

Rivermont Golf Club Executive Board February 08, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 8, 2016 @ 6:30pm

Those attending: Jerry Arehart, Curt Knorr, Deb Jackson, Chris Cupit, Matthew Evans, Anthony Wright, Belinda Marsh, Lois Gurvey, Byron Lay, Pat Woodard, Patsy Cooper, Dana Weeks, Chelsea Colclough

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10 @ 6:30pm

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm with an introduction and welcome from Jerry. Committee members then introduced themselves to the group including their years at Rivermont (which will be included below in brackets []).

Discussions

Anthony Wright (Turfcare) [9 months]:

Building on [Mark Hoban's turfcare report](#), Anthony addressed a few topics:

- Green firmness: The greens will continue to become firmer until the July 18-21 aerification, where they'll soften up for a while before firming up in late August/early September. The bermudagrass greens will show fewer ballmarks in general.
- July aerification: The course will be closed for 4 days (7/18-21). Turfcare will aerify the greens Monday to get them playable as soon as possible. The fairways and tee boxes will follow Tuesday-Thursday. The large bore aerification will only happen once/year and is needed to remove organic matter and allow air and nutrients to reach the root system. Needle-tining will occur other times of year to vent the greens.
- Green grain: Verticutting & brushing techniques will be used to reduce the introduction of grain.
- Fairway worms/worm castings: aerification this summer will help reduce castings, but much of the problem is the large amount of rain which forces the worms up. When organic matter is removed, the worms will go deeper, unless, of course, they're getting drowned by too much rain. The chemical that kills grubs also kills worms, but intentionally killing worms is prohibited. Also note, the worms in the worm farm are not the same type as on the course. Our worm population indicates very fertile soil, which is good! This also saves money on fertilizer.
- Will be putting new holes in for RMGA February event. Replacing some other hole locations due to some fraying.
- Hoping for green growth to begin in March
- There was been some leaf spot and Pythium root rot in December due to the extreme amounts of rain. The leaf spot has largely cleared. There is still some Pythium still on 13, 14 & 16. Testing of root plugs showed 4-5 inches of root and the plants come back under grow lights.

Chelsea Colclough (HOA) [2 years]:

Chelsea is the new Treasurer for the Rivermont Community Association (RCA), and will be the ongoing representative.

The rivermontliving.com website is being reviewed to see if they get the community to utilize it more.

Jerry talked about the strong partnership between RGC and RCA and emphasized that he'd like to see more communication regarding what RGC does for RCA while acknowledging RCA providing space in the monthly publication for Chris to engage with homeowners. RGC also hosts the RCA homeowners meetings (though not for this February due to clubhouse renovations). RCA is happy to publicize relevant RGC committee announcements.

There are 914+ homes in Rivermont, the largest community in Johns Creek.

The HOA is happy to include inserts into welcome baskets from any groups.

Matthew Evans (Pro Shop) [15 years]:

Building on his [Pro Shop report](#):

- Northstar POS system will not have people booking their own online tee times.
- GPS drifting is due to several areas on the course not being able to triangulate. When carts can only "see" one or two satellites, there can be a 15-30 yard difference in where the cart thinks it is and its actual location. At the moment, no known fix. [Editor's note: can or does Visage utilize differential GPS where there's a fixed reference, for example, on top of the clubhouse?] Maps are set to be more lenient in the less accurate areas.
- GPS yardage accuracy is very good, except in these areas.
- GA PGA event, 3rd year. Chateau Ste. Michelle is the sponsor this year and next. No Pro-Am Sunday due to Mother's Day and the tournament itself will be one-day, 36 holes on May 9th.
- Rivermont was re-rated by the GSGA last September/October. New scorecards will be here soon. Scores posted online are already correct with the new rating/slope numbers.

Patsy Cooper (RWA) [5 years]:

- No March meeting
- Multiple events in May

Lois Gurvey (9-Holers) [10 years]:

- Board & Committees are set
- Clinic on March 10
- Opening Luncheon on March 17
- Exchange days set up
- Twilight committee – looking for more participation. May change name to Nine & Dine
- ~15 members // looking for help from all quarters to increase membership
- Chelsea suggested that HOA would be happy to include inserts into welcome baskets from any groups

Pat Woodard (RSMGA) [4-5 years]:

- Board established & schedule/budgets set
- 95 members
- ~35 play every Monday morning during prime season

Byron Lay (RMGA) [3 years]:

- Schedule is set for the year

- 2015 was a successful season despite temp greens
- January event was well attended
- February event is 2-hole event (RWGA will work event)
- February event will have new hole locations

Dana Weeks (RWGA) [9 years]:

- Opening Brunch on 3/10
- First playday is 3/17
- Expansion of Game of the Week (allowing members to play the week's game any day from Friday through Thursday) is helping to increase membership, possibly as many as 10 more members

Belinda Marsh (Handicaps) [35 years]:

- 2016 is a major revision year for rules of golf and handicapping
- Contentious new rule is not being able to post if playing alone
- Some handicapping rules have changed regard what's an acceptable score per hole: more to come on how this will impact the club and players
- USGA rule bans anchoring, long putters may still be used
- Committee members for Handicapping:
 - RMGA – Kyle Wood
 - RWGA – Barb Edstrom
 - RSMGA – Will Wood
 - 9-holers – no representative/reviews, just trying to learn the game
- Chris said that the club will make a concerted effort to explain Handicap committee to the membership over the next few months
- Individual associations are the watchdogs for their members – they should bring issues to the Club Handicap Committee. Provides uniformity and takes pressure off of the individuals within the associations.

Deb Jackson (Secretary) [5 years]:

Nothing to report

Curt Knorr (Vice President) [18 years]:

Nothing to report

Chris Cupit (GM) [44 years]:

Built off of the February [newsletter](#):

- Club narrowing its focus to do the most important things very well and provide a private golf club experience that is second to none. Policies and decisions should support the Core Mission:
 - Allowing people to come together and play golf on a well-conditioned, good golf course and then enjoy their fellowship afterwards in a nice, relaxed environment, but maintaining a truly private air about the club.
- Excited about changes on and off the course including technology, appearance, course changes
- Dredging will increase capacity of the irrigation pond by 2-4 million gallons (currently 3.5m capacity)
- Cart path will go up the right side on #7, may add a fairway bunker under the irrigation box. Need water to drain down toward creek, so fairway will slope, but widen by 8'. White tees will

- be a little longer and reds will gain an area farther back as an additional distance option.
- Forward tees on #6 will look more like true tee box and aim golfers at the green
- Pond will have some more shape to it at the green side
- Shade concerns remain on holes 9, 13 & 17.
- Mark is going to enjoy his new bushhog
- Intent regarding future tree removal is to keep up with chipping – trying to clean up #6 tree graveyard
- Interior work:
 - Begins 2/15
 - Updated flooring for landing, steps, most green carpet, all brown carpet
 - Reupholster chairs
 - [Editor's query: ceiling tiles??]
- Front entrance and lighting also to be redone
- Focus Groups almost finished. A walker's focus group is coming up. Chris Nowack has been running the discussions – great feedback so far.
- Looking at additional membership tiers for seniors, as noted in the [newsletter](#). Priority will be to seniors moving up to 6-day at reduced rate. One option would be reduced rate for Monday-Thursday; second option a reduced rate full membership, prioritizing upgrades vs. downgrades.
- Topics brought up by other attendees and addressed by Chris:
 - Billboard advertising at Barnwell/Holcomb Bridge has gone well. A couple of inquiries, one new member. No negative feedback. Ads will run January, February & April
 - Range mats – will probably be replaced in the Fall
 - Walkers: Not looking to discourage walking, but do want to insure that walkers walk the whole way. 1/3 of those playing on Saturday were walkers (44/135, 10 of those were half & half). Looking at maybe 4-baggers for the carts but there are some storage concerns.

Future meetings monthly on the 2nd Thursday. (Chris assures that we'll be able to get dinner before the meetings.)

2015 Committee Thank You Dinner Saturday, March 19th @ 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at ~8:15pm.