

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the SaddleBrooke Ranch Greens Committee Wednesday, January 4, 2023

A regular meeting of the SaddleBrooke Ranch Greens Committee (the “Committee”) was held in the Private Dining Room, Ranch House Building, on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Committee Members present: John Whitehead, Chairman; Alex Anna, Randy Friedman, Rod Linville, Dave Maisch, Lynn Mullhall, Hal Peabody, BJ Schultz, and Steve Schuster.

Robson Staff present: Mark Giannonatti, Mike Jahaske, and Ken Steinke. Aaron Thomas, Golf Superintendent was absent.

Chairman John Whitehead called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. John called for acceptance of the Minutes of the December 2022 and the Committee approved.

Items for Discussion:

1. **Member Introductions.** Chairman John started off the introduction of the 2023 committee members by each member introduce themselves with how long they have lived in SaddleBrooke Ranch, how often they play during the week and which days.
2. **Grounds/Course Condition Update.** Grounds Committee Lead, Randy Friedman, presented the summary of the golf course ride around done on December 27th. Randy and Aaron’s summary is attached beginning on page 3. In summary, the course is in great shape, the decision to water less is working well and all course issues are being addressed. *Please note:* All requests and suggestions for the golf course maintenance should be directed through Randy to Aaron.
3. **Adopt a Hole Update.** It was announced that Steve Schuster will be succeeding Randy as the lead on the Adopt a Hole program. Steve’s committee will have four or five members to monitor each hole fill fairway divots with sand, repair ball marks on the green and pick up tees on hole tee boxes.
4. **Golf Operations Update.** Golf Professional Mike Jahaske provided a rundown on the golf course operations.
 - a. Golf rounds for 2022 were approximately 55,000 with an 80/20 percent split of resident to non-resident rounds.
 - b. The goal for 2023 is an 85/15 percent resident to non-resident split.
 - c. The purchase of annual resident cards is on track with the 2022.
 - d. With less outside play, a fleet of 46 new Yamaha carts is planned to replace the current 74 carts.
 - e. A reduction in outside tournaments continues with the newly booked tournaments having to start after noon.
 - f. It was noted that in the case of inclement weather, not penalty points will be assigned in Chelsea if 50% of the reservations no show or cancel.

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5. **General Update.** Mark Giannonatti, Robson Golf Manager, noted that the next nine hole course is still in the planning although no definitive start date has been established. Mark said that another tractor for use by Aaron's staff has been ordered and they are awaiting delivery.

6. **2023 Meeting Expectations.** A brief discussion ensued regarding the expectations for the Committee in 2023. The Committee's Goal is to recommend and work with Robson Management to improve the resident golfer's golfing experience based on input from the resident golfing community. The Committee recognized the importance of communicating well with the Women's Clubs, Men's Club and various social golf groups so more information can be provided to these groups. This avenue of communication will also allow the golfing community via the various groups to contribute information through the Committee to Robson Management.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Hal Peabody, Secretary.

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Grounds Committee Report, Monday, January 2, 2023

Aaron Thomas, Rod Linville, Sam Rossi and Randy Friedman did a ride around of all 18 holes on December 27, 2022.

Summary of the Ride Around:

1. I would like to say that Aaron and his crew have done a fantastic job this year on our golf course!!
2. The thin sand in the bunkers have been addressed more sand was added or raked up the sides better.
3. The rubber mat areas on hole #10 (first bridge on the right), the grass hasn't fully grown in all the way so it will be GUR (ground under repair) so it will have a white circle around both areas until further notice.
4. All the greens and collars have been sprayed for poa annua and rye grasses.
5. New garden areas on left side of hole #10 cart path are getting ready for plants, drip irrigation and new pea gravel, coming soon.
6. Hole #4 when its cart path only on this hole Aaron will cut the fairway in half A-B so you will be able to drive on either A or B fairway to help pace of play.
7. Continued trimming of trees and bushes on the course and cleaned out more tumbleweeds all over.
8. Needle tining of all the greens and sanding gets done every 4 weeks to keep the greens healthy.
9. On hole #16 some of the RED stakes have been moved up the hill a little farther on the left to give you a better lie to hit your shots.
10. OVERALL the golf course is in GREAT shape and I want to thank Aaron his crew and Mark Giannonatti for getting him the resources to make this a great course!!!
11. Water Conservation and Usage at SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club: With the New Year fast approaching, it's time to review the past years' practices and reflect on what has been successful and what we can improve on.

The Most Critical Areas to Review:

For any golf course manager one of the most critical areas to review is water management and usage on the golf course. The topic is especially important as in Grounds Committee Report 2025 the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) will implement its Fifth management plan. Since 1980 the state has been implementing water management plans in an effort to conserve ground water and attain its long term water management goals.

For more information here's a link to ADWR's web site - AMA Management Plans | Arizona Department of Water Resources ([azwater.gov](https://new.azwater.gov/5MP/plans-concepts)). For more detailed Golf Course information - 5MP Concepts Page: <https://new.azwater.gov/5MP/plans-concepts> (Under "Turf Breakout Group" and "Golf Conservation Program."

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What does this mean for golf course managers?

It means as environmental stewards we need to continue to improve on how we use water on our golf courses. Smart water management isn't just how much water we apply to the course each night; it's creating an integrated management plan that allows us to use the water in the most efficient ways possible.

Our Success Story:

A success story for us here at SaddleBrooke Ranch is the move to not overseed our fairways in the winter months. By doing this the past two winters we have not only greatly improved our year-round turf conditions, but we have saved a tremendous amount of water. I did a comparison of water usage from 2008-2020 when the fairways were overseeded, to the past two years - 2021-2022. By not overseeding we have saved 30 million gallons of water versus past years of overseeding. Next year this number will be even better since we had to grow in the new greens in 2021. By not overseeding we do meet the new ADWR Fifth Management Plans allotments.

Golf Maintenance:

Water Savings How do we save so much water? By not Overseeding! During the establishment of the winter seed we need to water 6-7 times daily for 10-14 days to get the seed to germinate and establish. Once established the winter Overseed requires more water than our semi-dormant fairways do now. By *not* Overseeding, we don't have to water as heavily to regrow in the Bermuda grass during the spring and summer months. A huge saving is that we don't have to sod acres of turf in the fairways each spring and summer as sod establishment requires a large amount of water. Next month I'll continue with the water conservation theme and highlight what we do on the course to help manage our water usage. This article is also in the ***FORECADDIE***.

Thanks and have a great New Year!

Aaron Thomas, SBR Golf Course Superintendent