

## **LLCC Greens Committee Meeting MINUTES**

### **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 (1:30 PM – Pro Shop Patio)**

ATTENDEES: Vern Duggan, Robbi Alberts, Renie Dyson, Ed Irvin, Lance Levine, Sheila Nokes, Steve Saylor, Gayle Wilcox  
(not present: Mary Lou Trautmann)

STAFF: Elen Gaschet DeL'isle, Mark Hendricks, Jason Howerton, Roger Milliman

GUESTS: Dean Dyson, John Ingemi, Tim Magee, Nancy Milliman

Vern Duggan called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

**Minutes:** Ed Irvin moved to: **ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2021 GREENS COMMITTEE MEETING.**  
Gayle W. seconded, and the motion PASSED.

**Greens Report:** Superintendent Jason Howerton reported April is his favorite time of year. The grass is growing, and the crew is busy mowing and maintaining the course. The part-time crew is back, cleaning up limbs & debris from winter storms; & replenishing beauty bark. The crew is moving on from winter projects, but there are still frost delays. He thanked Elen & Mark for explaining the need to honor frost delays, in order to protect the course. Jason said he wants to find ways to educate golfers about frost delays (i.e., running a video on the Pro Shop TV for golfers to view, or having staff put on a brief seminar).

In March, workers filled in potholes on #3 cart path (a temporary fix); repainted directional "Walker" signs on cart paths; and installed new signs throughout the course noting walker rules, etc. They conducted a successful "deep drill" of greens with sanding, and benefited from the rain that followed. With long hours and hard work, there were only two days of "temporary greens". They also rehung the practice hitting net, tightened it up, and put in new cable – it should work better for "chipping". They beautified the patio area and planter beds around the Pro Shop and putting green. They are mowing down fairways, tees and approaches – and even roughs now. They started cleaning up tree wells & refreshing wood chips.

In April, they will mow & seed the new tee-box areas on #7 and #8; hoping to open them by May 1<sup>st</sup>. They are starting to top-dress tees, fairways & approaches with sand (weather depending). They will solid-tine aerify and seed fairways, collars and tees – and apply the granular early spring greens fertilizer.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, Jason celebrated 10 years as LLCC's Greens Superintendent. He said he loves his job and the course, and is happy to still be focused and motivated to making this course the best it can be.

Finally, Jason recommended that we return Hole #4 to "Cart-Path Only", which is what most Par 3 holes are. He said using carts to drive on that fairway is ruining large portions of the area and creating mud-pits across the culvert. He suggested building one entrance for pushcarts only, and removing the other two. Vern added this to "New Business".

Jason also raised the issue of people not obeying cart signs (there should be NO driving around greens!) Several others mentioned they've seen the public driving in areas where they should NOT be driving carts. We need to find a way to educate them, report offenders, and prevent repeat offenders.

Finally, Jason said with the amount of golf play we have had this year already, the course is going to show its wear earlier. Trying to keep up is tough right now; especially, the tee boxes are getting beat up, and the cart and foot traffic on & off the cart paths. Golfers should be aware to take care where they can, fill in divots, don't drive in wet areas, etc.

**Pro Shop Report:** Elen reported in March, the Pro Shop had 77.54% growth in revenue vs. the same month last year (**\$32,330.92** vs. \$18,210.02). Over a 3-year period (2019/2020/2021), March revenue increased for Golf Members (\$465.68/\$1,051.53/**\$2,717.37**), Public (\$2,194.94/\$229.93/**\$3,800.96**) and Power Cart Rentals (\$484/\$925/**\$2275**). For the past year (3/26/20 – 4/5/21), golf cart rentals totaled **\$38,140** (3,247 rentals) ... vs. the previous year (3/26/19-4/5/20) of \$24,276.39 (1,695 rentals). This is helping cover the cost of the new carts we purchased in March 2020. Since October, 113 Member Golf Annuals were sold (80 Member, 31 Public and 2 Junior).

Planned tournaments include the **Masters Partnership** on April 10<sup>th</sup>; and **Glow-Ball** on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Special thanks to **Dave Tyler & Clay Bowcutt** for donating clubs to the Youth.

Electrical outlets were upgraded in the old cart-sheds, within budget. And a new employee was hired, Dave Morgan (to help Elen & Mark at the Pro Shop desk). One new marshal was added (John Lohr), for a total of seven marshals.

**CAM Report:** Roger Milliman reported:

- Golf sales YTD continue performing very well with Member and Public Annuals sales and played rounds of golf. Members are to be complemented on welcoming Public players.

- The *Journal* recently announced our course is rated #2 Best Golf Course in Mason County from the people choice awards (Alderbrook was #1). Due to our staff customer service, the quality of our course, & marketing efforts we have come together doing a great job managing a prime asset.
- The Pro Shop Café exterior bathroom doors have been upgraded with entry code locks to improve security.
- Several Café table tops will be upgraded with repurposed Inn dining room blue tops.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Navy contact:** Roger reported the Navy has responded requesting survey clarifications (17 items). Our surveyor has committed to respond by the end of April.

**Marketing:** Nancy Milliman reported three Sandwich Boards with multiple signage were purchased (to announce "Tournament today", "Golf Lessons in Progress", etc.). A "Call to Order" from the Café sign was installed on Hole #9. We'll be submitting a profile & photo of Joe Long, advertising lessons in the *Journal*. We will also have articles/ads in *Tracing the Fjord* publication, and in the *Journal's* "Visitors Guide" and "Profile".

Some of the blue table-tops from the Inn will be mounted on Café tables. We're also requesting they bring back the Hotdog machine (for days when the Café is closed), as well as canned beverages (e.g., Bloody Mary's and Screwdrivers). Josh will do some research.

Finally, the request is out again for photos taken on the course. Please send them to Elen for future marketing use.

**Walkers Rules:** At their last meeting, the LLCC Board of Directors approved the "Walker Rules" as most recently submitted by this committee. They will be available in the Pro Shop and made available to walkers.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Pro Shop Renovations:** A "front counter" was installed in the Pro Shop, and a new door was installed for staff to enter their office. Funds were raised for the improvements through calendar sales; the LLCC Board approved spending up to \$500 to purchase supplies & complete the new door project, which was installed by volunteers at a cost of \$300.

Special thanks to these volunteers:

- **Dave Morgan** for driving to Tumwater to pick up the donated counter and the many hours he volunteered to add the counter top & legs to make it a functional and updated counter for the Pro Shop.
- **Tim Magee & Kirk Crowell** for their efforts to extend the wall opening and install the new door.
- **Vern Duggan** for his ideas and leadership to spearhead the project.
- **Fred Hewins** for electrical assistance and the COVID plastic-shield stand for the safety of customers & staff.
- **John Ronald & Shawn Patrick** for their muscle in moving and installing computers and screens.
- **Scott Hubble & Mark Hendricks** who donated funds for a new counter monitor and misc. items not in the budget.

Thank you to each of you in this volunteer group that completed the project under budget!!

**Budget Subcommittee:** Vern said he would like to appoint a subcommittee to prepare the 2021-2022 Greens Budget. If interested in serving on the committee, please contact Vern.

**Hole #4/#13 – Cart-Path Only:** In his report, Jason brought up this issue (*see Greens report*). The committee agreed to go with Jason's recommendations to make Hole #4/#13 "Cart-Path Only". Only the middle path will be left open (for push-carts/golfers) and the other areas will be roped off; the less traffic on the fairway, the better!

**Patio Cover:** Vern suggested we investigate installing a sunscreen over the patio area (approximately 25 feet x 25 feet). Several volunteers stepped forward to research the cost and make a proposal (Sheila Nokes, Nancy Milliman, Tim Magee, Dave Morgan, & Ed Irvin).

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

NOTES BY ROBBIE (with help from Gayle Wilcox, et al)