

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting  
of the  
SaddleBrooke Ranch Greens Committee  
Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

A regular meeting of the SaddleBrook Ranch Greens Committee (“the Greens Committee”) was held in the LaVista Room of LaHacienda Club on Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

Committee Members present: Jean Cheszek, Chairperson, Ken DeLeo, Randy Friedman, Toni Graves, Garry Knowling, Kevin McCarthy, Jeanne Osterlund, Jeff Pharr, George Price. Temporary Superintendent, Jon Whitmyer was also present.

Robson Staff present: Mark Gionnanatti, Mike Jahaske, and Ken Steinke

The meeting commenced at 9:05am. Minutes of the March 31, 2021 Meeting were approved.

**Jean Cheszek** welcomed Randy Friedman, who replaces Bill Albu on the Greens Committee.

**Mark Gionnanatti.**

**General Course Reconstruction.** All aspects of the renovation project are ahead of schedule. Goal is to have all the construction done by Memorial Day, including sprigging all the greens. Jon and Mark discussed their choice of sprigging rather than laying sod. Sprigs are laid down, rolled, watered, fertilized, repeat. The stolon (offshoots) carry more sprigs across the top of the dirt, and eventually growth fills in the green. Green fiber in in the sprigs disintegrates after four days, so new growth will appear yellow until roots take hold.



Aaron Thomas will be the new golf course superintendent, starting on May 10. Aaron joins us from Camelback Golf Club in Scottsdale. He has visited SBR twice, and likes the Ranch's existing staff, machinery, and annual maintenance budget.

Mark anticipates good fairways by the end of summer; herbicides will take care of rye grass and poa; 1/2" to 1" of sanding and aerification will encourage existing Bermudagrass growth. We have 500 tons of sand on site now, with a goal of applying 3,000 tons to the fairways during the summer. Care of existing Bermudagrass through all seasons should result in a superior product. Roger Gilbert's advice and assistance have been invaluable; he's also tying fairways into bunkers, advising on fairway widths.

Temporary greens and areas around newly planted greens will be watered and fertilized at a time appropriate to transition back to new permanent greens.

**Irrigation.** Issues remain because the sprinkler heads that require replacement are no longer available. Jon is trying to alleviate standing water, etc., hole by hole.

**Hole #16.** This hole is undergoing all-encompassing changes: the tee boxes have been moved and enlarged, drainage improved, the middle fairway section completely revamped to remove the right to left slope, 4 to 5' of brush removed from left overgrowth arroyo. It perhaps will be a par three during renovation because the sprinklers mid-fairway are used to water sod, which will be laid in three/four weeks.

**Ed's Dogs.** Renovation plans are ongoing, 14 parking spots will be added for golfers, but adding a pick-up window isn't possible without complete reconfiguration inside.

**Golf Check-In Window.** People appreciate the convenience; pavers will be laid; getting contractor to do a canopy is difficult at this time.

**New Home Construction.** Cost of lumber and demand for new homes outpaces supply.

**Grounds Subcommittee ("GSC"), Jeff Pharr, Chair.** Jeff Pharr & Kevin McCarthy toured the course with Fernando from Oliphant to review undulation changes. The goal is to soften some of the slopes without making the greens too flat. This is in anticipation of faster greens in the winter months with no overseeding. Will also allow for more pin placement locations. After resurfacing, the greens will be very firm to start. This is a normal stage and they will soften as they mature. Fernando is doing a great job in tying the new green surrounds into the greens. This will allow for a much smoother transition from the surrounds to the greens. Roger Gilbert would like to extend the entry/exit gates to all 18 holes (other than the par threes); maintenance is much easier and specific. #8 entry will be moved away from french drain, and exit away from new green drain. New trees obstructing view from black tees on #1 will be investigated.

**Golf Experience Subcommittee ("GES"), Garry Knowling, Chair.** Using a very powerful program, GES sent 900 surveys and received almost 400 responses and 2000 comments. Further time is required to analyze data, but definite trends are evident and data will be used to advise golfers and Robson. Expect a meeting on May 13 or 14 to discuss, with results following.

**Communications Subcommittee ("CSC"), Ken DeLeo, Chair.** A course-update was printed in the weekly Ranch Reminder. Expect a series of articles and photos

throughout the summer in the Ranch Round-Up regarding course renovation and related agronomics.

**Monthly Updates by Mike Jahaske.** Generally, tee sheets are open; afternoon players are moving to the morning slots. Pro shop hours are flexible and will react to demand. Mike is working with Mike Oliphant to change the shape of the chipping green bunker in order to retain the ability to hit fairway type shots out to the range field as well as being able to hit pitches over the bunker to the green. Stated rates are for the full day: \$10 for suspended annuals, \$15 for residents.

**The Local Rules.** Rules were approved as written with two very minor changes after being moved by Kevin McCarthy and seconded by George Price.

The next regular meeting of the Greens Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 9:00 am, in LaVista room, LaHacienda Club. This meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted by  
Toni Graves  
Acting Secretary