BOCA WEST
COUNTRY CLUB

MINUTES

MEETING:	Golf Committee Minutes
DATE:	May 14, 2020
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steve Forman, Chair, Chuck Rosenblatt, Vice Chair, Carla Cohn, Eric Reinstein, Irv Jainchill, Jim Ginzler, Lela Cannon, Oriol Austin, Pete Kolben, Richard Wagner, Robin Shulman, Terri Axelrod
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
PARTICIPANTS:	J.R. Friend, Director of Golf Operations, Wes Dinsmoor, Golf Superintendent,
FOR INFORMATION:	The Board of Governors
ISSUED BY:	Steve Forman
ISSUE DATE:	May 22, 2020
NEXT MEETING:	June 18, 2020

Chairman Steve Forman called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

Minutes from the previous meeting on April 9th were approved as written.

Chairman's Report: Steve Forman reported the following:

- Immediate focus has to be on any items or initiatives that implicate the budget since the budget for the upcoming season must be approved by the Board at its June meeting. In that vein he noted that a lot of work has already been done with regard to tournaments. One big question is how they will be run under the new paradigm of social distancing.

- He remains concerned about where people are driving their carts now that members are allowed to play golf. He mentioned one instance where he saw someone driving behind the 14th green on Course 3, very near the water. The 14th hole is a Par 3 so there is no excuse for anyone (handicap flag or not) to be driving anywhere but the cart path.

- Finally, he mentioned that he was in email contact with Nicki Hansen, Nanna's Koerstz Madsen's manager and Nicki had sent him a picture of their new golf bag with the Boca West logo on it.

Director of Golf Report: JR Friend, Director of Golf reported the following:

- Activity has been brisk. Between May 1-13th, 4,500 rounds were played. This compares to 3,000 rounds for the same period a year ago.
- Because of the staff shortage, JR is using the professional staff including the instructors as rangers.
- Questions remain about entering scores and JR contacted the Florida Golf Association. He was told additional guidance will be forthcoming. Current guidance is that people should enter scores based on their best estimate regarding how many shots were needed to hole out.
- He is looking at new cup devices that allow the ball to go into the hole but do not require people reaching in or touching the flagstick to retrieve the ball.
- He has received a number of inquiries about allowing guests to play. The current policy is no guests.
- Golf staff is placing reminders about social distancing on golf carts. JR noted that one member complained to him that players are not following the guidelines and threatened to call news station.
- JR noted that we now have starters on the first tee of each of the courses and sitting outdoors in a golf cart all day (10 hours) is taxing for anyone. He will try get portable tents to give them a little more protection against the elements.
- The starters do have some golf supplies e.g., balls and snacks for sale on the first tees.
- Based on new guidelines from Palm Beach County, the driving range will open Saturday May 16th. However, it may only be used by members with a tee time and they may only warm up for 20 minutes before they tee off. This will be closely monitored by the staff. In addition, practice tees will be 12 feet apart and there will not be any bag stands. Finally, members should not touch the balls which means no teeing the ball up.
- We have not gotten approval for the teaching pros to start giving lessons.
- The short game areas and practice putting greens remain closed.
- There will be golf on Memorial Day. Over 300 people have signed up to play and more are expected. Players will get tee-times (as opposed to a shotgun start) and the golf will be held over two days to enable social distancing.
- We plan to hold another golf event on June 15th –most likely players will be limited to 3 clubs. Those who belong to more than 3 clubs will not be allowed to play.
- Golf Operations hired 4 new staff who will be starting shortly.

Golf Course Superintendent Report: Wes Dinsmoor reported the following:

- Because of the pandemic, golf maintenance has been at a 50% staffing level in April. Unfortunately, this normally is a very busy time because they begin three cycles of course maintenance that carry through the entire summer. As a result, they are behind where they usually are at this time of the year.
- It is a continuing challenge but a priority to keep people safe. One thing they are doing is staggering breaks and lunches. Wes stated he has had a full crew for a week and a half, but they cannot have overtime, so they are limited.
- Under the shutdown, bunkers have not been touched for a month, however they started last week. A lot of sand has been replaced in the bunkers on Course 2.
- Primary focus has been on greens, fairways and tees. With landscape staff back they are now working on flower planting and mulch.
- They have completed the first round of aerification. Wes noted that JR and Golf Operations staff helped out in the dry-jet process on greens. JR personally loaded 7,000 pounds of sand for two days.
- The next round of aerification will start in early June.
- The bridge repair project will continue this summer on Courses 2 and 3.

- Course 1 will open Monday. Course 3 will close.
- Cup liners will be replaced on one course by disks on top of the liner. This way the ball can go partly into the hole.
- We can expect that on a rotating basis, one course will be out of commission through the summer as the maintenance crew completes its work.

Subcommittee Reports

- Member Friendly (Carla Cohn, Terri Axelrod) -The group has not received any names of new members as activity has shut down due to the pandemic. The subcommittee recommended we continue to provide gifts to new members i.e., certificate for a free lesson, divot repair tool, free entry into the social event of their choice. It was also suggested we continue the practice of providing a free locker for new golf members for a year. Finally, when operations return to normal it supports the idea of the wine and cheese get-togethers at the golf simulators.
- Tournaments (Chuck Rosenblatt, Lela Cannon) -The subcommittee met to discuss objectives and review the tournament schedule. JR mentioned to them that there would be golf on Memorial Day, albeit under social distancing parameters. With regard to the summer schedule, the intent is to have some event every 2-4 weeks. This includes the golf on Independence Day and Labor Day. Once the ban is lifted the subcommittee will look into a summer league, similar to the way South County is played. It would be open to all golf members. In terms of the fall, we want to have the play with the pros in September or October. One major change next season will be to have a Championship Week when both senior and Club Championships will be held. JR is looking for a time on the schedule and is shooting for mid-February or March. As was done this year, the Putting Championship will be played the week after New Years to give the putting green some time to recover from the holiday crush. Questions still remain regarding how and if the Member-Guests and Play for Pink will be held.
- Course Care (Jim Ginzler, Irv Jainchill) - The subcommittee is exploring a number of initiatives to encourage players to drive in the right places and repair damage to the courses. Integral to the efforts will be a continuation of Group Leader meetings.
- Practice Area/Technology (Richard Wagner, Jim Ginzler) -The subcommittee recognizes that this is probably a multi-year project. There was considerable discussion about the possibility of redoing the driving range including building target greens. A major criticism is the fact that you cannot see where the ball lands. One comment was that the Fazio practice range is very underutilized, and we should make efforts to reintroduce it to the members. An additional suggestion was to upgrade the range balls which of course will have budgetary ramifications. Finally, there was discussion regarding how to market technology better to all the members.
- Golf Trends (Pete Kolben, Eric Reinstein) -The subcommittee has begun its efforts to gather information. It will be enlisting JR's help on a few items.
    - Course Attire (Terri Axelrod, Robin Shulman)—Terri and Robin proposed modification to the current dress code. Modifications include allowing skirts, shorts, etc. to be 5" above the knee instead of 4"; not allowing cargo shorts (with external pockets) and allowing compression gear under acceptable length attire. The changes were approved by the Golf Committee unanimously. The Committee recognizes that the new standards must be publicized extensively. Golf staff will enforce the rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.