

River Strand Golf and Country Club

May 1, 2017

Minutes

Minutes taken by Bill Moritz and modified and resubmitted by Samara Paice

Chairperson Samara Paice called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Present:

Samara Paice

Bill Madl

Chuck Glasser (Board Liaison)

Randy Clark

Jack McCauley

Bill Moritz

Renze Berg (Superintendent)

Tommy Clark

On Phone:

Mark Eisenberg

John Moscone

Not in Attendance:

Mike Brinales

Andrew Grady

Russell Elliott

It was established that a quorum was present.

In addition to the committee members 6 members of the River Strand community were also present.

Introductions were made by all committee members.

There was a request for a volunteer to take the minutes. As there was no volunteer the Chair opted for a mandatory rotation to take the minutes. Bill Moritz was the first committee member to take the minutes.

Minutes will be published online within 5 days of approval. Samara will handle the communication of the approved minutes to Angela Duncan as the point person for all ICON contact. She will also ensure telecommunication access is provided for our remote committee members.

Opening remarks by the Chairperson set the mission of the committee. It was stated that this committee is not forming to change the current golf courses but rather to watch over and maintain what we already have.

There was discussion as to how far any changes could go before seeking the approval of the original architect. It was generally agreed that small changes could be made.

It was agreed that future meeting of the committee would be on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the main clubhouse conference room.

The Chairperson announced that she will be the single point of contact with our golf course superintendent, Renze Berg.

The meeting was turned over to Renze so he could answer the pre-submitted question from the committee.

Tee Boxes

1. If we moved the white tee markers back to the blue box, we could allow for the white boxes to heal easier. Moving from white to blue is just an example, I believe we have many holes that could benefit from movement of markers from time to time. (Note this question and the next are essentially the same but from two members.)

Renze: I will utilize all tees when we have some worn down spots on tees in the future.

2. Can we discuss moving tee markers to different tee boxes based on maintenance factors? Recent tee boxes that have been repaired or replaced seem to have been on holes that are relatively short.

Renze: Same as above.

3. What is going on with the bare tees and what is the prognoses?

Renze: Had a few disease issues, I have sprayed and we are topdressing and fertilizing these spots.

Additional notes from committee -Estuary 4 white tee box was contaminated with paspalum which is the grass used at Isla Del Sol and various courses closer to the ocean. This is being

sprayed out in other spots as well such as Tributary 7 fairway at the end. We have Tifway 419 Bermuda and we spray out the other grasses for consistency, more of an aesthetic thing.

4. How do our maintenance crews determine tee box positions?

Renze: Move them every day, try to stay close to same yardage, but each box is a little different size.

5. Is it possible to make slight changes to some of the red tee boxes to get rid of the back incline? When the tee markers are set too close to these inclines it makes a shot harder off the tee box.

Renze: Yes, will re-paint.

6. Has there been any additional discussion about temporary tee boxes to help out those folks that need a location closer than the red tee boxes?

Renze: Yes, Corey and I have identified some spots (possible).

7. Can boxes be provided on all tees for broken tees? There is a perception that they are not good for our mowers but there's nowhere to put them except on par 3's.

Renze: They are \$32 each. I will look into purchasing more for some of the shorter par 4 tees.

Driving Range

8. With a range our size why do we only have 2 sand buckets?

Renze: We do have 3 but I will look into cost of adding more.

Alternate suggestion from a committee member is to put sand bottles on the range for use as walking back and forth to the boxes is tedious and can't get enough sand all at once to fill the divots. The starters could check the bottles and refill them.

9. It seems in the past the driving range would be raked and a top dressing would be put down more frequently. Did we stop doing this and why?

Renze: We filled divots and top dressed driving range tee. 3-4 times per month on Mondays.

10. Would it be possible to put verbiage on the golf club racks to ask golfers to fill their divots on the range?

Renze: I will talk with Corey about this.

Greens

11. Do we have a dedicated team member placing pins? Reason I ask it seems they don't use cup-setter all the time leaving a rise around hole. At my last club we had dedicated guys doing this; it really helped with this problem.

Renze: I am working currently with 2-3 guys on my process and training them on where and why we change them and locating good pin positions.

Additional comments noted by committee member: They don't always use a cup setter. They do sharpen the cup setter once a week and have started putting green sand around the old cups.

12. Do we know the depth of organic matter under the greens? How many years do you estimate we have until we have to redo them?

Renze: I am getting an ISTRC (International Sports Turf Research Center) test done before we aerify Tributary on the 15th. This will show how are greens are doing under the surface. Also, getting samples in October/November.

13. Wasn't there discussion too about letting the rough develop in certain areas off the greens to prevent the ball from rolling off and into the water?

Renze: We will continue to keep those areas higher, but will try to keep them on an even height with a light mowing instead of a scraggly look.

Fairways

14. What is your assessment of the rye vs. bermuda battle we have? Fairways seem to be coming in but tee boxes seem to be lacking.

Renze: I am hopeful. It was the first year so I will be more aggressive this summer to aerify and verticut the fairways and tees more often over the summer to help the turf smooth out and try to control contamination that already exists.

Additional comments noted by a committee member: We saved \$37,000 in seed which wouldn't have grown in due to the weather.

15. What kinds of fertilizer do we use on the course? Do we use milorganite?

Renze: I get soil samples to help me determine what kind of fertilizer blends I use on the entire course. No on the milorganite.

Bunkers

16. Several of the sand traps need a more consistent base and I wonder how that is monitored.

Renze: We will continue to remove old liner and add G-angle sand to greenside traps as needed.

Additional comments noted by a committee member: The Billy Bunker technology was discussed as recommended by the Golf Transition Committee. The Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice and Heritage Oaks have Billy Bunkers. May want to have them in and try it on the practice bunker.

17. The fairway bunker Sanctuary 9 on top side of bunker (fairway side), he has allowed the rough to grow so high it catches the ball and stop it from rolling in trap making an impossible shot requiring a penalty drop as there is no possible stands available to hit shot. I have seen multiple players having to take a penalty stroke. If grass was cut normally the ball rolls into trap allowing a shot. Not sure understand logic of high grass there.

Renze: We fly-mow trap edges every 2 weeks. Will try a lower height on fly-mower.

Additional comments noted by committee member: Fly-mower being used on some of the dips alongside greens also. For example, Estuary 7 dips to the right side of the green.

18. What would be the costs to soften the edges of some of the bunkers, in particular, green side bunkers such as Tributary 8?

Renze: It is \$125 a pallet for sod and it depends on the size of trap to strip old sod and pull down edges to soften and then put new sod in place.

19. We need to discuss rakes for the bunkers. Although there is no hard and fast rule the USGA recommends leaving rakes outside the bunkers parallel to the line of play. This makes it less likely to interfere with the ball. Can we create stickers to put on our rakes letting players know where to leave them?

Renze: Will discuss at a later meeting. In or out of trap?

Additional comments noted by committee member: \$29 each for longer handle rake. Some courses have longer handles and leave rake in trap with handle over edge. Others in. Just need to make a decision. Makes no difference to the crew. They have to pull them out of trap to rake the sand and put them in trap to mow so either way they're moving them.

It was noted if the waterside bunker on 8 Estuary was changed to a wastebunker those rakes could be utilized elsewhere. There was discussion on whether or not this would be a change that would have to be approved through Arthur Hills or not.

Budget

20. In reviewing 2017 budget I have quite a few questions surrounding line items. Are we going to review this year's budget or is it a done deal? If not would be great to understand thoughts around these numbers or we can address during next years.

Here are a few examples from approved budget (can be found on website) for January 1st to December 31st :

Line 77010-2 has a budget of \$7,250 or \$625 a month for pencils & score cards – Seems like we should already have a scorecard template with vendor and only doing reorders when needed and should be purchasing in bulk not requiring yearly reorders

Renze: Not me

Line 78050-2 has a budget of \$8,100 or \$675 a month for towels – At my old course our cart guys used black towels easy on keeping longer in addition to club having a washer/dryer in cart barn for nightly washing and drying

Renze: Not me

Line 78070-3 has a budget \$6,000 for travel - What travel are we covering under golf/maintenance operations?

Renze: It is for vehicle allowance. I use my personal vehicle to get parts, plants and also have to come out to course in evenings at times for pump or irrigation issues.

Other

21. When will our "bridges" be resurfaced? Have we considered using the composite decking material rather than pressure treated lumber? Do we know what the cost differential would be and have any other courses used this material?

Renze: During the summer we replace bad, splintered boards with pressure treated wood. Going to try a wood filler on walk bridge to see how it works.

Additional comments noted by committee member: A resident in attendance suggested trying a "flex seal" like product which Renze will try. Renze will price out the use of composite material for the bridges.

22. Can we have someone address the bathrooms? Whomever painted them did a poor job. There's paint everywhere, holes where the previous tissue dispensers were, etc.

Renze: Will have maintenance look at and maybe hire a painter to re-do entire restrooms.

23. Can we block the ice machine access for carts similar to what was done at the bathroom on Sanctuary between 3 and 4? I believe they have been hit at least 3 times.

Renze: Yes, drilled holes already for pole installation, will get poles in by next week.

Bill Moritz requested we think about bringing in 8 dumptruck loads of dirt to fill in the low spot on Sanctuary 1 where the balls roll in the water before our easement is eliminated when they build a home next to the model home to the left of the men's tee box.

Samara asked where the money would come from for this change and if this would be an architectural change requiring approval. Bill Moritz suggested the money come from the special projects funds. It was suggested these funds would be necessary for other items and Renze thought this change may require approval. After asking the committee for their opinions this suggestion was not voted on.

Additional questions were asked by the committee and visitors. No action or motions were made around those discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.