

**Hunters Ridge Community Golf Committee  
4:00 p.m. April 30, 2008**

Present were: Chairman, Rich Berry; Members Joe Engler, Laurie Cascarano, Pat Wirsbinski, Tom Malone, Gary Tinkel and Madolyn Mamma, secretary. Also present were Association Board Member Frank Schmitt, Director of Golf Rob Harpster and Golf Course Superintendent Tony Duncan.

Mr. Berry called the meeting to order.

Tony Duncan addressed the following Golf Courses issues raised by the Committee:

- A. Drop Area on Hole #5: Possible alternatives were discussed including installing some synthetic turf, moving the drop area up to the front of the fairway which would make the hole too easy and changing the bulkhead and rebuilding the drop area in the process. Tony said rebuilding the area could be done by the course maintenance crew and the only extra cost would be for marine lumber. The committee felt this was the best solution.
- B. Bridges at #9 and #13: The bridges are very bumpy and a solution is to install runners. Cost would be approximately \$15,000 for materials, hardware plus labor. The committee agreed to consider it for the '09 budget.

- C. A question was raised re poison ivy on the course: Tony said it is Virginia Creeper, which has a 5-leaf petal rather than the 3-leaf petal of poison ivy. It is primarily in the preserves. Ivy Creeper cannot be eliminated because it is brought in by birds and the wind. However, the maintenance crew is attempting to control it as much as possible.
- D. Paving: Tony reported that work on the #11 cart path was underway. The area around the clubhouse would be addressed when renovations were made to the clubhouse. In the meantime gravel would be put into the depressions around the valves.

- E. Defined fairways: Tony said maintenance crew let the roughs grow and double cut the fairways for the member guest, but with the warmer weather that was impractical. He said they could cut all the grass the same length but cut the rough less often. Committee agreed this would be good.

**F. Summary of Summer projects:**

- a. Leveling the 18<sup>th</sup> tee will be the priority project this summer.
- b. New 7<sup>th</sup> tee
- c. 17<sup>th</sup> tee level the green tee and regrassing with drought tolerant and shade resistant grass
- d. Work on all tees as time permits
- e. #14 New green tee and tie in red and green tees
- f. #13 Regrass
- g. #12 New pink tee
- h. #10 Increase green tee
- i. #9 Back tee resurfacing
- j. #8 Tie red and green tees together
- k. #6 Regrass
- l. #5 Gold, white, green tees releveled

G. Short-term improvements should include

- a. Driving range improvements
- b. Prune ficus at the driving range
- c. Tees will be a continuing project
- d. Equipment washing system, required by the city in order to recycle water used to wash maintenance equipment
- e. Updating irrigation system
- f. Resurfacing cart paths
- g. Upgrading consistency and quality of the course

H. Long-term projects should include:

- a. Bulkheads on #3 and #18
- b. Drainage tile
- c. Regrassing the course with better turf.
- d. Fairway on #12

Tony stated that older Florida courses such as Hunters Ridge need to regenerate its grasses over time, perhaps with more drought resistant grasses. He did not believe this would require completely reconstructing the fairways. He also stated that he believed no major reconstruction of the greens would be needed for about 15 years, based on a general life expectancy of about 20 years since the last reconstruction.

Following discussion, the Committee approved the summer maintenance schedule and asked Tony to continue to report on the mid and long term projects.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to budget for ongoing consultation with a course architect on a biennial basis who would assist the golf pro and the maintenance director and make recommendations to the Committee.

Next order of business: Blue Flags. Mr. Berry read a letter to be given to all blue flag users addressing the committee's concerns re misuse of the blue flags. The committee approved the letter and asked that the starters give each blue flag user a copy and that the letter be posted on the bulletin boards.

Club Championship Format Change: Rob said the lowest handicappers would still participate in the scratch championship. In addition, other golfers would be divided into flights with a champion declared in each of the flights. Trophies and recognition would be included in the final luncheons for the men and the women. Rob said he intended to continue the popular ringer event on a separate occasion.

The Chairman stated that he thought it appropriate that the Committee review and adopt a policy with respect to matters pertaining to rules relating to the use of the Golf Course including policies related to rates, eligibility for play and the duration of such policies. He expressed concern that the golf course was perceived by many as a "cash cow" to provide revenues for general purposes, to the detriment of the members and to the condition of the course. There then followed an extended discussion of the subject whereupon the consensus of the Committee was as follows:

1. In principle the Committee opposes play by non-members except as guests of members, reciprocals and courtesy allowances by the head professional.

2. The Committee does not believe that enhanced revenue for its own sake should be

policy.

3. The volume of guest fees during the current season appears to be within the amount anticipated in the budget and therefore warrants the termination of arrangements with Standby Tee Times effective October 1<sup>st</sup>.

4. The Committee recognizes that temporary, limited outside play may be necessary to achieve specific revenue needs when such needs are carefully considered and identified with measurable goals. In such event, the Committee believes the following rules should apply to such selected outside play:

(i) Play should be restricted to members of local clubs with whom the head professional has made such arrangements.

(ii) Play should be restricted to no more than 8 tee times between 1:30 and 1:00 PM and on no more than one day's notice. It was noted that in the winter months, 8 tee times would represent a substantial percentage of available times.

5. The Committee is concerned that the Board's decision to allow

non-member residents to enjoy the privileges of Golf Membership for over half a calendar year at nominal cost blurs the distinction between members and non-members and, in effect, creates a situation where the members who bear the

ultimate cost of maintaining our golf course are subsidizing non-member play.

Many members are in residence during October and May and the additional play unnecessarily burdens the course and limits member play. Nevertheless, the

Committee recognizes that our Social members feel unfairly treated when outside play is allowed and they are denied the privilege. This is one more reason why

every effort should be made to eliminate outside play except as noted above. The

Committee believes that Social Member tee times in May and October be limited to post-noon.

6. The Committee suggests the following fee structure :

Guest Rate \$55

Renter Rate 55

Social Members limited to once/month 55

Social Members Guest 65

Renters Guest 65

Summer Reciprocals May 1 to Oct. 31 35

Selected Outside Play 55

There being no further business, the Meeting adjourned at 6 PM.