

**Willowbrook/Willowcreek Greens Committee Minutes  
4 May 2023 Riverview Meeting Room**

Harry Emerson opened the meeting at 7:00 at Riverview. Mary Ann Rispoli moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting. One mistake of inserting 'rotation' was noted. The motion was seconded by Cristi Dorsch and the motion passed with the amendment.

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

**Reports:**

**Brian Duthu, RCSC Director of Golf**, read his April report which is attached. Brian was asked about the funding requests submitted from the Greens Committee about lighting around the pro shop and yellow tees on Willowbrook. Brian said the discussion and decision to fund would occur this summer and we should know in October.

\$105, 000.00 has been set aside for two acres of turf reduction on Willowcreek, Riverview and South. The front 9 on Lakes West will be tif tuff. North is the first to be converted this year. Bids for turf reduction have been from \$12,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per acre. This will be part of the PIF plan for 2025.

**Chuck Manning, WB/WC Superintendent**, read his April report. Chuck answered a question about turf reduction to say they will be spraying the area between #2 and #8 on Willowcreek in preparation for turf reduction. Chuck is also looking at a stabilizer product to put down by cart paths on WC #11 and #14 ('Louise Ledges') to stabilize the soil that tends to wash away during heavy rains.

**Gloria Stump, WB/WC Head Starter**, reported that an additional ranger would start soon. More rangers are needed. Gloria also said the outside players are very complimentary about Willowcreek.

**Cristi Dorsch, WC 18 Hole Women's Golf Assn**, said she did not have anything to report, no complaints!

**Polly Fischette, WC Men's Club Monitor**, reported that all is good. There is the constant problem of no shows, and some are canceling online which cancels the entire group at that tee time. Polly would like to know the vacation schedule of the members to make assignments easier.

**Linda Hardman, WB 18 Hole Ladies**, reported that there are fewer players with the migration North. Linda also reported that there are places on the course with severe thin grass.

**Mary Ann Rispoli, WB 18 Hole Ladies Beautification**, had nothing to report.

**Laura Horvatic, WC 18 Hole Beautification** reported that the beautification members will discuss later what to put where.

**Old Business**

Beautification: the revised focus is on enhancements for the course. The plan is to put outdoor art in the sections by the pro shop for both courses. Pieces will be secured by concrete footers. Barriers

were not deemed necessary. Individuals can take any existing memorial marker they wish to keep. The committee will not be placing memorial markers in the future. As the existing markers break, become very worn, or in a water remediation area they will be removed. Existing benches will be replaced as they wear but not with markers. All board members concurred with this approach. Harry will apply these changes to the proposed policy and send to everyone.

**April Golf Advisory Outputs.** The straight sheet test that was conducted in March and April will be the predominant format Nov-April. Actions to address pressure on high demand time tee times:

- Straight sheet test in March will go thru April. Will be predominant format Nov-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 M-F Nov thru Mar 2024
- Small groups required to include executive courses into their rotation
- Small groups will stagger times closer to the edges of prime times

### **New Business:**

Results from USGA site visit:

**Sand traps:** USGA uses a tool is used in the sand traps to look for compaction and the presence of foreign matter. WCWB sand is not contaminated, so the need for 'refresh' is not necessary the next budget year. The sand is on the sides of the traps but not on the bottoms. One help would be how golfers are raking. The sand trap on WB #18 should be used for a model. Rakes should be placed 3 feet into bunker perpendicular. If you hit hard pan in a bunker send a note to Chuck or Gloria.

**Surrounds:** The conclusion is to keep the surrounds around the green bunkers. There is a handout on WCWB Greens Committee Overseed Recommendations that is attached.

**Barriers:** The recommendation is to install 'rope and stake' barriers around the high traffic areas at the tee boxes and green shoulders. Brian will look at the type of barrier although he is concerned of safety issues regarding the rope and stake method. Harry pointed out that South and North do have this type present. Brian will look at options. Same for painting stripes short of the greens to encourage players not to drive too close to greens.

**Height of Cut:** The USGA actually prefers a lower HOC to a higher one that many of us have recommended based on player complaints. Not the news we were looking for.

**Black spots on greens:** Really no recommendation on this one. Requested Chuck look at any measures during overseeds that can extend the life of the greens until the Bermuda kicks in.

The next meeting will be in November 2023.

There being no further business Christi Dorsch moved for adjournment, the motion was seconded by Bob Long. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:59.

Jean Emerson

WILLOWBROOK/WILLOWCREEK GREENS COMMITTEE AGENDA  
May 4 @7:00 am, Riverview Meeting Room

**CALL TO ORDER**

**CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES from the 6 April 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 REP
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. LINDA HARDMAN - WB 18 HOLE LADIES
12. MARY ANN RISPOLI - WB 18 LADIES BEAUTIFICATION
13. LAURA HORVATICH - WC 18 HOLE BEAUTIFICATION

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Beautification: Discuss any revisions to proposed guidelines(handout last month)-Laura/MaryAnn/Gale
  - Results of Laura/MaryAnn April site visit
  - Modifications required?
  - Approval/disapproval
  
- Outputs of April Golf Advisory Committee
  - Actions to address pressure on high demand time tee times:
    - Straight sheet test in March will go thru April. Will be predominant format Nov-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 *M-FRI*
    - Small groups required to include executive courses into their rottion
    - Small groups will stagger times closer to the edges of prime times

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Results from USGA site visit-Cristi/Harry
  - Sand trap discussion
  - Surrounds comment
  - Barrier recommendations
  - Black spots on greens issue
  - Height of Cut recommendations
  
- Issues for upcoming Golf Advisory Committee?
- Recommendations to Chuck for overseed next year (separate handout)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

## Director of Golf Report

May 2023

### Pro Shops

Preliminary rounds for April were 38,107 the total was 714 greater than prior year. For the first time this year weather did not negatively impact rounds, in fact golfers seemed to enjoy the above average temperatures throughout most of ~~May~~ the average temperature for 2023 was 87 compared to 83.4 in 2022. Preliminary revenue shows Green Fee/Cart Fee revenue exceeding budget by \$67,552 and prior year by \$19,637. Preliminary reports show merchandise exceeding budget by \$1,566 and Driving Range revenue exceeding budget by \$1,600.

We held our Moonlight Madness event on April 22, despite the overall lack of Moonlight there was plenty of Madness. Dan and Katie Heltsley took first place in A Flight, Jody Ault and Joan Hinkey took first in B Flight, Ron and Michele Feery took C Flight and Randy and Maureen Edwards took first in the Callaway Flight. We look forward to our next event.

### Snack Shops

Snacks shops are now consistently closing at 3:00 PM and will shift to 1:00 PM closings as demand lessens.

### Golf Courses

Fairway verticutting began April 20 on the North Golf Course and will continue through May 9 on the Willowcreek Golf Course. The full schedule can be found on the RCSC website at [www.suncityaz.org](http://www.suncityaz.org) under the Course Maintenance tab under Golf. Verticutting helps to thin out the winter rye grass by using blades the cut perpendicular to the soil. Thinning out the canopy allows more sunlight to reach the Bermuda grass coming out of dormancy as well as increased oxygen and moisture to reach the root zones more easily.

Following fairway verticutting, fairway aerification will begin May 15 at the North Golf Course and continue through June 13 on the Willowbrook Golf Course. Aerification of fairways helps to relieve the compaction resulting in play and further allows increased oxygen and moisture to reach the root zones of the fairways. The last big agronomic event, Greens Aerification, begins June 15 on the North Golf Course and continues through July 21 at the Willowcreek Golf Course.

**GREEN COMMITTEE OF WILLOW BROOK/CREEK GOLF  
COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENT REPORT May 4, 2023  
CHUCK MANNING**

**COURSE CONDITION:**

We are verticutting Creek fairways May 8 and 9. We will be aerifying Creek fwys June 8 and 9 and Brook fwys June 12 and 13.

The temperatures have reached the time of transition, the rye grass is fading out and the Bermuda grass is coming back. We are working on wet spots as well as dry spot in fwys and roughs. If you come to a hole with water on, please bear with us and it will shut down soon. This us checking stations or giving supplemental water dry areas on the course.

Please encourage all those you see to repair ball marks on greens and fill their divots on the tees and fairways,

**BROOK**

**Greens:** HOC .190" / Soil temperature 58<sup>0</sup>

**Stimp Reading** 8.5'

**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 58<sup>0</sup>

**Stimp Reading** 9.0'

**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. USGA Visit
4. Mowing roughs
5. Top dress greens
6. Water stressed areas
7. Weed eat
8. Trim olive skits
9. Work sand in bunkers
10. Divots

**PROJECTS COMPLETED**

1. Divots
2. Deserts are completed
3. Top-dressed greens

**STAFF:**

Willow Brook Creek is 1 staff member short.

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](mailto:cmanning@suncityaz.org)

## WCWB GREENS COMMITTEE OVERSEED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Focus on the expanded surrounds as was done last year. More seed is always better. Like to look at ways to keep the surrounds fuller longer.
2. Not all the carries need to be brought back to 'normal'. Holes that do are: all the par 5s, 6,14, 9. Rest are ok.
3. Install the 'stick and rope' barricade/guides on the tee boxes and greens as recommended by the USGA visit.
4. Sand traps-would like to start out with all traps looking like WB 18 left side green trap as during USGA visit.
5. Divot mix barrels need to be fully stocked on opening day. (can we move our supply point to under the overhead cover on the wall/)
6. WB tee boxes. Same comment as #1-is there anything that can be done to extend their life until transition?
7. WB-any special measures necessary after skipping a year of overseed.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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:
  - *Other products per WB*
  - 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/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?