

Hunters Ridge Community Association Golf Committee
February 23, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.

Present were: Chairman Floyd Hann; Members Gary Tinkel, Laurie Cascarano, Rich Berry, Jim Scott, Sabra Cicilline and Madolyn Mumma, Secretary. Also present were Association Board Member Don Wirsbinski, Director of Golf Rob Harpster and Golf Course Superintendent Tony Duncan.

Mr. Hann called the meeting to order. He introduced the new members: Mrs. Cicilline and Mr. Scott and himself. He explained the Board has indicated it would like to have revolving committee members and, as a result, there were new members. However, former president Rich Berry agreed to continue on the Board to provide continuity. He pointed out that under Mr. Berry's leadership there had been several improvements in the Hunters Ridge golfing experience, including:

The artificial turf on the driving range

Runners on the bridges

Scorecard improvements

Flag colors

Improvements at several of the tee boxes

These upgrades were accomplished through the work of Rob Harpster, Tony Duncan in cooperation with Mr. Berry and the golf committee.

Mr. Hann read the Golf Committee's mission statement, pointing out that the committee served in an advisory capacity to the Board and assisted the pro and his staff in their endeavors. He pointed out the job description for the Golf Committee is included in the descriptions for each of the Hunters Ridge Association committees.

Mr. Hann said the Board was the final decision making body.

Tony Duncan said that currently fairways are cut to .4 inch and the roughs to 1 inch. The committee agreed members liked the defined fairways and wanted them to continue. However, they would like to have the fairways at .5 inch and rough raised enough to continue the difference between fairways and rough. This .5 inch for fairways is the average height for courses in the area. Tony said he needs to let the grass grow for about a week to ten days in order to get the grass longer. There has been no growth during the past few weeks because of the cold weather, but when the weather warms Tony will make the changes.

Rob reported the blue flag usage has declined significantly since the easing of cart path only rules. He recommended, however, that yellow stakes be added at approach areas where it was important for the grass to be as healthy as possible. The stakes would serve to indicate that carts need to be returned to the path. The committee agreed this was important. In addition, the committee pointed out the rule that carts are not permitted on any of the Par 3 holes.

The committee members agreed to continue talking about the issues, encouraging golfers to stay out of the yellow stake areas.

Rob also said if the nearest path to the ball is up the right side of the rough golfers should use their best judgment about whether or not to return to the cart path.

In response to the question regarding top dressing of the greens, Tony pointed out it was not done every Monday. It depended upon the weather. As grass died it created an organic layer and the sand helped to smooth the greens and open them so that water could penetrate. If he did not top dress on Monday he would have to call in a crew to do it on Sunday. Committee agreed with Tony to schedule top dressing as he saw fit. He also said there is a big shade issue on the practice green during the winter months when the sun is lower in the sky.

Rob said the USGA suggests that scores for major tournaments remain in the handicap list for one year. Currently the only "major" tournament at Hunters Ridge is the club championship. The committee discussed designating some additional events as "tournaments." Rob agreed to pursue the issue with USGA.

The committee said we need more out of bounds stakes, citing as an example to the right of Hole #5. Rob said he would install additional stakes.

Mrs. Cicilline asked why the vegetation that had been cut down between #10 and #11 had not been picked up because it could become a fire hazard. Smokers have been seen tossing cigarettes and cigars into that area. Tony said this was a preserve area and he was permitted to cut and trim but not pick up the trimmings. He said he would speak with Don Huprich about the issue. The committee agreed smokers needed to be especially cautious and either use an ash tray or a paper cup filled with sand to prevent fire.

Mrs. Cascarano asked Rob to explain what the rule was when a ball landed in the large bush on Hole #17. Rob said he would include it in the next SCORECARD, but Rule 24-3 states golfers are entitled to relief at the nearest point of entry when their ball hits an immovable obstruction. This shrub and the power box are considered an immovable obstruction. Mrs. Cascarano suggested a drop area at that spot and Rob agreed.

Mrs. Anderson asked from the audience about the red tee on #13. It is a safety hazard. Tony said his crew had put roofing material on the step and they will be redesigning the step during the summer.

The next golf committee meeting will be scheduled sometime in March.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.