

## **Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the SaddleBrooke Ranch Greens Committee Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

A regular meeting of the SaddleBrooke Ranch Greens Committee (the “Committee”) was held in the Private Dining Room, Ranch House Building, on Wednesday November 1, 2023.

Committee Members present: John Whitehead, Chairman, David Maisch, Lynn Mulhall, Rod Linville, BJ Schultz, and Steve Schuster.

Committee Members absent: Alex Anna, Hal Peabody and Grounds Committee member, Sam Rossi.

Robson Staff present: Mark Giannonatti, Mike Jahaske, and Ken Steinke.

Call to Order at 8:00 AM by John Whitehead, Chairman. Minutes of the October 4, 2023 meeting were approved.

**Grounds Update:** Rod Linville provided a summary of the ride around on October 25, 2023.

- The Crew is still finding stuck sprinkler heads (as a result of killing the algae in the irrigation lines) everyday but there are fewer and fewer being found.
- The cups are looking better. It appears the golfers are doing what was requested and removing the flag and taking better care removing their ball.
- The word needs to get out to all golfers to remove the flag when using ball retrievers on the end of their putters, and to continue to educate how to properly remove the ball from the cup.
- Par three tees – Aaron said his team fills divots and levels most days (except weekends).
- Turf in front of #11 bridge is looking good. Other projects will begin after results are in.
- There is a water holding area to the left of the 14-tee box. After it dries out work will begin to dig a cellar that will be filled with rock to promote drainage.

### **Golf Operations Update (Mike/Ken):**

#### **Saturday Full Shotgun:**

- This past Saturday was the first day of the shotgun with more that 128 players. 136 Golfers played and most finished in 4 ½ hours. 5 hours is allowable when planning for 144 players so there are no issues between golfers finishing their round and players wanting to tee off.
- Tee times will be open to 144 players. Ken and Mike will monitor to see how it plays out. If changes are necessary, things will be adjusted.
- Regular tee times start at 1:00 after a 144 player shotgun.
- The goal is to get more people out playing and to be able to finish 18 holes. The tee sheet can be adjusted.

### **Golf Operations Update (Mike/Ken):**

- Discussion on tee times and pricing:
  - Mike explained their procedures for available tee times. Residents can view these as well as those using Golf Now. Golf Now's compensation is two tee times and they set their own pricing.
  - Mike is going to send out an article he sent out a few months ago to explain the Chelsea process so the community understands how to make a tee time.
  - We went from 76 to 46 rental carts.
  - The Greens Committee see no reason to modify/change the current Point System.

### **General Update (Mark):**

- Mark will share the Engineer's design for the next 9 holes once he has it. Engineering is working on water plans. We are lucky to have good producing wells. The Engineer is looking for lake placement.
- Dirt is a big expense. Roads must be planned out when designing the course. It is very expensive to move dirt, so dirt movement is optimized between golf course and future roads and lots. The course, roads and lots are all built at the same time to minimize 'moving dirt' costs.
- There is not an expectation that sales will increase next year. Housing sales are slow, except in Texas, where houses are still very active. Robson Ranch has 27 holes and 2800 homes. Saddlebrooke Ranch currently has 16-1700 homes.
- There is no update on annual rates and green fees currently. We should know 2024 pricing in early December.

### **Cup Damage Update:**

- Initially discussed during Grounds Update.
- John and Rod met with Roger and Daniel, on Aaron's team. They had a good discussion regarding cups & plastic liners, and the maintenance of the cups and greens. They are doing a good job cutting cups.

### **Three Year Greens Committee Terms:**

- The Committee discussed how to implement three-year terms. We currently have nine members. Mike suggested bringing people in who are interested in being on the Committee and having them start on a sub-committee. It is his experience that this is a good way to get to know people and to find out if they would fit on the Grounds Committee.
- Committee members are in favor of increasing current member terms to three years and when these terms end, their replacements will have a three-year term.

### **GC Communications with the Golf Community:**

- The Committee discussed how best to get important information out to the golf community. Greens Committee minutes are on several of the clubs' home pages, as well as posted in the Pro Shop. The Forecaddie is also another avenue to spread the word.
- Communication is a challenge these days. Mike reported they send out 2800 emails to residents who have requested them and only 60% are opened.
- Members agreed that we need to get the word out and one way is to share information with golfers we play with.
- We need to continue to think how we can communicate how to take care of our golf course.

### **Member Comments/General Input:**

- Comments are being made how wet the course is. A suggestion was made to have an article in the Forecaddie to give more detail.
- Mike has his personnel putting out blue stakes in wet areas to allow relief under Local Rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 AM

**The next Greens Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday December 6, 2023.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Mulhall *for* Hal Peabody