

# RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

## GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting Summary - January 21, 2010

**PRESENT:** Jim Bishop, Chairperson; Carey Shore, Director; John Snyder, Director of Golf and Grounds; Royal Halvorsen and Karen Scheuerman, South; Jim Hurley, Riverview; Pam Nichols and Duane Kuath, Willowcreek; Peter Claussen, Willowbrook; Jacqueline Wolff and Jim Fitzsimmons, Lakes West; Trudy Bryson and Don Rogers, North; Terry Shelton, Quail Run; Karen Scheuerman, SCWGA President 18 Hole; Dee Faules, SCWGA 9-Hole President; and Ken Webb, SCMGA President.

**GUESTS:** Larry Vroom, Carol Arinno, Bob Feeken, Dick Gardiner, Judy Fitzsimmons, Bonnie Lind, Bill Gill, Mel Wensman, Marcy Wensman, Karen Watson, Larry Williams, Polly Fischette, Rhonde Dunckel and Terry Stoddard.

Jim Bishop, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:25am in the Lakeview Board Room. Jim introduced Board Members Carey Shore, Assistant Chairperson; Vance Coleman and Phil Cook. Former Chair Gene Westemeier, came in a little later.

### JOHN SNYDER'S REPORT

1. All RCSC golf courses completed application of herbicide for management of winter weeds in December. The application is a post emergent herbicide applied to non-overseeded areas for control of weeds growing during the cooler months. The primary targeted weed is poa annua.
2. The golf courses are currently in the process of applying a pre-emergent herbicide to all areas of the golf course. The pre-emergent herbicide is primarily applied to stop spring crabgrass from germinating and growing. It is more efficient to stop spring crabgrass from germinating than trying to remove it after it has been growing. The cost of the pre-emergent is \$27,000.
3. South Golf Course's back 9 groundwater well is currently being repaired. The well had a bearing failure causing the need to pull the motor and send it into the repair shop. The well should be back in operation in the next 10 days. The cost of repairs is \$5,000.
4. South Golf Course's front 9 well will be pulled for preventative maintenance work as soon as the back 9 well is completed. This well was last pulled and inspected in 2002. The well is 46 years old and since 1982 it has been filling-in with soil at a rate of 1½ feet per year. Costs for repair to the well are estimated at \$52,000. Actual cost is unknown until the motor and pump are pulled out of the ground and inspected.
5. The South Golf Course master plan is nearing completion. The front 9 golf holes are complete. Mark Skeen and John Snyder will begin reviewing those later today. The goal is to have the master plan ready for the South Golf Course greens committee to review at the February green committee meeting. As a reminder, a master plan is everything that needs to be done to a golf course in the future. It is not necessarily what will be completed this summer. The budget for 2010 is for bunker renovation.
6. The Long Range Planning Committee is beginning the process of building a long range plan for RCSC. John has given the committee the document submitted on behalf of the golf courses. These

are the items that encompass golf operations. The golf department is now working on providing the committee with backup documentation on each of these items so they can make decision on projects. John will provide the committee with backup documents for discussion and recommendations that the Golf Advisory Committee would like to make.

7. The Get Golf Ready in 5 days program has been an excellent success. These winter classes began in November with every class almost filled. Total golfers taking classes has been 41 with classes already started in January. The Get Golf Ready in 5 days program is for new golfers or golfers wishing to return to the game after being gone. The program teaches history, etiquette, chipping, irons, driving and an on course lesson. The cost of the program is \$99 and taught by our local golf professionals. If you know of anyone looking to get involved or more involved in golf this is a great program for them.
8. RCSC has hired a Golf Events Coordinator. This is a new position for RCSC formed out of the Golf Ad Hoc Committee, which was tasked with finding new ways to increase golf rounds. This position will work on creating new golf outings for residents and public golfers. The new person will start February 1. If the committee knows of a company or someone interested in having a golf outing they should contact the new coordinator through Sue Presta at Riverview Golf Course.
9. The 9 Hole Golf League formed by the Sun City Men's Golf Association has been a great success. The 9 hole golf rounds for December increased by 314 rounds over 2008. This was the first month that rounds have increased in 13 months.
10. Golf rounds for 2009 ended the year at 4.6% below 2008. The golf rounds for 2009 finished 15.8% below golf rounds in 2004. This makes 2009 the lowest number of golf rounds in the past five years. The peak rounds in the past five years was 2005, the 2009 rounds were over 60,000 rounds less. 60,000 rounds is more than the total rounds played on any of the RCSC golf courses with Riverview having the most last year at 56,000 rounds. The largest drop in golf rounds came from regulation 9 hole rounds followed by executive 9 hole rounds.
11. Outside play increased in 2008 by 15% on 18 hole regulation courses. The outside play generated \$293,466. The total rounds played by public golfers were 5% of the total rounds played.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Tournament**

Carol Arinno announced the tournament will be held at North Golf Course, which was the first golf course in Sun City, on April 10, 2010, and that Paul Hermann is in charge.

Carol also brought up the Sun City Golf Classic. This is a competition with both men and women in Sun City and Sun City West. She explained that this was a competition that has gone on for years between the two cities. Qualifying will be held at Riverview on February 22 and 24. Competition will be held February 27 at Trail Ridge in Sun City West and on February 28 at South in Sun City. Carol requested that the committee approve to waive the green fees and provide range balls for participants in the Classic. Sun City West waives fees and provides range ball at their course.

Trudy Bryson moved to waive the green fees for the Classic, seconded by Don Rogers, motion was approved. Pam Nichols moved we also supply range balls for the Classic, seconded by Trudy Bryson, motion was approved. Carol Arinno will relay this information.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jim Fitzsimmons reported that the Lakes West bunkers seem to be holding up OK with all the rain. However, #17 did have some water in it. John Snyder reported whenever anyone sees something that needs attention to let him know so they can repair the problem.

### **Straight Sheets**

This topic comes up every year with much discussion. It was suggested that members take this topic back to their individual Greens Committee and bring back comments to discuss at the next Golf Advisory Committee meeting. Bob Feeken commented on how many times this topic keeps coming up. Carol Arinno said that North was planning on trying it this year. Ken Webb, SCMGA, said it had been voted on last year to not do it for 2010. Terry Shelton said it should not be considered this year. Consensus was to drop the subject for this year.

### **Non-Member Golf Passes**

Sun City must be competitive with the rest of the area and the following will be presented at the next Board Meeting for approval:

- At a cost of \$2,000 per year, which provides unlimited play on all eight Sun City golf courses and does not include cart or any other services' or
- At a cost of \$2,500 per year which provides unlimited play on all eight Sun City golf courses and includes a golf cart.
- Further, the age restriction for the Non-Resident Annual Golf Passes to be changed from 55 years of age or older to 45 years of age or older.

Bob Feeken wanted to know if members could also purchase an annual cart pass for \$500. He commented that many residents would be interested in that arrangement because it costs more than \$500 a year to maintain and license a cart.

### **Discussion on Board Policy #17**

With the adoption of BP #17 there will be major changes that will affect the Golf Advisory Committee. Gene Westemeier made comments on why changes were made. The revised Board Policy #17 will be available on the RCSC website. Discussion followed: Bill Gill discussed slow play. Larry Williams discussed fines and volunteers trying to assess them. Also that there is no way to fine outside people. It was suggested that there be a warning system with fines. First time just a warning, second time \$25 fine and third time \$50 fine. John Snyder made the point that this was not the way it was stated in the Board Policy that is going to be voted on. He also brought it to the committee's attention that there is also hearing procedure in the policy with the Golf Advisory Committee. The committee will have the responsibility of ruling at the hearing and should set a procedure to follow. John estimated these hearing requests could be substantial. There was much discussion on this subject both pro and con.

It was stated that the volunteer program had been previously approved by the Golf Advisory Committee and therefore we will need to get behind the program. Jim Hurley commented that Riverview voted against the volunteer program because they didn't have any from Riverview that wanted to participate. He wanted to have suggestions on how to get volunteers.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Pam Nichols from Willowcreek moved that the Golf Advisory Committee recommend that RCSC buy water for Viewpoint Lake and replace the water in the golf course lakes to maintain and water the golf courses. It was seconded by Trudy Bryson, North. Discussion – Gene Westemeier said Viewpoint Lake was losing 560 acre feet of water a year and it would be approximately \$77,000 to buy water for the lake. Bob Feeken commented they found the money for Lakes West maybe they could find the money to buy the water. RCSC is addressing the problems of the lake now but it probably wouldn't be fixed soon. The recommended motion was approved.

Pam Nichols from Willowcreek requested the Women's Golf League be able to change their shotgun on Tuesdays from 8am to 8:30am in the winter months. Jim Bishop said this would affect the 9-hole players because it gets dark earlier and they would need to discuss this request with the 9-hole group. The request should come from the 9-hole group.

Judy Fitzsimmons, monitor at Willowcreek and Willowbrook presented the following requests:

- “The golf courses that sell tee time on the Internet to the public hinder the Men's Club members that must tee off at the first tee time of the day on Wednesday. In the winter months that is 7:30am at Willowcreek. We have many men that do not want to tee off in the early morning hour for several reasons – but the main one is their bodies do not handle the cold weather and they are injured because of it, so they will not tee off at the hour between 7:30am and 8am. I have many that do cancel the tee time if they have a tee time from 7:30am to 8am which affects the revenue for RCSC.

“I checked the tee time start time in all the other courses for 1/13/10 tee times this last week and they were as follows: (please note tee times are sold on South, Riverview and Willowcreek.)

\* South – 7:30am to 12:22pm – (straight tee sheet each week – this doesn't apply to them???) – 3 open tee times.

North – 7:52am to 12:45pm – no open tee times

Lakes West – 7:52am to 1:15pm – no open tee times

\*Riverview – 7:37am to 12:52pm – no open tee times

\*Willowcreek – 7:30am to 12:07pm – no open tee times

“What Willowcreek is asking for is that RCSC change the starting tee time of 7:30am and use the 8am tee time or not sell the tee times from 7:30am to 8am on Wednesday so that the course could start league play at 8am instead of 7:30am for the months of November through January (the cold months each year).”

Pam Nichols made a motion to accept the tee times as presented. There was no second to the motion. Jim Hurley, Riverview, suggested we send it back to the SCMGGA for discussion.

Bob Feeken, guest, asked how many \$1,500 fees we have. John did not have the number. Bob also asked what the total golf budget was. John said it hadn't been finalized yet. He also asked if outside play is considered profit. John said they didn't track this.

Larry Williams commented that Tuesday is Ladies Day at Willowcreek and the men should respect that. There has been some rude treatment of the ladies by men on the putting green.

## **COURSE REPORTS:**

- Riverview - No report  
Lakes West - Jim Fitzsimmons reported the grass is very thin on #17, #9 & #4. John Snyder responded that the grass will remain thin but they will do some reseeding on #17 and #4.  
Lakes East - No report  
South - Course in great shape.  
SCMGA - The men's club is no longer using AGA for handicaps. The new system is working well. There are some problems but the clubs are working them out.  
9-Hole Ladies - No report  
Quail Run - Sheldon said the new man is good and he hopes they get to keep him.  
Willowbrook - No report  
Willowcreek - Pam Nichols said the membership is down – they only have 147 members.  
North - Trudy Bryson announced the Happy 50th Anniversary Tournament on February 16  
They are going to get new tee makers and have them dedicated at the tournament.

## **OTHER COMMENTS:**

Pollie Fischette announced the Pink Ribbon Tournament will be held October 26 and the men will be invited to play in 2010.

It was suggested that information on the Octogenarian Tournament get out early. Another suggestion was to change summer tee times from 6:30am to 5:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10am. The next meeting will be February 18, 2010 at 8:30am in the Board Room.

Respectfully submitted:

*Karen Scheuerman*

Karen Scheuerman, South Golf Course