

GOLF AND GREENS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2008

Committee Members: Marian Dyer (co-chair); Richard Tisdale (co-chair); Becky Spears; Rachel Wadsworth; Jordan Hanna; Rhett Morrow (absent); Jeff Hunter; Barry Carter. Also in attendance: Ross Thornbrugh.

REPORTS

I. Barry Carter – Course Update

- New machinery on site:
 - Two fairway mowers
 - Three triplexes (one for South greens, two for tees and approaches)
 - Five Flex21's walking greens mowers
 - Two Sandpro's (incl. leaf rake, spike tines, and green spiking attachments)
- December weather: temperatures above average, no rainfall (negligible in Sept, Oct, Nov). Contributed to less than optimum overseeding.
- Irrigation corrections on North course delayed while irrigation lake on #10 was drained.
- Remaining ryegrass seed to be put down in Feb. (100 lbs/acre)
 - North course fairways and tees
 - South course fairways
- Bunkers on North: dry conditions causing sand to be fluffy and difficult to keep on steep faces; some liner problems addressed. Irrigation programs will help keep the sand damp but not so much that greens surrounds become wet.
 - New rakes will be investigated as the current rakes are heavy; making it difficult to smoothly rake the new sand.
 - Persistent wet condition in left greenside bunker on # 12 will be investigated by Barry Carter.

II. Jeff Hunter – Pro Staff & Pro Shop

- Staffing changes are underway. An "outside" manager has already been hired and changes will continue in this area. Other staffing changes will address full time merchandising, an additional assistant pro, and weekend marshals.
- A Texas Golf Association seminar on the new USGA rules will be conducted on premise in mid-February, including Sonterra specific examples.
- More active course marking was discussed. The courses are actively marked for major events, but Jeff will review whether they can be more frequently marked, particularly for ground under repair.

III. Marian Dyer – SWGA

- Handicapping North Course Holes for Red & Green tees has been completed.
- The new Board is in place, and play has resumed for 2008.

IV. Richard Tisdale – MGA

- Tournaments have been set for the second Saturday every month with the exception of June (Sunburst), the Brute (Labor Day), and December (no tournament).

V. Grant Morris - Canyon Creek Renovation Update

- The irrigation system revamp and retrofit planning continues to progress.
- The tree thinning and pruning plan is close to completion, including work with the city on permits.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (OLD & NEW BUSINESS)

1. Mowing patterns greenside
 - The discussion addressed the “tufted” grass near greenside and whether changing the mowing patterns could improve the lies. The tufting is a result primarily of the greenside rough receiving more nutrients from green maintenance practices. Mowing patterns will be reviewed by Barry Carter & Jeff Hunter as this could also affect the aesthetics of the course.
2. Persistent wet area beside North # 9 green:
 - Irrigation leak at upper cart path and sprinkler programming have been fixed.
 - Drainage to be installed within the next month.
3. Staff etiquette on the golf course
 - New training courses (in Spanish) have been ordered which among other things will cover proper etiquette around players; speed of golf carts, etc.
 - Lengthy discussion took place about the traffic on the 18th hole which is used as the major entrance and exit to the North Course by workers (and members). The recommended solution is to remove the gate on the back side of the club (near the short game facility) so that the staff and members can come and go through that entrance to the club’s parking lot rather than using the 18th hole. Ross Thornbrugh will investigate and discuss with the Sonterra POA.
4. Irrigation update on both courses – status of pond leak on #10 & #11 North
 - No leak in the pond on #11.
 - No apparent liner holes of consequence on #10.
 - It appears that the pipe intake line to pump station is leaking.
 - Pump station and intake line to be reviewed by contractors (within the next week or so).
5. Tree project status – South Course
 - The contractor returns from vacation next week, and the plan with the city is almost complete. Work should begin soon.
6. Tree maintenance status -- North course
 - The committee recommended that some of the trees be removed (particularly left of the second fairway on #1 and right of the second fairway on #15 to the degree these trees prevent us from growing good turf on the edge of these fairways.
7. Status of the overseed on both courses
 - seed looks thin overall
 - 2nd application of seed just put down on North and South
 - 3rd application (100 lbs./acre) will be put down in about 3 weeks
 - Unusually hot and dry conditions not conducive to normal seed sprouting
 - #1 second fairway; sprinklers not in program
 - #4 upper right, head not in program
 - #4 lower left, five heads watering same area fixed
 - #8 Controller problems
 - #13 250 yards out, valve in repair

- “Circles” in North fairways – This is where the bermudagrass has mutated and the resulting strain has a much different response to both cold weather and being overseeded. A good place to observe this mutation is in the left rough on #18, about 135 out from the green, between the cartpath and the fairway. Because this area is not overseeded, you can clearly see the mutated patches standing out from the original strain. A more aggressive approach to verticutting later this year will help even out these areas.
- tee boxes inconsistent: 2nd app of seed put down in the last week should improve these
- Improvement plan for next overseed?
 - Apply 2/3 seed in first application
 - Overseed in Nov. (not Oct.) after temperatures are cooler
 - Verticut fairways and tees lightly

8. Weed prevention plans

- 3 pre-emergent herbicide applications
 - 1st app; late Jan/early Feb; Barricade or Surflan
 - 2nd app; May, after aerification; Barricade or Surflan
 - 3rd app; Sept; Barricade
- Fertilize fairways and roughs @ 6 lbs Nitrogen/1000 sq.ft./year
- Recent hire of chemical application tech; in training
- Optimize Monday closures for spraying

9. Status of full sand bottles on the course

- Budget for over 100 new bottles and over 75 coolers is targeted for February
- The committee was astounded that this many are stolen or destroyed from the club’s inventory annually.

10. New bag tags

- Have not been ordered due to the magnitude of the expense. A less expensive alternative will be investigated.

11. Status of course rating for North course

- The request to rate the North Course has been initiated.

12. Pace of play and Member Problems

- A very lengthy discussion took place regarding numerous problems with
 - Groups that do not make enough tee times for the number of players
 - Groups that expect preferential treatment
 - Nonmembers posing as members
 - Members that do not adhere to club rules
 - Members bringing guests that are abusive and do not adhere to club rules
 - Members exhibiting bad etiquette
 - Number of fivesomes and sixsomes, and pace of play problems
 - Members ignoring golf shop personnel & marshals
 - Members improperly using golf carts
 - Members abusing range facilities and more.
- The following will be done to address these issues:
 - Numerous infractions are being referred to the Policy Committee for review and likely member suspensions.
 - A marshal for each course (to work weekends) will be hired by the end of February or first of March (weekends are the most problematic times on the course).

- A meeting/committee with representatives from the regular offending play groups will address the problems, including better management of tee times & players, and pace of play. If this does not solve the problems, the Golf & Greens Committee will readdress elimination of fivesomes and other possible actions.
 - Pace of play Information will be handed out by the starters so that all players will can better manage pace of play.
 - The consensus of the committee is that the “rule breakers” are negatively impacting the club experience of members who are abiding by the rules with proper etiquette and pace of play; and that bad behavior must stop before negatively impacting current membership levels or potential new members.
13. Discussion of request to have a “regular” report on the following – tees, greens, fairways in the monthly Golf & Greens Committee Report.
- Barry Carter will provide monthly a high level summary of the overall status of tees, greens, and fairways so that it can be incorporated into the minutes of the Golf & Greens Committee and provide a history of this information.