

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
SaddleBrooke Ranch Green Committee**

October 7, 2020

A regular meeting of the SaddleBrook Ranch Green Committee was held in the LaVista Room of La Hacienda Club on October 7, 2020.

Committee Members present in person: Jean Cheszek, Jim Cook, Toni Graves, Jeanne Osterlund, Jeff Pharr
Member attending by phone: Sam Rossi

Robson Staff present: Mark Giannonatti, Mike Jahaske, Chris Blake

Guest Speaker: Jimmy Fox, President of Evergreen Turf, Inc. of Chandler AZ

Jean Cheszek called the meeting to order at 9:07AM and immediately turned the proceedings over to Mark Giannonatti who introduced the speaker, Jimmy Fox. Jimmy has decades of golf course turf experience in AZ.

Jimmy Fox

Jimmy recommends either Bentgrass (doable because of our elevation, cooler nights and air flow) or UltraDwarf Bermuda for SBR greens. 18 new Bentgrass greens cost about \$150K and would have to be re-turfed every 8-10 years; this process takes about 90 days during which the course would be closed. UltraDwarf is the go-to local choice with more durability, though longer dormancy times. Mark G. will make the grass decision in 2021; currently, Chris is successfully overseeding greens with Bentgrass and Ryegrass; and fairways with Ryegrass.

The choice of seed is complicated by several issues:

1. Weather, warming summers
2. Water, future shortages, salinity, available effluent water
3. Grass options and their dormancy, water, durability, temperature and aeration requirements
 - a. Bentgrass
 - b. Mini Verde (an Ultradwarf Bermudagrass)
 - c. Undesirable varieties like Poa Annua and Poa Trivialis
 - d. Pressure from the AZ Dept. of Water Resources to not overseed

National Turf Environmental (NTEP) Program trials are held all over but conditions vary, so Chris is creating an on-site nursery to determine viability over time. New ideas in water management, improved technology, development of fungicides and grass varieties are key to successful management.

Currently, 13 courses nearby have Bentgrass (The Gallery, Dove Mountain, Sewailo, Oro Valley CC); 36 have UltraDwarf Bermuda/MiniVerde (SBOne, LaPaloma, Ventana). Of 200 houses this year built in SBR, 25% of the new homeowners are golfers.

Chris Blake

Seed was down in six days and it took six days to germinate; chipping green is Bentgrass; bent-rye on greens now. The overseeding is going extremely well; he expects no delay in opening and will be mowing by next week.

Meeting was resumed at 10:30.

Old Business

1. Minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2020 were approved.
2. Candidates for this Committee's four vacant positions will be reviewed by a nominating committee consisting of Jean Cheszek, Sam Rossi and Jeff Pharr. They will interview each applicant and make a recommendation after the process is complete; applications must be received by October 28.
3. Mike Jahaske reports the "soggy" course patches work is being completed as is repair to the cart path.

New Business

1. Mark Giannonatti would like to call a special meeting of the Committee to discuss 2021 pricing issues (annual membership, punch pass, daily and cart rental rates). This meeting will be held on October 14, 2020, location TBD. COVID policies are being relaxed and for the next month at least, pins will remain in, rakes will be added to bunkers, water tanks will not be filled, sand bottles will be added to rental carts. Decision on allowing shotguns will be delayed for one

month. It is likely banquets of less than 50 will be allowed. No card groups will be allowed yet, Fitness Center up in the air, Library not opened.

Ed's Dogs should be opened in early November.

2. Mark would like to create a Grounds Subcommittee to begin meetings on January 1, 2021. This Grounds Subcommittee would be limited to one current member of the Green Committee and two others from the community; Jeff Pharr expressed interest. This Subcommittee would proactively discuss course issues and report directly to the Green Committee.

4. There is a hazardous blind spot on Hole 13 from the pine tees; Mike thinks this could be easily remedied.

5. The maintenance crew will stop clearing desert areas that don't present a danger to golfers (arroyos will be mowed), and someone will be patrolling randomly at night to control after hours use of the course.

6. Additional sand for bunkers has been ordered by Chris for Holes 10 and 12.

The next regular meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 4 at 9:00am in the LaVista Room of La Hacienda Club.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Graves, Acting Secretary