

SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club Green Committee
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Green Committee
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

A regular meeting of the SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club Green Committee was held in LaVista Room at the SBR La Hacienda building on February 5, 2020.

Committee Members present:

Jean Cheszek, Toni Graves, Jack Gressingh, Mike Mycka, Sam Rossi

Not present: Jim Cook, Ken DeLeo, Jeanne Osterlund, Jeff Pharr

Robson Staff present:

Chris Blake, Mike Jahaske, Ken Steinke

Not present: Mark Giannonatti

Guest present: Rick Knapp

Jack Gressingh called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

1. Minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2020. After a motion by Sam Rossi was seconded by Jean Cheszek, the Minutes of 1/8/20 were unanimously approved.

2. Bill Keil's Proposal to modify and enlarge existing pitching green, bunker practice area. Jack distributed and recapped Bill's proposal with accompanying diagram. Discussion points:

Mike Jahaske: Mike and Chris have authorization and motivation to improve the practice area within budget restriction; the area is landlocked but using adjacent range space is not an option; Chris is well qualified to move dirt, address drainage, increase green area; last year bunkers were improved but fairways still require attention; extent of damage will become evident after Bermuda comes out of dormancy; fairways supersede improvements in the practice area; new nine hole discussions haven't mentioned a practice area but that could relieve pressure here. Bunkers run \$10K; moving and building new could run \$20-30K; people have to be courteous and thoughtful; major changes represent long term process.

Chris Blake: Has experience building hundreds of greens; plans to lift current area for drainage. Is using end of driving range for a nursery; must experiment

with various grasses' viability for use on putting green, etc. Lack of dedicated practice space is an issue.

Jean Cheszek: After the putting green is resurfaced, perhaps mow turf to the edge of curb and use the green, or part of it for chipping; but, chipping turns into pitching (MJ). Place targets/reflective tape/flags on driving range for use in pitching practice; this can be done immediately.

Mike Mycka: Suggested moving the bunker so players would hit into the range area; current bunker area would become chipping area; also suggested using a small area at end of driving range, but that is Chris' nursery space. Mark Giannonatti has mentioned a possible replatting of the new nine holes to include practice area. Current configuration next to driving range presents a real liability issue for SBR.

Sam Rossi: New bunker doesn't have to be cement-based (expensive).

Jack Gressingh: Issue will be tabled until next month, when Mark G. is present. Jack will report back to Mr. Keil.

3. Ken DeLeo Proposal to install sandwich board signs showing distances from driving stations to poles. Lazer would pick up reflective tape/distance; distance is measured from white posts, not the parking lot and this should be mentioned in Mike's Newsletter.

4. Ed's Dogs. Mark Giannonatti left word with Mike J. that county approval is necessary for the CO to be issued; April is now the target opening. County records must reflect proper application, approval and completion of related tennis courts, drainage, extra seating covering; County is strictly adhering to regulations before issuing a CO.

5. Mike Jahaske Report. Over last year rounds were up, 13 more annual memberships, six more play cards. To discourage carts too near greens, especially 18 and 3, revised signs have been installed in rental carts and notices placed in pro shop. Starters have been instructed to remind golfers to replace divots.

Scorecards are about to be reprinted and will reflect current/new USGA ratings; men's ratings will be re-assessed on 2/17 or 19; Mike is looking for other improvement suggestions for incorporation before order is submitted. Jean is now on the USGA ratings team; women's tees ratings are going down; ratings for AZ courses are consistent, the system is working.

6. Chris Blake Report. Chris' crew has implemented the site line theory aggressively on 13; and has begun work on 10 and 11, removing salt cedar, mesquite tree stumps; doing pre-emergence mowing and planting summer annual wheat, especially on 11 and 13. Tree pruning results in a much different look. Bunkers are raked every morning, alternating days upward and downward so that no cement shows; sand seems to slip off the cement.

Current challenge is weather; practice green is going to be resurfaced and drainage corrected to meet USGA specs; physical analysis alone costs \$2K; nursery will provide information that qualifies decisions on better grasses. It's too early to work on rye grass fairways but working on dormant fairway issues, wetting agents, slicing matting, especially 15, 18 and 10; 10 may be fine the way it is without turf replacement; it wasn't possible to predict solution in December when Mark was last here.

Reduction of watering overall is better; unfortunately precision nozzles aren't available; Chris is lifting heads on left of 8 green; 15" patches of thatch holds water; uses a 5' cut circle to raise level and wagon wheel style drain system to remove moisture.

Jean and others like the green conditions, though balls roll off; stimp rating is about 10; Chris sands greens if turf is actively growing, now it's not. Agreed, greens are good.

7. Jack Gressingh's Tree Committee and Miscellaneous issues. At Mike, Ken and Chris' invitation, Jack's committee (DeLeo, Mycka, Graves) met with them on Monday 2/3 to suggest proposed tree locations of five trees on fairway 7 and five on fairway 18.

Jean thought one tree on each of 7 and 18 might really complicate play for many women players, especially on second shots; solution might be to move tee box forward; apparently some residents complain a lot about errant balls, and some not so much, taking care of their own repairs, intrusions, etc.; ALC likely wouldn't approve protective nets; fairway 7 and 18 can be widened to the right to make more clear doglegs. Size, height, canopy width determine appropriateness of specific trees at specific locations. Trees won't be planted until May, so all should assess positions and comment at meetings in March and April.

Also, aiming pole on 7 isn't visible but white is probably the best color; pole must remain moveable; tree blocking view on 6 rust tee box can't effectively be trimmed but rather removed if necessary; can severe left slant of fairway on 16 be alleviated by building up the ditch?

8. Rick Knapp Proposal to use signs on ranges and pro shop desk to suggest correct divot pattern. Proper divot control would increase the range station use and signs are effective.

At the driving range, station damage is immediate because of improper divot taking; Chris changes stations on Tues, Thurs, and Friday; it takes 2.5 weeks for seeds to grow; mats are in use for 10 days in each of January and February; people complain about the mats but they have been improved since initial installation; Mike will consider instructional signs; proper divot repair will be addressed in Newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Temporary Rock Pathway between 15 and 16. Land Development suggests the road paving, and therefore path repair, won't be accomplished for two to three months; Mike suggests driving slowly; in the meantime flat tires are an issue; suggestions for sand, small rocks improvement solutions aren't being entertained.

2. New Products Recommendations. Mike suggests that early May would be an appropriate time for Sam Rossi's subcommittee to make recommendations to Mark Giannonatti for innovative, golf incentive products for SBR membership.

The next regular meeting of the Green Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 10:00am in LaVista Room of SBR La Hacienda Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Graves

APPROVED 3-11-2020