

*THE CLUB AT SONTERRA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MINUTES*

*Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2007*

**Mickey Gayler, Chairman**

Arthur Abelman, STA

Michael Adzija, Chairman Emeritus

Marian Dyer, SWGA

Lori Goforth, Vice-Chairperson

Rosalie Hallenberger, Historian

Cathy Lay, SWA

Steve McKim, MGA

Stephanie & Randy Park, Ambassador Council

**MEMBERS AT-LARGE**

Mike Cooney

Milt King

Grant Morris

Gary Nedwed

Becky Spears

*Absent: Lori Goforth, Gary Nedwed and Michael Adzija.*

Club Representatives: Ross Thornbrugh, Kathryn Comfort, Jeff Hunter, Stacey Semtner, Michelle Dodier and George Rojas.

Chairman Gayler called the meeting to order. He reminded the Board that we are now ratifying the minutes via email.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE/AMBASSADOR COUNCIL:** Stephanie Park reported that the Club has just sold its 200<sup>th</sup> membership for 2007. In addition, Sonterra was also mentioned in Texas Monthly Magazine. Mrs. Park also read the Board a congratulations letter from our Texas Governor Rick Perry congratulating the Club on reaching full with a wait list status. The Ambassador Council has had a very busy year and has had an incredible number of new member assignments. We have the Waterfall Classic Golf Tournament and Casino Party coming up on September 28. This is a complimentary event that is specifically for all the new members that have joined in 2007, as well as the member sponsors. In addition, we will be doing a special drawing during the Waterfall Classic for a trip to our sister Club, PGA National. The Ambassador Council is calling each of the invitees to the Waterfall Classic to obtain RSVPs. Mrs. Semtner is beginning a “hackers” golf group specifically for women on Thursday afternoons. Their first outing will be on September 20. Our next Cocktails with the Councils is on Friday, September 21, and we are in need of help at the registration table.

Mrs. Park informed the Board that we currently have 1,097 full golf members, 436 tennis (including upgrades), and 539 social. Mr. Abelman asked how many members we lost after the increase in the food and beverage minimum. Mrs. Semtner stated that we lost a total of 8 social and 4 tennis members.

Mr. Morris asked if we had ever considered doing away with the social membership category and only having tennis and golf memberships available? Ms. Dyer suggested we cap the social membership category. Chairman Gayler explained that we have researched doing this previously by contacting our sister clubs, but every Club that has tried this strategy has not been able to do so successfully. Ms. Dyer asked what the driving force behind people joining as social members? Mrs. Semtner explained that there are two types of people who join social, very young families whose children are so small that they just don't have time for golf or tennis, and the other group is your older, retired couples. Both groups are interested in being part of the country club atmosphere, but not really interested in the golf and tennis side of things.

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Mr. Abelman asked how the cap of 500 tennis members was developed? Ms. Comfort explained that both the golf and tennis cap numbers were based on the Club's historical information. Back in 2000/2001 the Club had reached its golf cap of 1100 golf members and was at a record high of 525 tennis members. Mr. Morris asked if the tennis courts are full all the time, or if they are like the golf courses and there are peak times they are busy? Ms. Dodier stated that mornings and evenings are usually very full, but between noon to 4 PM there are quite a few courts available. Mr. King commented that unlike golf, tennis is extremely difficult to play during the afternoon when the weather is at its hottest. Mrs. Semtner recommended to Mr. Abelman that if they want to discuss the tennis cap further their best bet would be to have discussions with Ken Story when he is in town during the week of September 24. She suggested forming a committee together to review the tennis cap number and discuss it further with Mr. Story.

Ms. Dyer stated that she has received some negative comments from members regarding the metal signs that are located in various spots throughout the Club that refer to how many golf memberships we have available. Chairman Gayler commented that maybe we should find some variations on the signs and only use them when we have 1 or 2 memberships we need to fill. Mrs. Semtner stated that she will have our maintenance staff remove them. Mr. Cooney asked about the rotary sign that is always up? Ms. Comfort stated that it should only be placed out on the Fridays when they are having their meetings, and then should be taken down once their meeting is over.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE:** (Sub-Committee reports below.)

**FOOD & BEVERAGE:** Marian Dyer (see report for details). Ms. Dyer reported that Mr. Fanelli and Mr. Rojas are working on a new fall menu and specials for the Sports Grill. A new Sous Chef has been hired for the main kitchen. The new Chef's Feature Selections for seafood is doing very well. They have begun Early Bird Dining from 4:30 to 6:00 PM in the main dining room. The staff in the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Mixed Grill has completed their first training program and Mr. Rojas is working on implementing a program to encourage them to greet all members by name. Greeting members in the Mixed Grill promptly is a goal and the food ticket will have a place for feedback on whether the member was greeted within 15 seconds. Mr. King commented that he has been out for the featured seafood items and it was wonderful.

**CLUB MAINTENANCE:** Becky Spears (see report for details). Mrs. Spears stated that she met with Kevin Steger, Maintenance Director, regarding the various maintenance lists. The sidewalk problems at tennis still have not been addressed. Mr. Thornbrugh stated that he would get with Michelle Dodier to review this issue. Mrs. Spears stated that Mr. Steger has purchased an electrical tracking device to help discover all the underground wiring around the Club grounds that has been lost over the years. Once they have tracked all the wiring, Gary Tupa, Club Horticulturist, will begin landscaping. Mr. Tupa has been doing a wonderful job around the Club. The Fitness Center Locker Room has had tile/grout work completed. Mrs. Spears stated that her decorating task force is ready to start going through the Club to rearrange items to give everything a fresh new look. Mr. Abelman mentioned that if we go forward with the deli idea for the Sports Grill, the carpet will need to be addressed and he suggested we go back to tile.

**GOLF & GREENS COMMITTEE:** Co-Chairs Marian Dyer and Steve McKim (see report for details). Mr. McKim stated that Jeff Hunter has been measuring from each sprinkler head on the North Course and having the Golf Course staff "brand" the yardages on the sprinkler heads. We hope to have both course marked by end of September. Mr. McKim commended Mr. Hunter for his hard work. In addition, Mr. Hunter is working on

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the new scorecards for the Club. We will be going to one scorecard that will have both courses. After bunker renovation completion and before printing the new cards, we will have the North course re-rated.

Mr. Hunter informed the Board about calls from members with children on the Reagan High School golf team that feel we should allow the Reagan team to practice more often at the Club. The Board discussed this issue at length and the consensus was not to increase practice times for Reagan (members' children of course can practice as often as they like outside of the structured team practice). There are a number of schools granted this special playing "privilege" and there are a number of additional schools (which also have children of members on their teams) who have requested similar playing time. Chairman Gayler asked that Mr. Hunter inform these parents and the school coach that the Board is not interested in changing the policy at this time.

Mr. Hunter stated that the Ladies' Club Championship is coming up on September 14 – 16 and the Men's Club Championship is on September 28 – 30. He has developed a new tournament especially for our Hole-In-One Club Members that will be held on October 21. We have a Pro Member/Guest Tournament (sponsored by the MGA) scheduled on November 2.

Mr. McKim commented that there have been people parking carts by #18 for the short game area, instead of driving around to the designated parking area. Mr. McKim also commented that we need "cart path only" signs that are more predominate, so that members and guests will notice them more. Mr. Hunter and staff are to address both items through club emails and newsletters and additional signage.

Mr. Thornbrugh stated that we still feel the North Course bunker renovations will be completed on time, weather permitting. Mr. McKim asked if we will be using the old sand from the North Course bunkers? Mr. Thornbrugh stated that this old sand will be used on the Canyon Creek Course. Mr. McKim also asked what we will be doing about the areas where the heavy equipment has been parked for the renovations project? Mr. Hunter stated that once the equipment has been removed, the areas will be heavily aerified.

Mr. McKim reported that the BRUTE tournament was held over Labor Day weekend and had 120 players. Mr. McKim asked for a status update on what the Club would be doing for the "Returning Soldiers Home" golf event. Mr. Hunter stated that Richard Tisdale will be chairing the committee for this fundraiser and that they have decided to do something over Thanksgiving weekend. Mr. Thornbrugh explained that Mr. Huffman and his group really want this to be a grass roots effort in raising funds so that they get awareness in the community. Mr. Thornbrugh stated that the Club is even looking into the possibility of hosting the soldiers and their families for Thanksgiving Dinner during the evening. Mr. Cooney suggested developing something where members could pay a fee to have the privilege of serving Thanksgiving dinner to the soldiers and their families to help supplement the cost of the dinner. Mr. Thornbrugh mentioned that at Cocktails with the Councils on September 21, we will have a "Military" theme and we will be rolling out information regarding the "Returning Soldiers Home" program and our fundraising efforts.

**BUDGET/CAPITAL FUND COMMITTEE:** Co-Chairs Steve McKim and Mike Cooney. Mr. Cooney stated that they did not meet this month, but are planning to do so in October/November once we have finalized more information about the tennis court lighting project and completed the bunker project.

**TENNIS COMMITTEE:** Arthur Abelman (see report for details). Mr. Abelman congratulated Mike Thatcher for being promoted to Head Tennis Professional. The court resurfacing project has been completed. The Club

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
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Mixed Doubles Championship was very successful. The Labor Day Mixer also did very well. They have the Club Singles Championship coming up on October 8 -12. Then on November 2 they have a Member/Guest Mixer scheduled that they hope will close out the tennis memberships. The Lone Star Levels would like to host their tournament at Sonterra on April 11 – 13, 2008. This tournament would be good exposure for the Club and they would only need 14 courts for their event. In addition, they will bring revenue to the Club since they will be paying for the courts, plus they will be taking care of all the work associated with the event. Ms. Dyer asked if this was the same group that Mr. Abelman mentioned previously that had some issues? Mr. Abelman stated that this is the same group, but Michelle Dodier has met with them extensively and Ms. Dodier will be in charge of the event, which has resolved their original concerns and the Tennis Committee feels it would be a wonderful event for Sonterra. Ms. Dyer motioned to approve hosting the Lone Star Level at Sonterra on April 11 – 13, 2008. Mr. King seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. King asked about the status on the tennis lights? Mr. Thornbrugh stated that he just received an email from Chris Hamill who stated that he has received the proposal for the lights. Mr. Hamill will be reviewing the proposal and will get with Mr. Thornbrugh in the next few days with details.

**SONTERRA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** Cathy Lay reported that the annual SWA Coffee held in August was very successful and they had several new members sign up. They have a fashion show coming up in September and in October they have someone coming out to talk to the ladies about carving pumpkins.

**HISTORIAN:** Rosalie Hallenberger stated that LouAnn Genova has stepped down from chairing the Dance Club, but she has already found two other ladies to take her place. This Thursday the Dance Club will have their final Dinner Dance for 2007. They will also be starting new dance lessons in September. Mrs. Hallenberger stated that we will be starting a new Theatre Club, which will be highlighting the many different theatres throughout San Antonio. More information about the Theatre Club and the events they have coming up will be in the next newsletter.

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Co-Chairs Grant Morris and Milt King (see report for details). Mr. Morris stated that they delayed their meeting until Tuesday, September 25, where they will be meeting with Ken Story to discuss the full with wait list policies.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**STATUS ON GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT:** Ross Thornbrugh informed the Board that he advertised the opening on the American Golf Course Superintendents website and received over 70 resumes for the position. After reviewing the various applicants, he and Stan Wreyford interviewed 5 candidates. They did select someone and made an offer. Mr. Thornbrugh will send an email to the Board with an announcement regarding the new superintendent this week.

**BOARD ELECTIONS FOR 2008:** Mickey Gayler suggested that the current Vice-Chair and the Chair Emeritus head up the Election Committee. Ms. Dyer asked what are the duties of the committee. Chairman Gayler explained that they verify that the nominees for the Board are eligible. Once the nominees are verified they contact each one to explain the duties of the Board and the work involved. Lastly, they tally the votes for the candidates and verify that all the voters are eligible and that there are not any double votes from members. Mrs. Spears stated that she feels the committee should only be made up of Board Members. The entire Board

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agreed. Chairman Gayler asked for volunteers to be part of the committee: Milt King and Marian Dyer both volunteered. Chairman Gayler will explain the Board election process in his next newsletter article. The Board decided that all nominations for the Board must be received by October 22 and then the ballot deadline would be November 30. Jeannette will ensure that the nomination forms are included in the next statement to the members.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**FOOD & BEVERAGE MINIMUM LETTER RESPONSE:** Ross Thornbrugh reiterated that we had 8 social resignations and 4 tennis after the increase in the food & beverage minimum. To help everyone adjust, since the quarters are staggered for the members, we are adjusting the minimums at the end of their quarters, so that everyone has a full 90 days to utilize the new minimum of \$120 per quarter.

**RULES & REGULATION REVISIONS:** Ross Thornbrugh stated we are still waiting on corporate to review and approve the changes.

**CANYON CREEK RENOVATION MEETING REMINDER:** Ross Thornbrugh reminded the Board that we will be meeting on Monday, September 24 at 6:00 PM.

**“RETURNING HEROES HOME” UPDATE:** Ross Thornbrugh reiterated that we will be doing something during Thanksgiving weekend and we will announce it at the September 21 Cocktails with the Councils.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** Mr. Thornbrugh explained that our corporate office has introduced a new program to all of the Clubs. We are really pushing to have an outstanding end to the year in the last 4 months. As part of that push, we want to get all of the co-workers involved and excited. To help get the staff motivated we are instituting a recognition program. If you see a Sonterra co-worker do something extraordinary, or would like to recognize someone who consistently does an outstanding job, please let us know. Those nominated will receive prizes, and we will select a “Co-Worker of the Month” who will appear in the newsletter, have their own special parking space and more.

Mrs. Spears asked how the “Member of the Month” is selected. Mrs. Semtner explained that the staff nominates members to be part of the “Top 10” list and then from those nominations the staff selects a “Member of the Month.”

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Mickey Gayler  
Chairman, Board of Governors

*Minutes Approved By Email Ratification on September 26, 2007.*

*Minutes Compiled by: Jeannette H. Walker, Administrative Assistant*