

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

Golf Advisory Committee

May 19, 2022

Chair Steve Collins called the meeting to order at 8:30am in the Lakeview Social Hall #2.

Present: Chair Steve Collins; Co-Chair Kat Fimmel; Committee Members Rich Lybolt; Johnny Pearson (SCMGA President); Mary Ann Rispoli (Willowbrook); Harry Emerson (Willowcreek); Karen Scheuerman (South); Dennis Meeter (Quail);

RCSC Staff: General Manager Bill Cook; Director of Golf Brian Duthu; Pro Shop Manager Chris Linam

Prior Meeting Summary: The Meeting Summary for April 21, 2022, was approved with a correction to change the date of the next SCMGA tournament from June 6th to June 10th & 11th .

Brian Duthu, Director of Golf Report:

Pro Shops

Total revenue exceeded total budget by 25.2% and prior year by 3.5%. Merchandise sales missed budget slightly, with the other major categories all exceeding budget. For the first time this year we saw a reduction in rounds played, falling behind prior year by 710 rounds.

Through April, Year to date revenue is \$734,576 ahead of budget and \$419,617 ahead of prior year. Through April total rounds are 5,788 ahead of prior year, annual surcharge, staff and public daily fee play are the only categories to decrease from prior year. Annual no fee, cardholder and guest rounds were the biggest gainers to prior year, combining to be 6,480 rounds ahead of prior year.

Snack Shops

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

Golf Courses

Fairway aerification will began May 16 at Willowcreek Golf Course and continue through June 21 at the South 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 23 on Willowbrook Golf Course and continues through August 3 at the South course.

On May 2 RCSC conducted the annual USGA visit with Brian Whitlark from the USGA Green Section. Mr. Whitlark is a professional soil scientist and holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science. During the visit we spent time at South, North, Lakes West, Riverview, Willowcreek and Willowbrook. Highlights of the visit were excellent overall health of the putting greens on all courses. Some courses have room to improve quality of cut, firmness of green surrounds with the current ability to bring 5 carts as a contributing factor. High praise for the turf facility under construction at Lakes West/Lakes East. A good deal of time spent in bunkers and much discussion of firmness, high praise of the elimination for overseeding at the South and Lakes East courses last year and discussion of grasses that would enable a broadening of this practice and a discussion of equipment and recommended

replacement. Superintendents are working with their respective equipment mechanics to improve the quality of cut. The courses with firm bunkers were already being considered for sand replacement based on age of sand, however following Brian's recommendations we have sent samples of current sand out for testing to determine the extent of dust contamination. We still feel that the compaction issues can be addressed in the summer months and are not ready to recommend a return to the 3-cart rule. The full report is now available on the RCSC website, under Golf.

Questions for Director of Golf and Grounds:

- A committee member asked how did golf make more money over the last year with rounds being down 710? The response was because of increase in green fees per round from last year.
- Is the compaction issue at the golf courses enough to warrant a change to the number of carts allowed? There will be no change to number of carts allowed at this time was the response.
- The report from Brian Whitlark, USGA Agronomists, Green Section, West Region had high praise on the transition, water usage at the courses and Bermuda grass improvement especially at South.
- If we go to Tif tuff grass, how long would a course be down and what would the cost be? Brian responded that the down time would be from April to overseed time and the cost was originally estimated at \$5,000 per acre with each course having approximately 13 acres of fairways. However, if priced today, it would be closer to \$10,000 per acre.
- What happened to the scalped fairways at Willowcreek? The response was equipment failure with an email sent out to the committee after the meeting with more details.

Chris Linam, Pro Shop Manager Report:

Pro Shops

Pro Shop Merchandise missed budget slightly, but golf is doing great in all other categories so a big thanks for all supporting RCSC.

With the hot temperatures returning here are a couple of reminders, June 1 we will start our twilight at 10:45am with the days getting longer and our pro shops will be closing at 5:00pm. Don't forget our after 5 golf passes, if you are a Sure Charge Pass holder it is \$12.00 and for our daily fee residents it is \$44.00 for a 30-day pass. You can get the After 5 card at any of our pro shops.

With Verticutting finished and now Aerification underway (See Below) we would like to remind everyone that our single courses (South, North, Riverview & Quail Run) pro shops/snack shops will be closing on the following days so be sure to plan your tee times & breakfast accordingly.

Fairways Aerification

Monday-Tuesday May 16-17 Willowcreek

Thursday-Friday May 19-20 Willowbrook

Monday-Tuesday May 23-24 Lakes West

Thursday-Friday May 26-27 Lakes East

Thursday-Friday June 2-3 Riverview

Monday-Tuesday June 6-7 North

Thursday June 9 Quail Run

Monday-Tuesday June 20-21 South

The single course Pro Shops will be open on these days from 6:00am-9:00am if you need to call in for tee times or make changes to existing times.

Questions for Pro Shop Manager:

- After hour course play seems to be a problem. A ranger worked from 5:00pm to 7:00pm one night and encountered several golfers playing. After asking for their after-hours card, 3 of the individuals complied and 2 said they left their card at home. The Ranger asked the two to leave the course and they did. Was this the best way to handle the situation?
We currently do not have a procedure in place, but one possible solution was to write down the persons Rec Card number and verify the next day if player was annual member, if not the member would be issued a ticket for playing without paying.

SCMGA Report: Johnny Pearson, President reported the next tournament is scheduled for June 10th & 11th 2022.

SCWGA Report:

- **Ladies 9-hole:** No Report
- **Ladies 18-hole:** No Report

Old Business: Can a decision be made about the fairways of courses next to the driving ranges so they can be protected? This will need to be a budget item and if necessary be addressed that way.

What is being done about no shows and will there be punitive action set up to handle this? For SCMGA play on Wednesday there is about an 11% no show. A list will be prepared of the no shows and prominently displayed according to SCMGA president Pearson. For other days of play in some cases a 20% no show rate occurs, and Mr. Duthu and staff are working on various solutions. One of which is to get people to cancel their tee time when not playing.

For Tuesday and Wednesday play what can be done to prevent no participant's getting tee times in the middle of the days group? Men's Club monitors and Ladies' Clubs should strive to see that for assigned tee times, times are booked consecutively, leaving no large gaps that will need to be sold.

New Business: Mr. Duthu asked for the committee's consensus on the following proposed change to Board Policy 17.

"No Golf tournament may be scheduled on Tuesdays (Ladies' Day) or Wednesdays (Men's Day), without the consent of the SCWGA or SCMGA clubs respectively. Golf tournaments on other days will be scheduled to provide at least one regulation golf course open to regular play both north and south of Grand Avenue. Non-resident tournament groups are prevented from booking more than two events per month and consecutive weeks for the same day of the week. Non-residents tournament play is also prevented from booking during the overseed process, or any other time four or more courses are closed or have golf cart restrictions. Non-resident golf events will be limited to booking 10 months in advance of requested play date."

The Golf Advisory Committee agreed with the proposed change.

Guest Comments: None

Course Reports:

North No Report

South Great shape. Had opportunity to play Luke AFG Falcon Dunes and would much rather play South.

Quail Great shape, Best course in Sun City.

Lakes West No Report

Lakes East No Report

Riverview No Report

Willowcreek Good shape, fairways and greens are coming back. Scalping of course is not good comments reflected in previous questions to Mr. Duthu.

Willowbrook Great condition.

Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:37am.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2022, at 8:30am – Lakeview Center Social Hall #2

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Lybolt, Secretary