

# RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

## Golf Advisory Committee

November 14, 2024

Co-Chair Preston Kise called the November 14, 2024 meeting to order at 8:30am in the Lakeview SH#2.

**Present:** Co-Chair Preston Kise; Committee Members Johnny Pearson (SCMGA President); Mike Lust (South); Cal Frank (Riverview); Betty Lust (Lakes East); Bob Brandolini (Lakes West); Dennis Meeter (Quail); Barry Broomham (VP SCMGA); Diane Hull (Lakes West); Sue Madden (Quail); Rich Lybolt; Arlene Balazic (SCWGA); Christi Dorsch (Willowcreek); Harry Emerson (Willowbrook/Willowcreek); Linda Hardman (Willowbrook); Shirley Fennell (South); John Bressett (Willowbrook); Linda Sears (Riverview); Dennis Meeter (Quail); Karen Larson (SCWGA); Bill Talbert (Lakes East); Johnny Portillo (North); Jody Ault (North);

**RCSC Staff:** Golf Sr. Leader Brian Duthu, Golf Shop Manager Chris Linam, Golf Course Superintendent Chuck Hyppa

**Absent:** Chair Steve Collins

**Guests:** Board President Tom Foster and 19 Cardholders

Review/Amend Prior Meeting Summary: The Summary from October 10, 2024 was amended to reflect the following:

Under SCMGA Report it reads:

The Tournament is a 2-man match play scheduled for Lakes West on the 16,17,18 of November, there is a limit of 56 two-man teams. Sign-up sheets are available in each club house.

Should read:

The Tournament is a 2-man match play scheduled for Lakes West on the 15,16,17 of November, there is a limit of 56 two-man teams. Sign-up sheets are available in each club house.

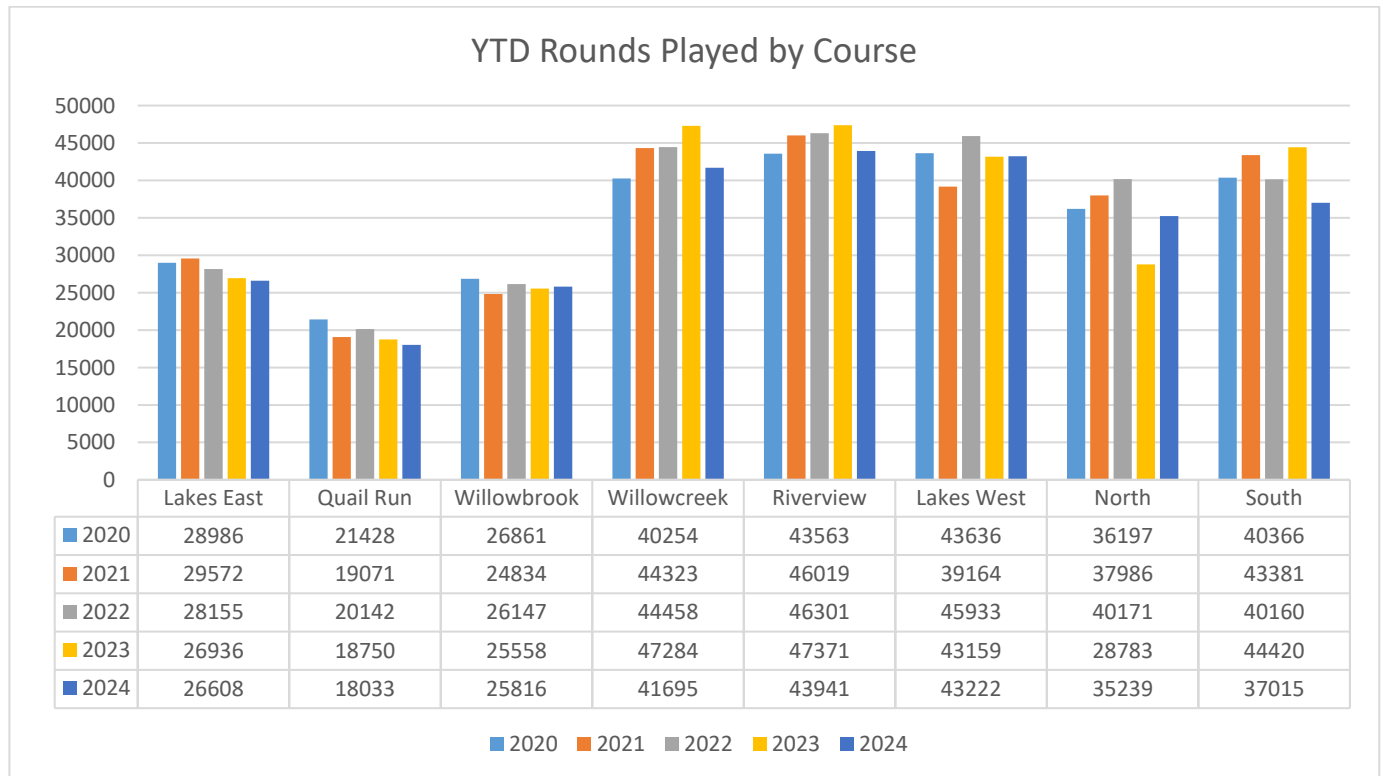
The Summary from October 10, 2024 was accepted as amended.

### **Brian Duthu, Director of Golf Report:**

#### **Pro Shops**

On December 13th we will be hosting a fundraising tournament to raise money for the Sun City Foundation. The format will be Beat the Pro(s), which will be Brian Duthu (PGA) and Chris Linam (Pro Shop Manager) and will be made up of two person teams. Teams that beat the scramble score of the pros will equally share the prize pool. The entry fee will be \$45, and the event will be held at the South Golf Course. In addition to bragging rights for beating the pro, there will also be a chance at a Pebble Beach Vacation.

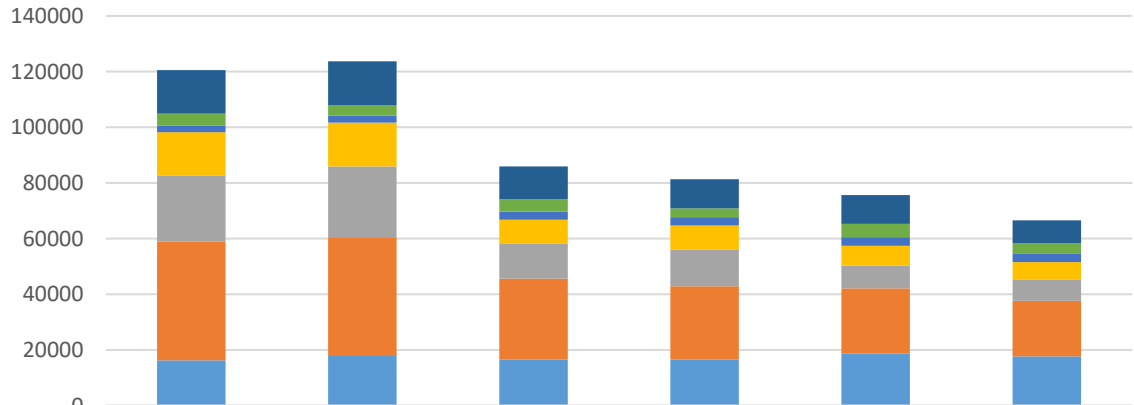
Lately we have had increased complaints from neighbors, concerning golfers trespassing onto private property to retrieve golf balls. While there are some homeowners that are not bothered by golfers retrieving errant shots, there are many that feel violated when someone enters their property to retrieve a ball. Please remember that when retrieving an errant shot on a homeowner’s property, you are trespassing, unless you have been given permission to do so. We ask for your cooperation in respecting the property of others.



**Overall Trends:**

- Locations with Decreased Rounds: Willowcreek, Quail Run, Riverview, and South all experienced notable declines in rounds from 2023 to 2024.
- Locations with Increased Rounds: North (following its renovation) had a strong recovery, showing the largest percentage increase, while Willowbrook and Lakes West remained fairly stable, with small increases.

## YTD Rounds Comparisons



	QTR 1 2023	QTR 1 2024	QTR 2 2023	QTR 2 2024	QTR 3 2023	QTR 3 2024
Public Daily	15625	15675	11790	10456	10370	8205
Non Resident Yearly Pass	4397	3824	4454	3199	4757	3579
Staff	2271	2485	2910	2935	3125	3163
Guest	15559	15746	8509	8745	7085	6386
Cardholder Daily	23728	25428	12642	13112	8163	7565
Resident Surcharge Pass	42666	42344	29078	26353	23495	19908
Resident Yearly Pass	16298	18175	16569	16548	18676	17737

■ Resident Yearly Pass 
 ■ Resident Surcharge Pass 
 ■ Cardholder Daily 
 ■ Guest 
 ■ Staff 
 ■ Non Resident Yearly Pass 
 ■ Public Daily

- 19.32% of total rounds played by Resident Yearly passholders, up from 18.27% last year
- 32.63% of total rounds played by Resident Surcharge passholders, down from 33.75% last year
- 16.98% of total rounds played by Resident Cardholders, up from 15.78% last year
- 3.90% of total rounds played by Non-Resident Yearly passholders, down from 4.82% last year
- 12.65% of total rounds played by Public Golfers, down from 13.39% last year
- 11.37% of total rounds played by Guests, up from 11.04% last year
- 3.16% of total rounds played by Staff, up from 2.94% last year

### Snack Shops

Snack shops are now closing at 5:00pm. on a consistent basis and will continue to do so until business begins slowing in April. Beginning November 1, we raised prices across the board for Snack Shop items. Price increases are never easy, nor welcomed, however the increases were necessary to offset rising costs.

### Superintendent Report (Chuck Hyppa)

As some of you may be aware this overseed season presented challenges with hot temperatures we have not seen before. The first wave of courses that went down September 23rd ran into extremely hot temps. Seeding in 114-degree heat is not ideal for proper germination of Ryegrass. Keeping the new seedlings wet throughout the day as well as the resurgence of the Bermudagrass made it very difficult to grow in a healthy stand of Rye. As the cooler temperatures move in and the Bermudagrass enters dormancy our courses have begun re-seeding thin areas in Fairways and Green Banks in hopes of filling in with Rye. This is very consistent across the greater Phoenix area. Numerous vendors and superintendents have stated that they have never seen a grow in like this before. We are optimistic through all the challenges that the courses will play nicely this winter. We appreciate your continued support.

Please note, this overseed schedule is a sample and not the actual 2025 schedule.

Sept./Oct./Nov.

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29 Willowcreek and North closed for overseed.	30	1 Lakes East closed for overseed.	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Riverview closed for overseed.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Willowcreek opens. North opens.	18
19	20 Lakes West, South and Willowbrook closed for overseed. Lakes East open.	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Riverview opens.	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Lakes West, South and Willowbrook open.	

Benefits

- Later planned start – better chances for cooler temperatures.
- Shared staffing between courses quickens the preparation and seeding process.
- Shared staffing allows us to utilize our most experienced staff.

Golf Senior Leader Duthu also added that we are approximately 8,000 rounds down from last year.

The questions asked were as follows:

- When was the last time the \$2.00 golf fee for staff changed? The response was unknown.
- Can we get a breakdown of how many employees are residents and how many are part-time? The response was that he would have to see if that data is available.
- What is the time small groups may request advanced tee times? The response was prior to 8:07am and after 10:00am.

### **Pro Shop Managers report:**

We would just like to remind everyone with the courses being freshly overseeded the importance of staying on the cart path on the courses that still have cart restrictions, filling your divots in the fairway, fixing ball marks on the greens, and avoiding soft/wet areas on the course, we appreciate your help.

And for those of you who like to get up early and get going' we have a

#### **Members only Special "Back 9 & Breakfast"**

9 Holes of Golf, with a breakfast sandwich and coffee.

Available on straight sheet days.

Available 1<sup>st</sup> 1.5 hours of tee times.

Reservations must be made with the pro shop (Not through Lottery).

Card holders are \$15.00 per person.

Surcharge members \$11.00 per person.

Fees only valid during the time frame above and off the opposite side of 18-hole play.

Excludes Tuesdays & Wednesdays (League Day's).

#### ***Inagural Santa's Simulator Classic (see flyer)***

Questions asked of Pro Shop Manager Linam were as follows:

- How long will the "Back 9 & Breakfast" last. The response was at least through January when it can be evaluated.

**SCMGA Report:** SCMGA President Johnny Pearson reported that the Match Play Tournament starts tomorrow, November 15, 2024. Next year to play in a SCMGA tournament you must have an established handicap and be a member of SCMGA.

### **SCWGA Report:**

**Ladies 18-Hole:** President Arlene Balazic reported that the SCWGA 18 Team Play season started on November 9 with 2 matches, South at Riverview and Willowcreek at Lakes West. Play at Lakes West was difficult due to the extremely wet course conditions. It was difficult to even find a dry path onto the fairways. Next matches will be on November 21 at Willowcreek & North. Hopefully Willowcreek will be better by then as it has been muddy as well.

**Ladies 9 Hole:** President Linda Hardman reported the Willowbrook 18 Hole Ladies league voted at their first Membership Meeting in November to drop Handicomp and go to the GHIN handicap system. Many of our members have GHIN numbers at other locations and voted to change to GHIN. The ladies at Lakes East also use GHIN. Our ladies are now hoping to be able to play in some of the local tournaments.

## **Course Reports:**

**North:** The Pink Ribbon Tournament went well. Thanks to all who participated and helped. Fairways are bare in spots and bunkers need work. Tuff Tuff turf looks great.

**South:** Just coming out of overseed and is cart path only. The course is playing well and is in great shape. The greens committee has an election coming up in December for two men spots and one-woman spot. A divot party is scheduled for December 1 at 3:00pm with a chili dinner after at the Fairway recreation center

**Quail Run:** Great Shape, divot party is scheduled for November 29. The Greens Committee is full.

**Lakes East:** Cart Path Only. Looks great. Playing well. We have a mixer on Saturday. Our web site is up and running.

**Lakes West:** Very wet golfers are driving through wet areas and causing damage to the course. Greens are fast.

**Riverview:** Tough course members not happy. Mixed overseed results, too many divots probably from cart path only. Golfers need to follow rules and good golf etiquette.

**Willowbrook/Willowcreek:** The Willowcreek report deviated from the positive comments from the other course representative's laudatory reports for their courses. Given the expectations from last year, the good opening day condition of Riverview and Quail, the expectation was for a great outcome. Willowcreek did not meet the greens committee's expectations. Specifically:

-Greens: The greens were generally fine except for #1 which had multiple bare spots and some very thin areas in the front portion.

-Surrounds: The surrounds come out far below expectations. The example of #5 surround with a large swath on the right side of bare dirt and #18 front and left were spotty. Many other surrounds were just fine, so consistency was an issue.

-Tee Boxes: Similarly, #1,9, and 18 were in great while many others were thin, spotty, and dry. Harry gave the example of #11, one of the short par 3s that is clearly not ready to withstand the level of play as the year wears on.

-Fairways: Again, #18 and #16 had large brown thin areas in the middle of the landing areas while others were fine.

The conclusion is that Harry stated there was clearly a consistency issue in the overseed process at Willowcreek and it was not ready to open and should have been delayed at least another 2 weeks.

Willowbrook came out a bit better even though it was first in the order of overseed and dealt with the much higher temperatures. The back side surrounds were in much poorer shape than the front, highlighting the consistency issue again.

In response, both courses have been reseeded in spots and watered heavily resulting in a host of wet areas that now have equipment tracks and ruts running through them causing damage.

**Old Business:** There is a difference of opinion on annual golf pass due notices. Chair Kise will address for resolution.

**New Business:** 2025 greens overseed suggestion from Golf Senior Leader Duthu will be discussed further for development.

Harry Emerson distributed the Willowcreek/Willowbrook Greens Committee slide that they had developed in response to the Co-Chair's task to develop goals for the 2025 year and beyond for the committee. He started by recommending that our goals should nest into the RCSC overall mission, vision, and goals for a common picture. He cited two examples of area courses that have a much more positive message on their landing page than we do on the RCSC golf web page. He then proposed a slide with three major bullets and supporting sub-bullets. The proposed goals are in the area of having a premier championship golf operation for 55+ communities, guidelines of ADWR and USGA for compliance and playability, and address the mix of revenue streams to generate the most revenue and benefit for our members. Key to all of this was marketing and message in.

#### **Comments:**

Barry Broomham SCMGA stated he did not feel we needed this type of process as all we can do is maintain the status quo and not afford to make any improvements.

Diane Hull and Bill Talbot LWLE felt RCSC courses were like a tier 2 Muni and the idea of the championship label we could not afford. There were a few rate change comments following this discussion.

Sue Madden Quail felt that goals would assist RCSC in messaging and marketing to attract residents and players. It was pointed out that most people in the room would not be here were it not for the golf operation and it is a key element of attracting buyers.

Harry closed this topic with a recommendation that we deal with this as we made the budget priority process for all the members to develop their own input and that the Co-Chair and Director of Golf meld the input into one document.

We need to give something back to the members to help offset the upcoming increases.

We need to be more transparent and give the members data, so they better understand the reason for increases and changes.

We need to think about what we can do to generate other revenue to offset increased expenses.

Golf course superintendent Chuck Hyppa addressed the wet conditions at both Lakes West and Willowcreek and how difficult overseed has been this year. He further stated that the courses were slowly drying out and are being monitored daily. Environmental issues will always occur, and we will do our best to overcome them.

Golf Shop Manager Chris Linam requested that he be allowed to schedule more tournaments with shot gun starts. After the discussion it was suggested, we discuss this again at our next meeting when all committee members were present.

Guest Cindy Aguilera introduced herself to the committee as the incoming Umbrella Chair for 2025.

**Adjournment:** The Meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

**Next Meeting:** December 12, 2024, at 8:30am – Lakeview Social Hall #2

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Lybolt Secretary