



**La Grande Country Club
Board Meeting Minutes
Annual Board Meeting: April 26th, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Tiffany Sherman, Guy Weishaar, Bob Butler, Eric Yundt, Julie Hickerson, Mark Goss, Ron Arritola, Steve Wilcox, Terry Hughes, and Charlene Counsell

Management in Attendance: Stuart Smart, Brent Austin, and Katy Budlong

Members in Attendance: Garrett Vaughn, Phil Haney, Becky Wilson, Betty Wilcox, Scott Wilson, Jeromy Mathson, Brian Bell, Russ Scott, Billie Deal, Tyler Brooks, Peggy Weishaar, Robert Brooks, Tana Sanchez, and Cally Goss.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:00 pm.

Presidents Report (Presented by Tiffany Sherman):

- The Club accomplished many goals this past year, which each committee will address.
- Some challenges were faced, and new ones have emerged.
 - Mainly the ability to acquire insurance.
 - Requests were submitted to approximately 30 companies, with only one offering coverage.
 - The age of the building and the lack of sprinkler systems were the two main reasons.
 - The Board is focused on acquiring bids and addressing the issue.
- Elections and floor nominations will be held at the end of the meeting.

Finance Committee (Presented by Mike Poe):

- Mark Goss thanked the finance committee for their hard work, especially Mike Poe for his expertise.
- The Club is almost out of debt and is in good shape.
- Cash has held steady.
 - In years past, there was little cash available and a lot of debt.
- Now discounts are being taken for merchandise, property taxes, and not financing insurance payments.
- There are three cash categories:
 - Operational Funds: available for daily operations.
 - Temporarily Restricted Funds: \$60K land money available for use, but must be paid back, the irrigation fund and Madeline Hedden junior golf fund.
 - Permanently Restricted Fund: \$61K land money, only available for catastrophic events, and must be approved by the Board.
- Most long-term debt has been eliminated, and new equipment has been purchased.
- Membership dues income has increased, but insurance expenses are going up considerably.
- Budgets are being created annually, with \$57K of capital improvements in 2023.
- Overall, the health of the Club is good, but money will still need to be monitored moving forward.

Greens Committee (Presented by Steve Wilcox):

- The grounds crew works diligently to keep the course in great shape.
- Tree health was focused on by trimming, removing, and planting trees as needed.
 - The cable tree was removed as it had become a hazard.
- Tee boxes, sanding, and multiple improvements happened throughout the year.
- Cartshed maintenance was undertaken and is ongoing.
- The irrigation pump motor was pulled, rewound, dipped, and baked.
- A new variable drive board will eventually be needed and could cost approximately \$10K.
- The Fairway Mower was delivered last fall, and the Surrounds Mower was delivered this month.

- A Greens Mower is ordered for 2024.
 - This order is placed, but the Club is not locked in. Mowers now have to be ordered at least a year in advance.
 - The crew has been proactive on equipment maintenance, and the equipment is functioning better.
 - New equipment helps with this as they do not have to pull parts off backups.
- A budget is created every November, and costs continue to increase.
- The crew is starting to plan ahead for sand traps, cart paths, and tree planting and removal.
- Poles for fencing have been placed on the driving range to help protect the neighbors.
- It is important for members to fix divots and ball marks as it helps keep the ground crew available for more important tasks and helps with costs.

House Committee (Presented by Ron Arritola):

- A Club walk-about was held, and items were looked at, prioritized, and addressed.
 - Underneath the deck was cleared out.
 - Soundproofing has been installed in the lower clubhouse.
 - The snack area was organized.

Membership Committee (Presented by Julie Hickerson):

- The Business Scramble will be utilized to encourage new members.
- A demographic survey was conducted last year, with the average age at 59.
 - This could be lower this year as younger members and families continue to join.
- Members switching from ACH via a credit card to a checking account has helped financially.
- Mission and vision statements were created and are being utilized.
 - It is important for members to follow our core values.
- The Board and management will hold a Spring New Member Orientation.
- Alan Keffer is helping with some new member items and marshaling the course after hours.

Policy and Bylaws Committee (Presented by Terry Hughes):

- The Bylaws were cleaned up for punctuation and flow, but no content was changed.
- Adjustments to the policy manual were made:
 - Punctuation and flow.
 - The dress code was changed to “Members, guests, and spectators must wear appropriate golf attire at all times while on the course during golf events.”
 - Membership Expulsion, Termination, Discipline, and Complaints were expanded upon to give members and management clear guidelines on expectations and resolutions.
- The Bylaws and Policy Manuals are available on the LGCC website.

Tournament Committee (Presented by Eric Yundt):

- LGCC won the North-South Tournament against Buffalo Peak for 2023.
- Tournaments are getting ready to start for the season.
- Advertising via the radio, email, Facebook, and text messages will go out for all events and tournaments.
- All entry forms are available on the LGCC website.
- Comments from the member audience:
 - For tournament winners, the third place should, at minimum, receive their entry fee back. Winners should have a higher award.
 - Non-members should have to pay a higher fee than members to enter tournaments.
 - The Golf Shop should stay open longer on award nights so non-member and members can utilize their awards on the day of issue.
 - Some three and two-day tournaments need to be reevaluated and possibly shortened.
 - All issues will be discussed with the Board and management.

Ladies Association (Presented by Charlene Counsell):

- Member support is greatly appreciated and necessary for all the fundraising.
- The ladies donated a total of \$9,166 last year and purchased:
 - Highchairs and booster chairs.
 - Flowers.
 - Four replacement trees.
 - New catering dishes, silverware, and glassware.
 - New flooring for the stairs and landing.
- Cooked burgers and breakfast burritos for the LG Amateur and 2-Man Best Ball.
- Held the Style Show – This year, it will be June 28th, 2023.
- Held the T-Bird Invitational and the Ladies Stagette.
- They decorate for each season.
- This year’s Easter Egg Hunt was hugely successful and had nice weather.
- Bridge and Hand and Foot are held during the off-season.
- The Prime Rib Fundraiser was successful, with approximately \$4,800 net profit.
- There is a strong group of 6 to 10 ladies who do most of the work, and new members and volunteers are always needed and appreciated.
- The Ladies embrace the “Family Gathers Here” motto. They donate their time, money, and love and are truly the spirit of the Club.
- New officers were elected and made official in April.
- The season will begin with the May Ladies Luncheon, golf scramble, and golf clinic.
- There is an activity calendar on the ladies’ Board.
- Over the past three years, the ladies have donated \$22,593.

Pro Report (Presented by Stuart Smart):

- New merchandise will be going out in the golf shop next week.
- There is a new golf shop staff, Preston Chandler, Katie Williams, and Joe Savage from the bar staff.
- The ladies’ golf clinics will be held on the first three Wednesdays in May.
- Two new mowers have been purchased and paid in full.
- The new cart barn will be completed next week.
- Quotes for the sprinkler systems are being worked on.
- Events start next month with couple’s night, men’s league, and the Member Scramble.
 - A new age handicap will be implemented for Men’s League to even the playing field.
- The golf shop is setting records in sales for April.
- Demo Days are next month.
- Comments from the Member Audience:
 - Suggested forming an Ad-Hoc Committee for the Sprinkler System to coordinate the project.
 - There are a lot of members with a knowledge of the Club’s history and may have insight on how to get this done.

Board Member Election Nominations

- The Nominations are Guy Weishaar, Jacob Johnston, Jeromy Mathson, Sam Royes, and Tyler Brooks.
- Nominations from the floor were opened.
 - No nominations were made.
 - Julie Hickerson motioned to close the nominations, and Eric Yundt Seconded the motion.
 - All were in favor, and the nominations were closed.

The meeting was adjourned.