

## LLCC Greens Committee Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 (1:30 PM – Pro Shop Café)

ATTENDEES: Vern Duggan, Robbi Alberts, Joel Gray, Ed Irvin, Lance Levine, Tim Magee, Nancy Milliman, Steve Saylor, Gary Yando  
[Excused: Sheila Nokes, Gayle Wilcox]

GUESTS: Mike Berni, Dean Dyson, John Ingemi, Renie Dyson, Jess Mosley [Torrin Westwood – WA Golf, Asst Dir of Club Relations]

STAFF: Elen Gaschet DeL'isle, Mark Hendricks, Roger Milliman [Excused: Javier Martinez]

Vern called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM. He mentioned it was his 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary today (*Congrats!*)

**Minutes:** Joel Gray moved to: **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 4, 2023 GREENS COMMITTEE MEETING.** Nancy Milliman seconded, and the motion **PASSED.**

**Marketing:** The newly added Hot dogs are a hit, selling well. Mark said he sold 21 on one day this week. The machine has almost paid for itself.

Nancy said she and Elen have prepared spring & summer ads for the *Journal*. The coupon is for \$45 for golf & a hot dog (up \$5 this year). The larger coupon will appear every other week (offer expires end of June). We'll also be appearing in the *Visitor's Guide*, *Profile* and *Fjord Magazine*. Our public numbers are up.

Regarding the high-school fence banner, Mark said there's a certain window for paying, so they haven't taken our money yet. They'll let us know when. Artwork was turned into the *Shopper*, they have to wait until they hear from the high-school. It's scheduled be up for this Fall's baseball league (football & baseball ad-space is sold separately).

**Guest from WA Golf:** Vern introduced Torrin Westwood (*Asst Dir of Club Relations at WA Golf*). Torrin said his job is to help facilitate WA Golf services with the various clubs. He said Lake Limerick has two rosters (Ladies Club, and Men's Club). WA Golf has a ~75,000 members with 511 clubs (they added 7,000 members last year). They are a 501(c)4 nonprofit. As a non-profit, they can make periodic contributions towards a lobbyist in Olympia that supports golf issues. They also promote "Youth on Course" (in which Lake Limerick participates). Kids pay \$20 to join YOC, and then pay \$5 a round at participating courses. One of their services is the GHIN Handicap system, which provides uniform HCP indexes. Members are eligible to participate in events – WA Golf puts on over 90 events each year.

He asked if we had any kind of challenge that stands out? Are any of LLCC's activities "added value" or "unique"? Do we solicit new leadership for roles & committees? Is there anything that WA Golf isn't providing that we'd like to see?

Lance wondered if WA Golf can promote our tournaments (e.g., Shamrock & St. Andrews)? One unique thing we'll have is our new chipping area. Joel Gray wondered if Torrin could look at our course and provide his feedback?

Torrin said courses are required to be re-rated every 10 years, or whenever there's a change to the course. He noted that WA Golf usually re-rates courses every 5-6 years. 90% of the course rating relates to distance from tee to pin. Other things that play into the rating are green size, chutes to hit through, severity of bunkers, etc. Raters are volunteers; they'll be starting soon.

**Greens Report:** (In a written report), Javier said April was a busy month for his crew. The course is ready for Spring golfing, looking great for league play & upcoming tournaments.

**Things accomplished in April:** Continue keeping an eye open for any diseases on the green so they can stay on top of any situations ... finished punching & sanding all fairways ... punched, sanded & seeded all tees ... stayed on top of mowing the course ... placed approximately 490 tons of sand on the course.

**Things to accomplish in May:** Fertilize the whole course (using fertilizer with no phosphorus) ... Patch the greens ... Focus on drainage ... Continue work on chipping greens ... Begin watering for the season, to keep it green and healthy ... Begin adding beauty bark and weeding all flower beds ... Keep an eye out for any damage on the course from the winter that may need repair ... Get the course ready for the Shamrock Tournament.

**Topics to Discuss:** With Shamrock and other tournaments coming up, will be getting the course in top condition.

Crews will be installing "ecology" filter bags in the ditch by #9 green, to filter water before it runs into the culvert/lake. Dean mentioned homeowners should consider using phosphorus-free fertilizer too, as nearly all the community's water eventually runs into the lake.

Vern thanked Javier for continuing to grow, and learn how to make our course better. He's done a terrific job. There are now three sandboxes on the course (Hole #1, #4 & #7). There's no excuse not to keep containers full of sand.

**Pro Shop Report:** Mark said (after several months of bad weather) the Pro Shop finally posted a better sales month than last year. As the sun comes out, carts are being readied. Some need battery attention.

First round of a one-on-one **Match Play Tournament** started this week. And Joe Long will be back to give **golf lessons** starting in mid-June (Men's, Women's & Youth). Mark said there's another young man in the community (who is PGA-certified) who would like to do the same thing for us (teaching golf lessons as a trade-off for play).

We're getting a new TV in the Pro Shop (replacing the previous one that is going bad). It's not budgeted, so Mark is looking for donations to help pay for it.

**CAM Report:** Better weather and the fishing derby (Sat, April 22) brought in customers in past weeks, improving revenues. Derby Saturday resulted in restaurant sales of \$5521, plus Café sales of \$1603 for breakfast & lunch. Last week's Golf revenues were nearly \$11,000, resulting in YTD cash flow only 4% off 2022 comparative sales.

The new G1 POS system is on schedule and staff is getting trained. Equipment has been ordered. We're also getting a new computer in the Pro Shop to meet requirements for G1. Will speak to budget later in agenda.

**Pond Clean-up:** Joel said there's been no change since last report. Still looking at August to cut weeds. Also, Joel, Mark, Javier and Vern will meet soon to formalize a PAR to procure burlap to lay down after weeds are cut. Most of the required funding is expected to come from the original funding for pond clearing.

**Hole #3 (#12 Blue) Tee-Box:** It is expected to open soon. We are in touch with WA Golf regarding any change in rating that may be required due to the new tee-box.

**Chipping Area/Policies & Rates:** We need to get signage up before it can open. And the policy needs to be set. A DRAFT policy was shared with the Greens Committee. After some discussion, Robbi Alberts moved that: **THE "POLICY FOR LAKE LIMERICK PRACTICE AREA", AS PREPARED BY GREENS COMMITTEE, BE SENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR APPROVAL (see Attached).** Lance Levine seconded.

Those using the practice green need to stay off the new grass as it's growing in; it should be roped off to create a path to the mats. For safety reasons, golfers should use care & common sense in retrieving balls; everyone needs to take a break in chipping when balls need retrieving. The **motion PASSED** with one nay.

**Carpeting the Café/Pro Shop:** Nancy Milliman asked if the Greens Committee could work with the Inn Committee to request funding to install new carpeting (or other flooring) in the Café & Pro Shop. It was consensus of Greens committee that we can consider adding this as a 4<sup>th</sup> priority item for funding (in conjunction with Inn Committee capital budget).

**New Tee-Boxes:** #3 (R/G), #9 (W) and #8 (R) are looking really good. The sod is setting nicely. Javier has been cautioned against cutting it too low, and to work with the fertilizer rep.

**Fundraiser:** Mark said he's looking at **Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** to hold a Fundraising Tournament (to fund golf course improvements). It will be similar to what we did last year.

**Capital Projects for Budget:** It was agreed Greens' priorities are: (1) **Finish Paving Cart Paths;** (2) **Purchase Used Golf Carts;** (3) **Expand our Putting Green ...** and now, with Inn Committee (4) **Install Carpet/Flooring in Café & Pro Shop.** Javier is working on getting an estimate for the Paving. Vern said golf cart estimate is \$6,000 each. We need estimates for Expanding the Putting Green ... and for carpeting/flooring.

John thought there was a question on installing flooring before any desired remodeling of the Pro Shop? Vern said that the Pro Shop remodel has been "tabled" for now. It was also mentioned we are paying \$8/week per mat to keep the mats by the doorways. Will new carpeting/flooring help us cut those costs?

**Filing Navy Agreement with County:** We are now on our fourth attempt to get this agreement filed with the County. (After each previous attempt, they requested "more information" that we had to get from the Navy regarding Excise Tax.) We're hoping this will be the last attempt (and all for only a \$10 filing fee!)

**Reserve Study:** Steve Saylor is chairing LLCC's Reserve Study Group (working with Reserve Associates). He's looking for someone from Greens Committee to serve on this study group. [Tim Magee volunteered] They will be reviewing all of LLCC's assets and compiling recommendations. Some of the work needs to be finished by July.

**Funding flowers for patio pots:** Sheila Nokes has been keeping flowers in pots on the patio. She would like to be reimbursed for her expenditures. Roger M. approved her \$200 request. [Tim Magee offered to donate another \$100].

**Rates:** Vern shared a table showing current rates for various nine-hole golf courses in the area. LLCC is in the mix. Vern also drafted a sheet showing what an 8.6% rate increase would look like (i.e., inflation cost). This is for discussion purposes only at this point. Inflation rates may change before we make our final proposal to the Board for 2024 rates.

It was felt we must be careful not to increase so much that we actually lose golf sales (i.e., price ourselves out of the market). Also, not sure an across-the-board price increase is appropriate; we don't want to lose public members – we actually want to try to encourage more public members. So public rates need to stay competitive. Discussion to be continued.

**Adjourn:** At 3:10 PM, Robbi Alberts moved to: **ADJOURN.** Tim Magee seconded, and the motion PASSED.

NOTES BY ROBBI

**ATTACHMENT (requiring Board Action) – "Policy for Lake Limerick Practice Area"**

[Sent 5/2/23 from Greens committee to  
LLCC Board of Directors for approval]

## **(DRAFT) Policy for Lake Limerick Practice Area**

The Lake Limerick practice area was funded by our HOA with the approval of our Greens Committee for the benefit of our golfing members and to create revenue.

Anyone using this practice area **MUST first check in with the Pro Shop.**

The practice area is located near the #3 tee boxes. This area on the course had an existing practice green that was rebuilt as well as an existing tee box expanded into a large hitting area, allowing up to ten individuals to practice safely at any one time. The area is for chipping a **maximum of 80 yards.**

The area will be reserved certain hours per day for pro shop staff golf lessons. Those hours will be posted. By utilizing the new practice area, we can limit group lessons on the main course.

- Our **"ANNUAL" golf members** will be able to utilize the practice area as a benefit of having a current golf membership. Annual golf members will be able to check out range balls from the pro shop and return them when they have finished, with **no charge.**
- **"NON-ANNUAL" Lake Limerick members** can utilize our practice area, when available, at a **cost of \$5** for a bag of range-balls. The \$5 charge will cover costs of new/replacement ball shaggers that will be needed, as well as golf balls lost. The Pro Shop staff will have a check-out form to track that our range balls are returned.
- The **PUBLIC** will be allowed to use the practice area by paying **green fees, plus an additional \$5.**
- Before tournaments, the area will be open to all **TOURNAMENT participants.** During tournaments, signs will be posted as to whether the practice area will be available to others who are not in the tournament.

The policy will continue on the golf course that, when utilizing the course, no more than two balls may be used to practice on the actual course especially hitting onto the greens (and only when it doesn't impede pace of play).

Signage will be posted:

- By #3 green/port-a-potty: **"PRACTICE AREA** now OPEN ahead. **WATCH FOR BALLS** from BOTH sides of the cart path."
- At the Practice area: **"PRACTICE AREA: MUST CHECK IN WITH PRO SHOP before practicing, and please **WATCH for other golfers and walkers.****

+++++

(DRAFT Rev. 4/6/23)