 gallon shrubs)</i>	Quantity
<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i> - Pink Fairy Duster	35 ea
<i>Celtis pallida</i> - Desert Hackberry	20 ea
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i> - 'Green Cloud' Sage	55 ea

<i>Species (5 gallon accents)</i>	Quantity
<i>Dasyliroon wheeleri</i> - Desert Spoon	25 ea
<i>Hesperaloe funifera</i> - Giant Hesperaloe	15 ea
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> - Regal Mist	50 ea

<i>Inert Ground Cover</i>	Quantity
1/4" minus Madison Gold Decomposed Granite	555 ton
Madison Gold Rip-Rap	88 ton

SCHEDULE

1. Notice to Proceed - (April 14, 2023)
2. Staking (June 1 - 3, 2023)
3. Turf Eradication (June - July 15, 2023)
4. Landscape (July 17 - August 4, 2023)

