

Rivermont Golf Club Executive Board March 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 10, 2016 @ 6:30pm

Those attending: Jerry Arehart, Deb Jackson, Chris Cupit, Mark Hoban, Belinda Marsh, Brad Hondros, Pat Woodard, Dana Weeks

Not attending: Matthew Evans, Curt Knorr, Patsy Cooper, Lois Gurvey, Chelsea Colclough

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 14 @ 6:30pm

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm. Jerry noted that he's getting great feedback from members regarding the changes on hole #7.

Discussions

Mark Hoban (Turfcare):

Early green-up of fairways and greens. Greens aren't as fast as expected after top-dressing. They'll keep getting faster over time. Greens are slower in the afternoon, which is typical for this type of grass.

Expect the greens to be much firmer in the summer.

Baskets will be out in April/May timeframe.

New cups have a studded center that will prevent the flagsticks from blowing over.

"Scalped" fairways allow the bermudagrass growth to take off. The fairways will be cut higher once good growth has started.

Lots of seeding around the tee boxes is rye. Replanting will occur in August.

Tees on #7: There will be a small red tee at the very back, less used. There's a larger area in front of that for the regular red tee and possibly red/white combo.

Fairways on #7: Can't mound the area over the old cart path. Need to allow fairway to drain.

Fairway bunker on #7: Chris wants folks to be able to play out of the bunker – a good golf shot should get over the creek. 41 trees have been removed.

Temporary Gold teeing ground on #6 will be forward of the blue tees until the new teeing area is opened.

Area between #6 tee and #5 green is being beautified. It will have a meadow look, like the area behind #10 green, next to #11 tees.

Turfcare area is going to get cleaned up. [Board members generally considered this a lower priority]

Mark has gotten great feedback regarding our organics. There will be a field day on 7/19 involving club owners, Turfnet, WSB, UGA. A lot of purveyors want to bring superintendents to see what's happening at Rivermont.

New thermal (not smelly) compost for top-dressing fairways will be used this year.

Worms: The worms in the worm farm red wigglers. They live in the dark. They would die put onto the golf course due to the heat. The worms on the course are nightcrawlers that dig very deep. Every course has them. They tunnel up during wet weather to breathe. Some club spray illegally to kill them.

Have some new crew members.

[later in the meeting]

Discussed some rubber mat walk-ups for some tees.

Drainage work between the 150 pole on #2 and the bunker was costed out at \$30k.

Pre-meeting report:

Greens: We are greening up and lowering heights of cut. The greens on the sunshine days are rolling close to a foot faster than on overcast and rain days. The big push now is to completely break dormancy and hope for no more frosts. This will allow us to access any damage or slow to green up areas and manage them if necessary. We have gone back to one cup on the greens and have 28 different location combinations before a repeat. Baskets will be put out in April or early May.

Tees & Fairways: We are in green up mode and its exciting this time of year and we have scalped down both tees and fairways to increase daylight to the soil to warm it even faster. Several tees are being looked at for expanding them due to the amount of traffic wear problems. (1,2,9,10,12,15,16 white tees & 9,16 blue tees & 9,15 red tees.)

Projects: #7 is taking shape with a new cart path and 41 trees removed. Grassing will start next week and a new bunker is being added up the right-side landing area. The new drainpipe has been installed on the irrigation lake at #6 and refilling of the pond takes place next. A new yellow tee will be installed on #6 and two new red tees and a white tee on #7. The old path will be removed on #7 and zoysiagrass will be installed to contain balls in the landing zone better.

Organics: We are planning on a golf organic field day on July 19th. This will involve our organic tests with 5 stations that show off our compost trials, the U. of Ga. trials., pollinator project, native grass projects, our greens trials with non-fungicide and organic applications to combat disease and insects and compete with inorganic fertilizers for turfgrass health.

The bluebird monitoring will begin this month as well.

Pat Woodard (RSMGA):

- Good turnout
- Still a fair number of folks out of town

Dana Weeks (RWGA):

- Opening Brunch on 3/10, good meeting, great brunch as always
- First playday is 3/17
- Membership is up from last year at 47, with 5 new members.

Belinda Marsh (Handicaps):

A request for a handicap adjustment has been made, due to back surgery. The member hasn't played for a year, so an adjustment will be made, then monitored. The USGA has a lot of useful information that we may start posting to help folks understand how handicapping really works.

There's some question about whether there's a new rule regarding how many rounds can be considered "practice rounds".

There hasn't been a handicap committee meeting yet this year.

Brad Hondros (RMGA):

Filling in from last month: Brad's been at Rivermont for 6 years.

The group is running well with 8 additional members this year and waiting lists for tournaments. Some format changes have paid off in getting full fields.

Discussed the pre-meeting report, stressing pace-of-play initiative.

Coming up is the member-member in May and Club Championship in July, member-guest in September.

Mark asked for a post-game review from the participants.

Pre-meeting report:

- February 2-hole tournament was a big success.
 - Had a full field and even had alternates waiting at the clubhouse in case a team needed a sub
- March tournament is a 3/4/5 format and we currently have a full field of 32 teams
- The RMGA board made the decision to raise tournament entry fees \$5
 - We have had 3 full fields in three of the coldest months
 - Desire was made to increase social aspect of events before/during and after
- The RMGA board voted down the option to play a interclub match with CC of Roswell due to the fact that we do the RMGA Ryder Cup and more of our members get the benefit in that situation
- 8 New members were emailed information about the RMGA during February
- We are starting a Pace of Play initiative led by the board members during RMGA tournaments. The first step is for the board to walk around and provide encouragement about keeping up pace before the tournaments start.
 - More formal options were discussed for the future like tips or a seminar in conjunction with the Rules seminar
- RMGA board moved our meetings back to 7:30 because of daylight savings time and the board plans to play 9 hole events before their monthly meetings

Chris Cupit (GM):

Tee box work:

- Tee on #1 is going to be fixed since it's settled. Tees on holes 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16 will be priced out and evaluated.
- On 16, they've looked a plan that might shift the blue & gold tees. Blues would get a little shorter, golds might get 5-7 yards longer.

Chris Nowack's report (focus groups) will be shared when complete.

Inside work:

- Ceilings get a lot of negative remarks
- New drop ceiling in dining room could gain 8" of height
- Some carpet will be redone

- Entrance foyer will get some enhancements
- Chandelier ceiling won't happen because carpet is going to be done.
- Bar has two contractors looking to replace green storage "formica-looking thing" to make that look better
- Lighting proposals for front lawn and to parking lots being evaluated
- Driving range mat will be replaced and moved forward of concrete walkway that the existing mats are on

Northstar computer switchover went well:

- Web switchover will happen soon
- Can drill down to look at charges, credit book
- App will allow folks to order from halfway house, among other things

Board dinner 3/19

Rules seminar on 3/20

New range balls will arrive in April.

Range times moving back 1 hour after DST starts.

Some new apparel lines have been added (Adidas).

Matthew Evans (Pro Shop): [report only]

1. We are still getting used to the new Northstar system in the golf shop. We will start using the tee sheet program in the next week. The new web site is scheduled to launch in the next few weeks. This will be a huge improvement as will now be able to target email blasts and have the ability to attach photo etc. This new website will also include a phone version that will utilize a "Grab and Go" software that will give the members an opportunity to place their half way house orders in advance.

2. We are scheduled to receive new range balls April 1st. To improve the range experience we have decided to order white Srixon range balls instead of reorder Wilson balls.

That's all the exciting stuff. The rest about scheduling for the new season is pretty boring.

Patsy Cooper (RWA):[report only]

here was no regular meeting for March due to the club renovations.

That being said there were plenty of other regular activities to keep everyone busy and entertained.

Between the Bookends March 8 at 10:00 am

At the home of Nancy Eichler

The book selection is: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doer. Eve Schneps will be the discussion leader.

Out to Lunch: Tuesday, March 22 at 11:30 am

The restaurant selection for March is Southbound in Chamblee.

Bridge

Bridge Workshops will begin again in mid-March when the club renovations are complete.

Friday bridge will continue during the renovations if people want to play in homes.

For Marathon: **One-time exemption** - those of you who don't want to wait or can't wait for the club to reopen can play in one of the team member's home.

Art Smarts - March 15th Trip to Booth Western Museum

On March 15th there is a trip scheduled to Booth Western Museum in Cartersville, Ga. In addition to all the wonderful permanent art, there is also an exhibit by Ansel Adams that is not to be missed. There is no limit to the number that can participate and guests are welcome.

Slate of Officers for the coming year

The Nominating Committee just completed its slate of officers for the 2016-17 term and it was communicated to the membership via e-mail.

The slate is:

Linda Emory – President

Carolyn Williams – Vice President of Membership

Linda Newsome – Vice President of Programs

Bunny Davidson – Secretary

Paula Lindabury – Treasurer

The slate will be voted upon at the April meeting and installed at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.