

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

Golf Advisory Committee

April 11, 2024

Co-Chair Preston Kise called the meeting to order at 8:30am in the Lakeview Social Hall #2.

Present: Co-Chair Preston Kise; Committee Members Johnny Pearson (SCMGA President); Jody Ault (North); Harry Emerson (Willowcreek); Diane Hull (Lakes West); Mike Lust (South); Cal Frank (Riverview); Betty Lust (Lakes East); Linda Hardman (Willowbrook); John Bressett (Willowbrook); Arlene Balazic (SCWGA-18); Bill Talbert (Lakes East); Bob Brandolini (Lakes West); Shirley Fennell (South); Christi Dorsch (Willowcreek); Sue Madden (Quail);

RCSC Staff: Golf Sr. Leader Brian Duthu; Golf Pro Shop Manager Chris Linam;

Guests: RCSC Board Directors Tom Foster, Chris Nettesheim and Cardholders Bob Mousaw, Dave Richmond, Jay Sprague, Michael Wermers, Maxine Brandolini, Karen Matusz, Mike Matusz, Loretta Kvarnberg, Lynn Lybolt

Review/Amend Prior Meeting Summary: The Summary from March 21, 2024 was updated to reflect two changes: Under SCMGA report Lakes West-Brian Sullivan and Lakes East-Jim Underwood were added and the sentence “Willowbrook and Lakes East to be approached on coming under the SCWGA umbrella” was moved to New Business. The Summary was accepted as amended.

Brian Duthu, Director of Golf Report:

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 5:00pm. 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 members of the Green Committees, 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.

Itinerary for USGA Visit May 16, 2024

South	7:30 to 8:30 am	Meet at Clubhouse
Quail Run	8:45 to 9:45 am	Meet at Clubhouse
North	10:00 to 11:15 am	Meet at Clubhouse
Lunch	11:30 to 12:30 pm	Talisman Hall (Board and Staff)
Lakes West/Lakes East	12:30 – 1:30 pm	Meet at Clubhouse
Riverview	1:45 – 2:45 pm	Meet at Clubhouse
Willowcreek/Willowbrook	3:00 – 4:00 pm	Meet at Clubhouse

Questions/Comments for Golf Sr. Leader Brian Duthu:

- It was noted that the 2024 Overseed Schedule in the March Director of Golf report was changed to North closed September 23 and opens October 11 and South closed October 14 and opens November 1.
- The annual USGA Visit is scheduled for May 16 and Brian asked that he receive any questions pertaining to the visit before May 9.
- There were several questions about the current bump rate and no-show policy. The bump rate has improved and is trending to continue in that direction. Brian is working with the computer programmers to track no shows and generate a report. Currently the system is using a 2-week window. No shows are tracked by RCSC Rec Card #. If that person is a no show one week and the

next week is included in a lottery group it will mean a penalty for the whole group and result in a lower-level request. You must cancel within a minimum of 2 hours of your tee time or be considered a no show.

- Some frustration noted that certs/winnings have not been posted for the past month. Brian stated that a new person has been hired and they are working on getting caught up.

Chris Linam, Pro Shop Manager Report:

Rangers reporting high number of players not following the 90° Rule and parking incorrectly around greens.

Preserving the Turf: Why the 90 Degree Rule Matters!!

The 90 Degree Rule in golf pertains to driving golf carts on the course while attempting to minimize the impact on the fairway & rough grasses when approaching the golf ball. It is a permanent feature at all our RCSC golf courses. The 90 Degree Rule plays a key role in conserving the turf and maintaining the course's playability and appeal. By limiting unnecessary travel on the fairways & rough and guaranteeing carts take direct routes to the ball after arriving at it via the cart path, the rule serves to reduce soil compaction and minimize damage to the grass. Perpetual cart traffic on fairways & rough has resulted in damage to the grass and soil compaction.

A golfer recently asked if golf carts could damage the dormant Bermuda grass. The answer is a resounding yes! In fact, Bermuda grass is at the greatest risk of damage during the late fall, winter and spring months when it is not growing much if at all.

With Fairway Verticutting starting next week 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.

Fairway Verticutting

Thu-Fri	April 18, 19	Willowbrook
Mon-Tue	April 22, 23	Willowcreek
Thu-Fri	April 25, 26	Riverview
Mon-Tue	April 29, 30	Lakes West
Thu	May 2	Quail Run
Mon-Tue	May 6, 7	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/Comments for Pro Shop Manager Chris Linam:

- Positive comments about new signage on the golf courses directing where to go/not go. However, some thought that many golfers will still do whatever they want regardless of increased directions. Someone was also aware of frustrations about signs or other restrictions being taken out on rental carts and new signs. Recently some children were observed being allowed to play on the golf

course and in the bunker directly in front of a resident’s home. The resident was asked not to allow this and refused. Chris encouraged anybody witnessing damage to the golf course to file an Incident Report. Also to encourage your friends to adhere to the 90-degree rule, except at South where golfers are asked to drive in the fairway currently so the Bermuda rough can recover.

- A question was asked if it would help to restrict carts to cart path only on Par 3’s? However, that would be present problems for handicap golfers and the executive courses. Chris suggested that course superintendents use their discretion and mark off areas that need to be avoided due to damage.

SCMGA Report: SCMGA President Johnny Pearson reported that the 2024 Two Man Stableford Tournament will be on June 7 and 8 at North and Riverview. More information and applications are available on their website.

SCWGA Report:

Ladies 18-Hole: President Arlene Balazic reported that they are wrapping up their spring events. The Champion’s tournament was delayed due to weather but was completed on April 8. The winner was Joan Hinkey (North) who shot a 71 on the final day to bump ahead of a close field; 2nd place Pam Bonsack (North); 3rd place Colleen Davis (South); tie for 4th Donna Peterson (South) & Pat Bilquist (Lakes West). Women’s Octogenarian finishes on April 12 at Quail Run. Tuesday Women’s league tee sheets are getting smaller as snowbirds are leaving for the summer.

Ladies 9-Hole: No Report

Old Business:

Ranking	Project	Funding Type (Operating, Capital, PIF)	Frequency
1	Annual increase to staff pay to match cost of living	Operating	Annually
2	Widen cart paths around greens/tees (possibly including desertscape)	Capital	Annually Until Complete
3	Support signage showing where golf carts can drive	Operating	Initial Purchase
5	Sand trap refresh	Capital	Every 8 Years
4	Maintain overseed current footprint of surrounds	Operating	Annually
6	Turf density around bunkers increased	Operating	Annually
7	Reduce Staff Turnover to 10% Annually - targeted pay increases to match SCW/Westbrook Village	Operating	Ongoing
8	Maintain staffing closer to USGA recommendations (1 Maintenance Employee per hole)	Operating	Ongoing
9	Paid ranger program	Operating	Ongoing
10	Cover Extended Patio (Lakes West)	Capital	One Time
11	Pause fee increases until 2024 increases can be measured	Operating	Annually
12	Choose desert plants that are less bushy and low maintenance	Capital or PIF	Annually Until Complete
13	Increase green fees annually based on cost of living	Operating	Annually

14	Golf carts for rangers (6 - 8 Carts)	Capital	Initial Purchase
15	Annual golfer satisfaction survey	Operating	Annually
16	Contract bi-annual trimming of desert scapes	Operating	Bi-Annual
17	Outdoor tables (Quail Run)	Capital	Initial Purchase
18	Replace Pavilion Audio (Quail Run)	Capital/ Operating	Initial Purchase
19	Additional Chairs (Quail Run)	Capital	Initial Purchase
20	Clubhouse Sound System (Quail Run)	Capital/ Operating	Initial Purchase

Co-Chair Kise distributed the compiled data collected from the Golf Advisory Committee and the Greens Committee members ranking proposed budget items in order of importance. He explained that several people submitted more than 1 ranking report, but he only used 1 report per person/group following the directions outlined.

Comments included: It is difficult to compare items that have different funding streams (Capital vs Operating); feedback from a ranger meeting was that they did not want to get paid as it would change how they viewed their job; has retention of workers improved since pay increase? Although only 3 months of data so far, Brian & Chris & Greens Committees reported retention has stabilized and that there are no current open ground staff positions, which is a positive change.

New Business:

I move to amend Board Policy 17, Green Committee Section, paragraph 4 to read “In addition to each selected Green Committee member having a vote on the Golf Advisory Committee, the President and Vice President of the Sun City Men’s Golf Association (SCMGA), the President of the Sun City Women’s Golf Association (SCWGA), and the President of the Sun City Women’s Nine Hole Association will also have a vote.” This will gender balance the Golf Advisory Committee so there are 10 men and 10 women on the committee.

After discussion and comments both pro & con including that it should be supported as a matter of equality and that it isn’t necessary, Jody Ault made a motion, to “Add another male member under SCMGA to Golf Advisory Committee,” 2nd by Bill Talbert. The vote was taken, and the motion passed with 14 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstained.

Golf Cart Committee: A committee of three Golf Advisory Committee Members (John Bressett, Bill Talbert and Diane Hall) met to discuss and bring back proposals regarding allowing 5 golf carts vs 3 golf carts. The committee met 3 times and discussed several options including allowing 5 carts; allowing 5 carts with 4 allowed on the course and the 5th to stay on the cart path and/or pay a fee; allow 4 carts with 3 allowed on the course and the 4th pay a fee but must stay on the cart path; stay with 3 carts. Unfortunately, they could not come to a consensus and there was no support to continue this further. Trying to enforce who has paid extra fee was also seen as problematic. Several Board members also commented that they felt the 3-cart rule was working and golfers are getting used to it.

Course Reports:

- North Frustrated by condition of sand traps, long fringe around traps catch balls and make shot almost impossible, refresh sand not enough, traps need to be re-done (Brian reported that there are plans to raise the bottom of the bunkers so they won't be as deep and will have more sand)
- South Concerned over damage to rental carts by public, recommend a policy change to get a credit card or Driver's License or make them return cart key rather than just leave phone number
- Quail Good shape, struggling thru last year of old irrigation system
- Lakes East Not enough Rangers, want one on Tuesday women's league, not happy with vicious pin placements
- Lakes West Great shape, fast greens
- Riverview Favor paid Rangers & carts for Rangers, suggestion to have more clothes at Pro Shops that are larger (too crowded at Riverview)
- Willowcreek Greens suffering, fairways and tee boxes ok
- Willowbrook Course in good shape except for some brown spots on fairways. New Women's President – Lori Grant

Guest Comments:

Questions about no show dings being tied to golfer/group. Can no show dings be tied to public players? Brian will check to see if it is possible to track public no shows by person.

Jaye Sprague, Lead Ranger, addressed progress of Ranger program. She reported there are currently 43 Rangers, and they are learning, growing and getting better. Warnings are being given out and they can track bad behavior from one course to another. Warnings and tickets are tracked by name and RCSC Card #. They are seeing better compliance with the 3-cart rule. She felt it would be very difficult to enforce a program allowing golfers to pay an extra fee for a 4th or 5th cart.

Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2024 at 8:30am – Lakeview Social Hall #2

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Balazic, Acting Secretary