

WILLOWCREEK WOMEN'S 18-HOLE GOLF ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 20, 2023

Call to Order

President Sue Brooks called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., at Talisman Hall.

Attending

Carol Arend	Kathy Cea	Thorine Peterson	Arlene Balazic
Marcia Grenier	Cristi Dorsch	Mary Engert	Lisa Braegelmann
Jean Emerson	Kathy Hutchinson	Nancy Masters	Deb Buffington
Kryssy Brown	Susan Petersen	Nancy Krause	Sue Brooks
Tricia Affleck	Barb Halpin		

Approval of Minutes

Susan Petersen made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2023 Board Meeting. Kathy Cea seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Announcements

Sue Brooks extended thanks to Marcia Grenier and Mary Engert for coordinating another great tournament, as well as congratulations to Mary Engert, Marcia Grenier, Nancy Gray and Renee Hawkins for representing Willowcreek in the Champion of Champions.

Treasurer and Membership Report

Barb Halpin presented the Treasurer's report. The ledger balance as of 3/16/2023, was \$6,038.35. The 2023 budget is \$1,131.17. The 2022 unpaid balance is \$8.07. Forward liabilities are \$1,874.28 and the unbudgeted balance is \$3,024.83.

Barb also reported that we have 121 regular members and 4 social members.

COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

SCWGA/Umbrella

Sue Brooks relayed information from Karen Madison about the March Better Ball tournament. The tee times were from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., which allowed for 188 players; 4 players cancelled the day of the tournament but anyone who wanted to

play was able to play. After first publishing the tee times, there were several changes which caused multiple iterations of flights and tee time changes. Karen recommended that the Umbrella committee consider some type of consequence for those who cancel within 5 days of the tournament. Karen also mentioned there was confusion about the Closest-to-the-Pin in flight #9, noting that allowing 2 shots for hard-to-reach holes is quite common in Washington state but it did not work well at the Better Ball tournament here. All raffles were paid that day and the cert sheets went to all presidents and RCSC the Monday after the tournament.

Sue Brooks noted that the Umbrella committee received a report from Linda Metzger and Mary Engert regarding team play for 2023: because of all the changes this year and the hours of training for captains and players, Linda and Mary recommend continuing to play team play the same way for next year. Mary reported at today's meeting that there are still problems regarding the choice of tees, i.e. yellow or combo, and it has not been decided what, if any, changes will be made. The index range will remain as is and payout will continue with both net and gross. There will be a rule that lift, clean and place will be in effect for team play on days when players are restricted to using the cart path only.

Sue reported that Rosie Oblinger has agreed to take responsibility for the computer programming for team play. There were no reports from Brian Duthu or Chris Linum.

AGA/Handicap/Hole-in-One

Polly Fischette reported that two players had a hole-in-one so far this year but only one of those players had paid into the fund. Mary Engert and Gail Dunda won our Medalion tournament and will play in the state Medalion.

CAGD

Deb Buffington reported that money for February was finally received and the next blind draw is March 21, 2023.

Greens Committee/Golf Advisory

Cristi Dorsch reported that there are still problems with securing tee times through the lottery program so the straight sheet will continue through April, to see if that will help. There is a consideration underway that groups of 30 can only play on weekends as they are usually not Sun City residents; other options are also under consideration.

The USGA will review all of our courses on April 25, 2023 and some committee members will be allowed to participate in the review. Cristi said that she will try to draw attention to the issues with our sand traps.

The price of nonresident annual golf passes will increase by \$500.00. Thorine Peterson asked if nonresident pass holders could be barred from the website and Kryssy Brown noted that at the Exchange meeting, she was told that persons with outside passes are considered residents for golf purposes with access to the website.

Thorine Peterson asked if a starter could be assigned to the first and tenth holes to prevent non-payers from playing. Lisa Braegelmann asked if nonresident players could be required to prepay and Cristi said that is already a requirement.

Cristi noted that all courses are trying to recruit more rangers by offering a \$2 round of golf for every 4-hour shift completed and a requirement of a minimum of four 4-hour shifts per month. Rangers are given 2 days of training. There was a consensus in today's meeting that upper management needs to be more supportive of the rangers who try to enforce course rules.

Beautification

Laura Horvatich reported that all courses were represented at a meeting regarding memorial markers on the courses and were seeking a consistent approach about those markers. It was determined that the Beautification funds should be for "beautification" purposes and not for memorial purposes. Consequently, the memorial marker program will be sunset. Existing damaged markers will be removed; those in good condition can remain or be removed by their sponsor(s).

Willowcreek has more money in its fund than Willowbrook so Laura is hopeful to find a common area between those two courses to beautify. Thorine Peterson suggested a memorial plaque in our bathroom area but Laura noted that would still be considered "memorial" and not "beautification." Beautification ideas under consideration per Laura are metal plant and/or golf sculptures.

Historian

Thorine Peterson agreed to be the new Historian and will begin as soon as she has her equipment in order.

Member Guest

Jean Emerson reported that only 100 players had registered to date, compared with 124 participants last year. Jean noted that there were guests who want to play and Jean is trying to find members to pair with those guests. Decorating for the luncheon at Bell Recreation Center cannot be done until the morning of the event and Jean has found volunteers to do the decorating.

Pairings

Kathy Hutchinson stressed the importance of legible handwriting on the sign-up sheet and that non-member players must be marked as “guest” on the sheet.

There was a lengthy discussion about finding ways to mix up the groupings so that members have the opportunity to play with different people. One option considered was to do a monthly mix up and Kathy Hutchinson indicated that could easily be done although players would not get a specific choice of tee times. A list was created of volunteers at the meeting, who agreed to act as Big Sisters and play with newer members. That list was given to Kathy Hutchinson.

Ringers and Birdies

There was nothing new to report.

Rules

Carol Arend reported that no issues arose in the last tournament. Arlene Balazic noted that there is a local rule that play from beautification areas defined by large rocks is prohibited and relief must be taken without penalty, even when the ball is resting in or under a bush in the large rock area. It was also noted that there may be a free drop around the bathroom.

Team Play

Mary Engert reported that Willowcreek won first place for gross.

Mary noted that Willowcreek will be responsible for the Umbrella programs next year. Mary will have the calendar posted to the website and noted that the schedule next year will be tight due to the early Easter holiday.

Tournaments

Marcia Grenier responded to a question about how ties were resolved in the last tournament, stating that it was based on the last nine holes of the final game. Marcia also noted an improvement in the percentage of people reading the emails with tournament information; there was an 87% read rate.

Marcia is considering adding day money next year for the President’s Cup and Club Championship, wherein an extra \$1.00 sweep would be paid each week with a payout by flight. This would not include the Eclectic event. If done, it would not be an optional payment and even nontournament players would have to be included. It may not be feasible for the President’s Club which is a partner event. Marcia will continue to evaluate the options.

Welcoming Committee

Kathy Cea reported on recent members and two new members. Kathy also reviewed how the Welcoming committee makes every effort to play the first few games with new members and then encourages them to sign up with other members for future rounds.

Old Business

Arlene Balazic obtained permission for plexiglass hangers in our bathroom stalls. Arlene purchased some and will install them with the information flyers.

Sue Brooks noted that Nancy Masters is working with Janet Buchholz to establish a Marketplace on our website. Postings would be limited to golf items with a two-week time limit. All were in favor of this approach. An email will be sent to the membership once the Marketplace is ready to use.

New Business

Sue Brooks noted that the cost of birdie pins has increased from \$1.40 to \$2.99 per pin. More birdies are being recorded since the yellow tees were established. It was agreed that this program should continue and there was a suggestion (but no motion) to increase the annual charge by another \$1.00, for those wanting to participate in this program. Sue said she would include a request in her next general email, asking members to return any pins they do not want.

Motion to Adjourn

Polly Fischette made a motion to adjourn at 10:20 a.m., which was seconded by Susan Petersen. Motion carried.

Tricia Affleck
Secretary