

LLCC Greens Committee Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 (1:30 PM – Pro Shop Café)

ATTENDEES: Vern Duggan, Robbi Alberts, Joel Gray, Ed Irvin, Lance Levine, Gayle Wilcox, Gary Yando
[Excused: Tim Magee, Nancy Milliman, Sheila Nokes, Steve Saylor]
GUESTS: Dean Dyson, Renie Dyson, Jess Mosley
STAFF: Mark Hendricks, Javier Martinez, Dave Morgan

Vern called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. He shared plaques noting *Journal* awards for Lake Limerick Golf Course ("Best in Mason County") as well as #2 "Best Salesperson" Mark Hendricks! *Congratulations! And thanks to everyone!*

Minutes: Gayle Wilcox moved to: **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 7, 2023 GREENS COMMITTEE MEETING.** Ed Irvin seconded, and the motion **PASSED.**

Greens Report: Javier reported March was a busy month for his crew. With the honor of being top golf course in Mason County, there's an expectation to keep it in top shape.

Things accomplished in March: Continue keeping an eye open for any diseases on the green so they can stay on top of any situations ... finished aerification of the greens ... finished working on the pump house VFD upgrade ... have been installing and learning new face-plates ... and finished renovating/sodding tee boxes on #3 (R/G), #9 (W), and #8 (R).

Things to accomplish in April: Continue aerification on tees & fairways ... seed tees and some areas on the fairways ... fertilize the entire course (*using organic fertilizer with no phosphorus, to protect the lake*) ... complete training on face-plates ... patch greens where needed ... continue working on drainage ... & start mowing rough like regular season.

Javier said the new pump is working well (still need to assure the alarm text on his phone, signaling low lake level, can operate with our spotty cell service ... their tech will return in a few months to make sure that gets set up, when we need to start watering the course). With this new equipment, we are operating more like a first-class course!

Javier said our old fertilizer spreader is shot, so we'll be purchasing a new one. Roger instructed him to purchase the cheaper model spreader, as well as fertilizer (Vern said hopefully it does the job, or it won't be worth the savings.)

Crews are installing a filter system in the ditch near #9 green, again to protect the lake.

Asked when we'll be able to use the newly-sodded tee-boxes, Javier said it's best to wait 6 weeks or more.

Pro Shop Report: Mark said they are holding a *Masters Partnership Tournament* this Saturday. They are also offering a *Match Play Tournament* during the entire month of May (players will be placed on a bracket, and given a certain number of days to complete their match, with winners moving on to the next round.) And a *Glow-Ball Tournament* is scheduled for Saturday, June 17th.

Men's & Ladies Leagues started this week. Elen will be back to work next week (hopefully she gets to play in the Ladies League). She will work 2 days, Dave 2 days, and Mark will cover the final 3 days.

Question: Is it legal for kids to drive golf carts? Mark said LLCC Policy requires anyone driving LLCC rental carts must be 21 years of age (in effect since high-school kid wrecked one of our carts). [Ed. note: WA State law requires, to drive golf carts on streets, you must be at least 16 & have completed driver education, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=46.08.175>]

CAM Report: Roger provided a written report: YTD sales compared to last year:

- Golf -4% with P&L requiring more revenue to be on plan; expenses are well managed; as of February, Net Income(Loss) is (\$15K) to budget [*February weather played a part. Hoping for better golfing weather!*]
- Café +18%.
- Greens P&L performing near to being on plan managing expenses; as of February, Net Income(Loss) is (\$2K) to budget [*primarily due to approved training class and approved unbudgeted tiller purchase*].

The budget planning process for FY Oct 2023-Sept 2024 will be announced mid-April, basically using the same process as prior years for forecasting revenue & expenses, plus capital projects. [*Voted on by the membership in September*]

Friday St. Paddy's Day sales were good: Café \$520, Restaurant \$1793, Lounge \$1153.

Comments from the Chair: Vern thanked Mark & his staff for having a great attitude in promoting our course. And he thanked Javier and his crew for keeping the course in such great shape. Javier's leadership has been very positive. Our committee continues to discuss projects and priorities, helping to maintain our #1 rating in the community. During the next couple months, we'll be holding discussions on fees and capital projects, making serious decisions on priorities. He encouraged departments to include in their "budget requests" everything they believe they need to operate.

Marketing: Mark said the banner for the high-school fence is being funded by an anonymous donor (*Thank you!*) The verbiage is being finalized by the Marketing Committee and we'll be submitting our application for this season. The first year costs \$600; subsequent years are \$400 (Ed Irvin & Mark Hendricks to sponsor 2nd year?)

The Marketing Committee will be meeting next week to finalize advertising of our golf & burger special in the *Journal*. There was also free mention of our "Masters Partnership Tournament" in the WSGA golf magazine!

OLD BUSINESS

Pond Cleanup: Joel said Javier has purchased the blades & equipment, and now we're waiting for drier weather to begin cutting the cattails. Javier's team will go in and cut, while volunteers will bring in trailers & help with transfer of waste. It was mentioned August is a good time, when the cattails dry out and don't grow back as quickly. Joel said they may have to put down some burlap-type material on top of the cut weeds.

#3 Blue Tee-box & practice area: The grass is not quite grown in well enough on the newly-built #3 blue tee-box to begin driving golf balls on this pad. We'll continue to use the old blue tee-box for now. The practice chipping area is looking good; its putting area is not quite ready. Ed Irvin asked when they'd be filling in the sandbox in that area? Javier said the vendor has no sand right now; they won't get it in before late May. In the meantime, he will check with other courses to see if they have any left-over sand they are willing to sell, that we can have sooner.

And what about parking carts? (Right now, it's tight for 4 carts playing off the old Blue tee-box to fit in the cul-de-sac; it will be even worse with carts of folks using the practice area? Javier said he will look at leveling out an area by the rubbish pile, and putting down gravel to create a "practice" parking area.

When should we open the new chipping area? We need to make sure we have Policies in place first.

Chipping area Policies & Rates: It's recommended we allow "*Annual*" *golf members* to use the new practice area, (checking out a bag of balls with retriever) at no charge. For *LLCC residents without an Annual*, we would charge \$5 to check out balls w/retriever. And for the *Public* who wish to use the practice area, they would need to purchase Greens Fees plus pay \$5 for the balls w/retriever. The Pro Shop would maintain a "check-out" list, to assure we get the equipment back. It was agreed to add to the Policy: "Anyone using this practice area **MUST first check in with the Pro Shop.**" We'll also be posting signs warning walkers (both near the porta-potty, and again by the practice area).

What about retrieving balls while others are on the practice range? When someone is done practicing then everyone pauses ... or better yet retrieves balls at the same time just like what happens in lessons (everyone puts their clubs down and retrieves balls). Those that want can leave. Those that wish to continue, now have their full bag to continue.

Capital Projects: Some ideas: *Finish paving cart paths ... purchase used golf carts ... install Golf Simulator ... expand putting green ... install more driving pads ... re-do 8th green ... cover patio ... cover driving range.*

Vern felt our #1 priority should be to **Finish Paving cart paths** (*i.e., areas not paved the first time, plus some areas affected by tree-roots, etc.*). The Board should be reminded that money collected as Golf Cart Trail Fees (paid by golfers who use their own carts, annually or daily) was intended to be used to help maintain our cart paths. It was also noted the Navy will need to be informed before we pave the portions on their property.

Vern's #2 priority is **Purchase Used Golf Carts**, to maintain our fleet. And #3 is **Expand the Putting Green**.

We need to present our capital project priorities to the Board for their consideration of funding in next year's budget.

Tee-Box update: Cost for the tee-box renovation so far, for materials only, is about \$1500-1600 per tee-box. [Extra costs included the decision to "sod" rather than seed right now, to speed up use date. We also spent \$3500 of our fundraising monies to purchase equipment, cutting back on labor costs for renovations.] Vern said we'll have ~\$2500 left in our fundraising "kitty", which can only build about one & a half more tee-boxes. #4 (B/R/G) will be the next one.

Fundraiser: If we want to renovate remaining tee-boxes, we should consider holding another fundraiser. Mark will come to our next meeting with a proposal for a fundraiser.

Other: A question was raised about "singles" playing on our course and wanting to "play through" other foursomes. Singles shouldn't expect to "play through" everyone else on the course (which contributes to "pace of play" issues while waiting for them to play through). Since they can't post their score if they golf alone, maybe they should "practice" (use two balls). Mark said when the course is busy, they try to pair up singles whenever they can.

Joel asked if there is a plan to **replace large trees** throughout the course before they come down? Rather than waiting and planting a small tree in it's place, which will take years to grow? He offered to do some research and bring back a plan for discussion.

Adjourn: At 3:20 PM, Gayle Wilcox moved to: **ADJOURN**. Lance Levine seconded, and the motion PASSED.

NOTES BY ROBBIE

[NOTE: No Board actions required by committee this month.]