

# RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

## Golf Advisory Committee

December 12, 2024

Chair Steve Collins called the December 12, 2024 meeting to order at 8:30am in the Lakeview SH#2.

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

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

**Guests:** Board President Tom Foster and Brad Zimmerman, Louise Sartorio, Cindy Aguilav, Debi Gaines, Karen Matusz, Mike Matusz

**Review/Amend Prior Meeting Summary:** The Summary from November 14, 2024 was accepted as presented.

### **Brian Duthu, Golf Sr. Leader Report:**

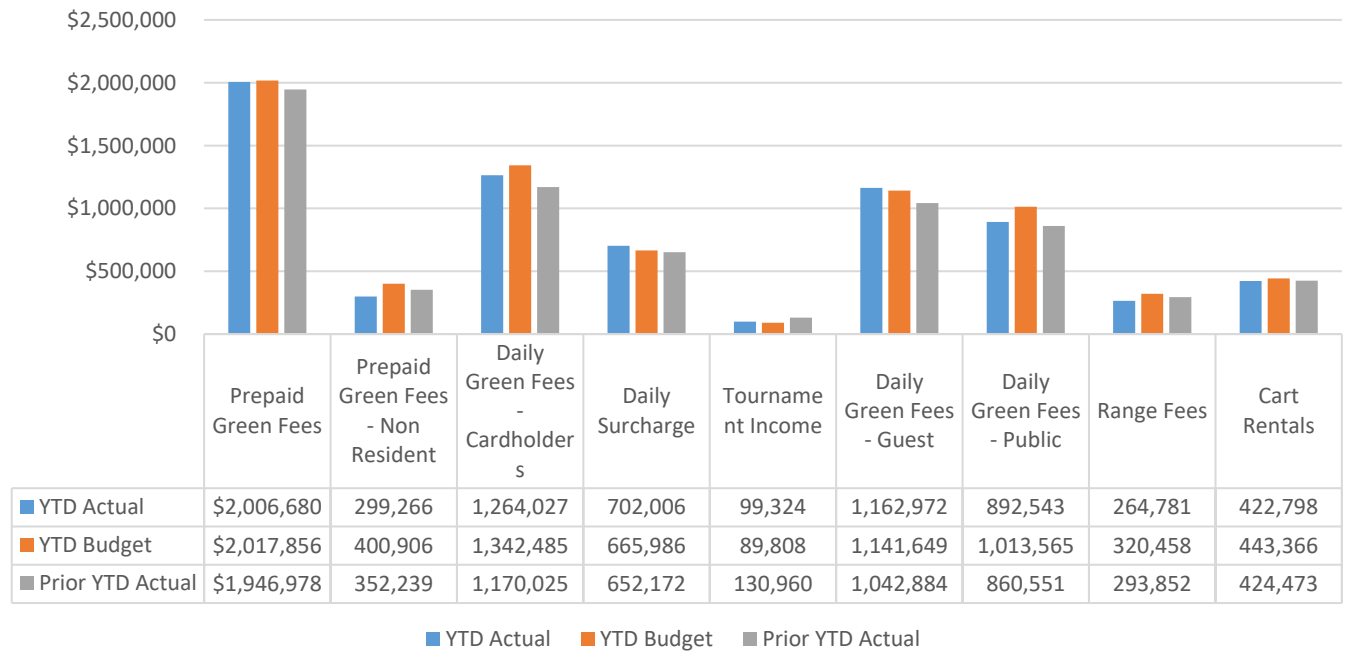
#### **Pro Shops**

We began tracking in November of our “bump rate”, for those using the lottery system to secure tee times, to continue gauging the effectiveness of the changes made in golf operations to provide more opportunity for residents. For the month of November, we saw a decrease in the number of requests for tee times of 447 golfers, a 3.15% decrease. The number of golfers that were bumped dropped by 25, a 2.95% decrease. The bump rate in November nearly identical was 5.98% compared to 5.97%, an increase of .01%, we will continue to provide updates throughout the peak season.

#### **Superintendent Report (Chuck Hyppa)**

The warmer weather we experienced in November has been a great help to our golf courses. This has given us a chance to not only mature the Ryegrass that was initially established but provide an opportunity for us to grow in some of the weaker areas specifically in our fairways and green banks. Without the disruption of frosty mornings, we have been able to stick with our bi-weekly fertilizing schedule. This will continue as the weather permits. As we near January the maintenance teams will be preparing for our next application of pre-emergent Herbicide to our non-overseeded roughs. This is the next critical step in our effort to eradicate the weed population we experience throughout Spring and Summer. We would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

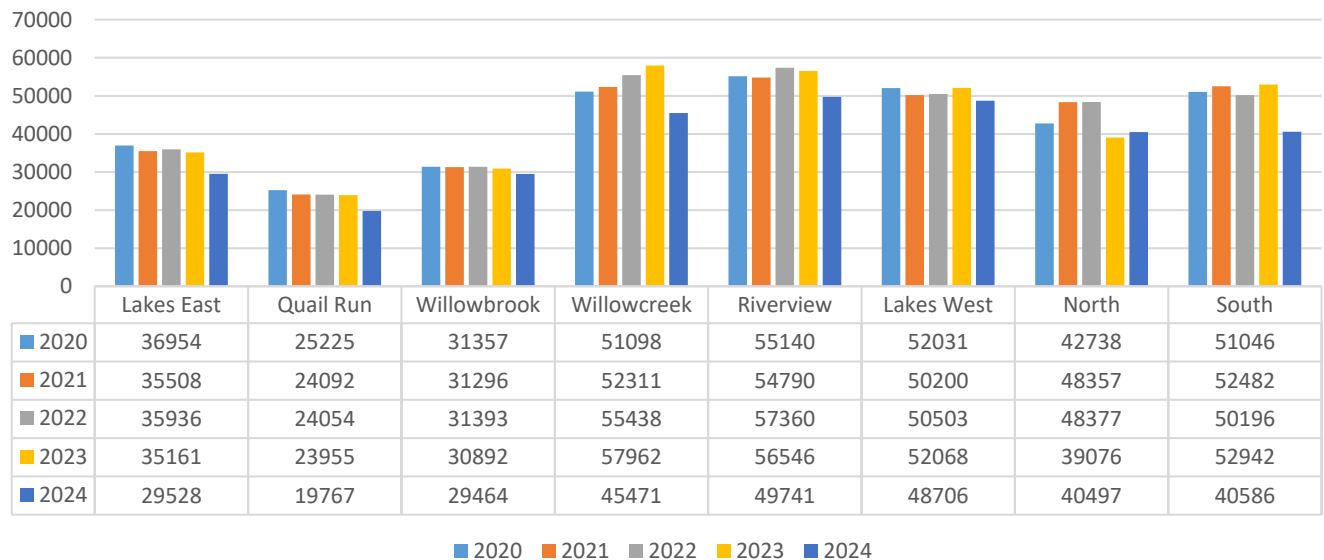
### YTD Golf Revenue Comparison



#### Summary:

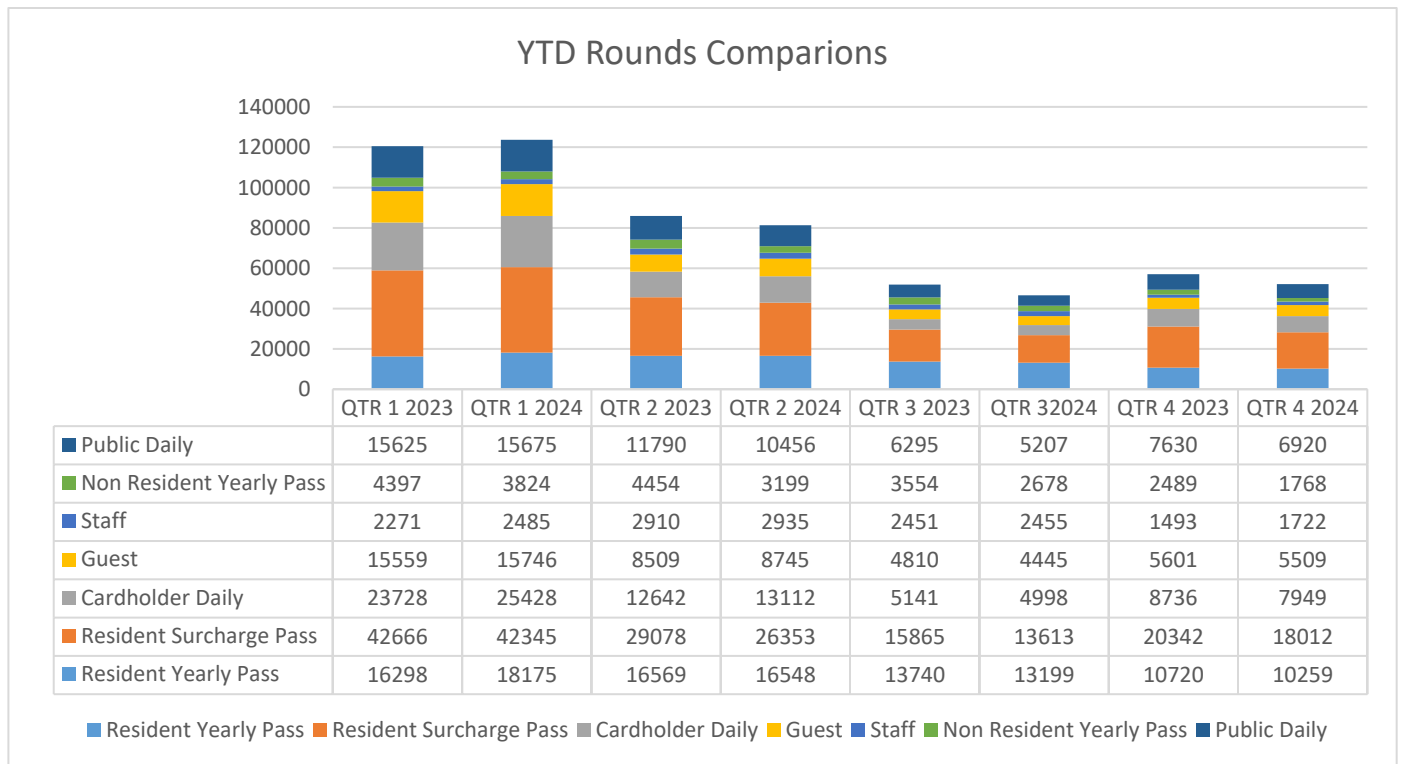
- Above Budget: Surcharge income, tournament income, guest green fees, miscellaneous income, and other categories like simulator income and club rental showed better-than-expected performance.
- Below Budget: Non-resident prepaid green fees, range fees, merchandise sales, and prepaid green fees were below budget expectations.
- Improvement from Prior Year: Most categories show an improvement compared to the prior year, especially prepaid green fees, guest green fees, and daily surcharge.

### YTD Rounds Played by Course



Overall Trends:

- Most courses showed a decline in 2024 compared to 2023, with South and Willowcreek seeing the largest decreases.
- North was the only course to show a positive trend with a slight increase.

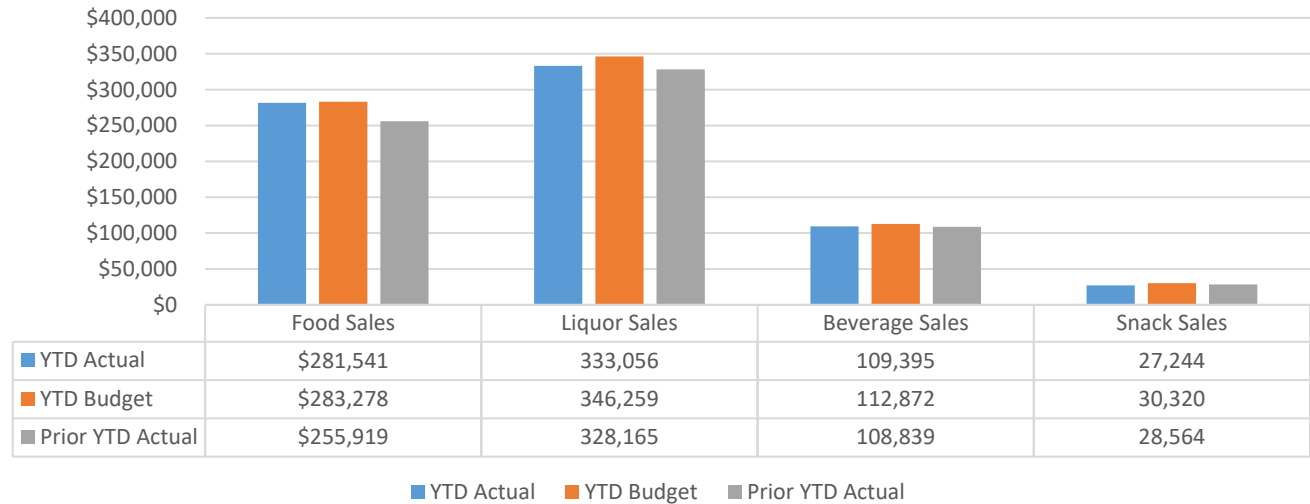


- 19.15% of total rounds played by Resident Yearly passholders, up from 18.18% last year
- 33.03% of total rounds played by Resident Surcharge passholders, down from 34.23% last year
- 16.95% of total rounds played by Resident Cardholders, up from 15.93% last year
- 3.78% of total rounds played by Non-Resident Yearly passholders, down from 4.72% last year
- 12.59% of total rounds played by Public Golfers, down from 13.11% last year
- 11.34% of total rounds played by Guests, up from 10.93% last year
- 3.16% of total rounds played by Staff, up from 2.89% last year

**Snack Shops**

Snack shops are now closing at 5:00 p.m. on a consistent basis and will continue to do so until business begins slowing in April.

## YTD Snack Shop Revenue Comparison



### Golf Accomplishments 2024

- January through April bump % (unsuccessful lottery requests) reduced by 24.67% compared to 2023.
- Completed a thorough reduction of dead/dying trees throughout golf courses.
- Turnover reduced from 38.6% in 2023 to 28.2% in 2024
- Courses maintained conditions and will fall within water allocations despite record breaking heat.
- Switched from Trimms Equipment Management software to Toro
- Front 9 of North (Tif-Tuf) continues to be well received and saw significant growth this year.
- Successful bid process for Quail Run renovation project – with plans in place to add frisbee golf.
- Snack Shops worked with Coca Cola to provide refrigerators in pro shops to expand our hours of beverage and snack offerings in the pro shops at no additional cost to RCSC.
- Though much work remains to be done we have seen a decrease in weed populations across most courses, estimated at 20 – 30 percent.
- Superintendents have developed changes to the overseed process to better deal with the increased heat and provide a more consistent product. We will stagger start dates and utilize a dedicated overseed crew that will overseed all courses.

The questions asked of Golf Sr. Leader Duthu were as follows:

- Are the cup hole liners being removed? Yes they should all be removed by the end of the week.
- Is the Lottery more difficult to find spots for larger groups i.e. more than 3 groups? Yes
- Have the details been worked out for the Frisbee course for Quail? Plans are in place for a course but specifics on how it will be handled are not finalized.
- Can the overseed and tree trimming be done at the same time? No watering for overseed prohibits large vehicles on the course.

## **Chris Linam, Pro Shop Managers report:**

### **Pro Shops**

Just a reminder for the New Club Presidents in charge for 2025, please be sure to bring in your pairings for the next week at least 6 days in advance to the starter so we get them in before the Lottery Draw 5 days in advance.

If any group has their 2026 league schedule set you are welcome to send them to us and please be sure to send it to us Via Email at [clinam@suncityaz.org](mailto:clinam@suncityaz.org) so we can get it on the calendar, and don't forget to go to the Clubs Office January 2, 2025 to book your rooms for your awards banquets and lunches etc.

### **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.

### **Ranger Program – Jaye Sprague**

Currently we have around 50 Rangers and growing! We are still looking for resident golfers who want to be rangers. Here is the incentive's again: Must be a Sun City Resident working a minimum of 16 Hours per month, for every 4 hours worked you will receive 1 round at Employee pricing (\$2.00). Two training sessions minimum before being released alone.

### **What we expect from you:**

- A. A good appearance. First impressions are lasting.
- B. Smile, be friendly and always carry a positive attitude!
- C. Experienced in golfing and golfing etiquette.

The comments/questions of Pro Shop Manager Linam were as follows:

- The date of Jan 2, 2025, in his report should read March 3, 2025.
- At this time of year, the dormant Bermuda grass is easily damaged by carts and as such golfers need to stick to the 90-degree rule to minimize damage.
- The ranger program which now has 52 members is restricted to RCSC residents only.
- Much discussion was had on how rangers do their job and just not ride around. Lead Ranger Jaye Sprague stated rangers are being educated on how to work and communicate with players. Golfers should realize that they need to adhere to rules, play ready golf and stay in position with the group ahead of them. The rangers have monthly meetings and reviews.

**SCMGA Report:** President Johnny Pearson reported the Extravaganza Tournament is scheduled for the 4 days of Feb 7, 8 and 14, 15, 2025 at four different courses with sign up sheets available at each course. Johnny discussed the possibility of a change to the employee golf fee. After discussion Johnny made a motion: "I move that the employee golf fee be changed to the Surcharge fee at the time of play" No further discussion was had, after the vote, the motion failed with 5 for, 11 against and 3 abstained.

**SCWGA Report:** President Arlene Balazic introduced next year's president Cindy Aguilar from South.

**Ladies 18-Hole:** President Arlene Balazic reported they held their fall better ball tournament at North on December 7th. It was a shot gun start with the field limited to 128 players to help with pace of play and shorter daylight hours with positive results. However, there were 3 problems that need to be highlighted and addressed.

1. The computer went down in the Pro Shop during check-in and the staff was overwhelmed.
2. Only one person in the snack shop to deal with about 140 people trying to buy food and drinks.
3. Very poor internet connection is a problem for tournament chaise inputting scores into golf genius program.

These are ongoing problems in the North golf course. In 2025 North will have both better ball tournaments. We hope these problems will be addressed/fixed by then.

The response was that the issues will be taken care of or already have been corrected.

**Ladies 9 Hole:** Linda Hardman reported the ladies had a very good year and are looking forward to 2025.

### **Course Reports:**

**North:** The bunkers need work this is an ongoing problem. The course is in good shape.

**South:** Had a successful divot party with 30 plus people helping. The chili dinner after was well received. Thanks to all who helped. The course is in great shape. Thanks to Dennis Dulaney and his staff, they are greatly appreciated.

**Quail Run:** Divot party was successful. The Course is in great shape. The Pink Ribbon Tournament raised \$16,000 for the cause. Larry Fitzgerald, the football player attended and provided many items for the auction.

**Lakes East:** Looks good and plays well. Greens are fast.

**Lakes West:** Great shape and the greens are very fast. Divot party scheduled for Jan 5, 2025.

**Riverview:** Playing well. Greens are fast. The red tee boxes do not agree with the score card. A divot party is scheduled for Jan 5, 2025, at 2:30pm.

**Willow Creek/Willow Brook:** Since last month, the good news is that both WCWB are trending upwards in condition of both courses. The staff has been reseeding and watering those areas that did

not come through overseed very well; Surrounds, Tee boxes on the back, #1 WC green, and some of the fairways. There are still a few surrounds that will not completely recover, but the surrounds overall are greatly improved. The par 3 tee boxes on WC and most of the tee boxes on WB continue to get hard use with the amount of play and using short to mid irons on these holes, and the staff filing divots when they can and the adopt hole folks are out there on these holes. The staff is focusing on trimming deserts, making the necessary weed and pre-emergent applications to preclude the weed and crabgrass issues from last year. The greens will be cut to speed up a bit beginning next week to address several complaints from the past couple weeks. Repair of the equipment tracks through wet areas is ongoing and increases efforts to mark as GUR more than in the past. The larger concern discussed is the overseed process in general and we feel the changes proposed to use functional teams next year across all courses will help to preclude the issues we encountered this year. Conditions at the courses across Sun City vary widely in consistency and reporting, which need to be improved.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Co-Chair Kise asked what is the GAC recommendation on upcoming golf pass payments? After discussion, the consensus is that the payments be set up as half when due then final payment in 90 days.

**Comments:** A question was asked of Golf Sr. Leader Duthu from Riverview; “Will we get to USGA recommended staffing? One per hole at each course. Our budgeted staffing is around 10 to 12 per course. A question on the Maintenance building was to be sent through the Riverview greens committee and then to the GAC.

**Adjournment:** The Meeting was adjourned at 9:57am.

**Next Meeting:** January 9, 2025, at 8:30am – Lakeview Social Hall #2

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Lybolt Secretary