BOCA WEST
COUNTRY CLUB

MINUTES

MEETING:	Golf Committee Minutes
DATE:	January 14, 2021via Zoom
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steve Forman, Chair, Chuck Rosenblatt, Vice Chair, Carla Cohn, Eric Reinstein, Irv Jainchill, Jim Ginzler, Lela Cannon, Pete Kolben, Richard Wagner
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Absent with Notice: Robin Shulman, Terri Axelrod
PARTICIPANTS:	Guests: Phil Kupperman, Chairman of the Board, Charles Wolf, Board Member; J.R. Friend, Director of Golf Operations, Wes Dinsmoor, Director of Golf Course Maintenance
FOR INFORMATION:	The Board of Governors
ISSUED BY:	Steve Forman
ISSUE DATE:	January 24, 2021
NEXT MEETING:	February 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Forman at 3:03 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting in December were approved as written.

Chairman's Report:
Mr. Forman thanked everyone for attending. He stated that this is the penultimate meeting for this program year and for the next meeting (in February) he would like to do a recap. He asked Committee members to come prepared to discuss what we have accomplished, what worked, what didn't and provide suggestions for the next season's committee.

Director of Golf Report: JR Friend

- At the end of the 2019-20 year (this past September) the club had 1,688 golf members. This year, principally due to Covid-19, there are 1,561 members; a reduction of 127 people. However, in terms of rounds played for the first 3.5 months of the year last year we had 31,000 rounds; this year to date there have been almost 36,000 rounds which is an over 15% increase. For many weeks we have not allowed guests, so the pressure on the courses especially with four carts per group for many, has increased significantly. While people have been doing a good job overall following the 90-degree rule there are still areas of wear, especially near the cart paths around greens and tees. As a result, starting around February 1st, we will probably have two holes per course go to cart path only (CPO). These will be in addition to the Par 3's which are always CPO. This will continue until March or April when the growing season begins again. Announcements will go out to the Membership and will also ask players not to drive around carts, rather stay in line on the paths near tees and greens.

- Equipment sales are robust exceeding the budget by $30,000 YTD. Demo days have been very successful.
- The golf instructors are quite busy after a slow start in October. While they cannot teach guests because of restrictions, members are signing up for lessons. JR was quite happy with the innovative programs they initiated and was excited about the rebranding they have done.
- 520 people have signed up for the Superbowl Tournament. Due to the large number, tee-times for people who want to play that day and are not in the tournament will start at 1:30 p.m. on all courses. All four courses will be used for the tournament. In other news, Tom Brady will not be able to play for two reasons; one he will be busy that weekend and two he is not a member. Bill Belichick wanted to sign up since he was free that weekend, but again he is not a member.
- To date, 88 players have signed up for the Club Championships an increase over previous years and there are several new players which is a great sign.
- Golf professional staff have spent much more time outside, monitoring people's adherence to face mask rules. Overall people have been polite and respectful when asked to put on their mask around the golf practice facilities.
- The putting championships went well. This year qualifying was held on the practice green near Course 1, Hole 1 to reduce crowding in the practice area near Mr. D's. The finals were held back at the green near Mr. D's. Winners and runners up will get trophies with their name engraved.
- There have been a number of questions asked about the tee times system and how times are determined. JR explained that the system looks at each player's history 14 days back and also considers signups 6 days in the future. If groups have players who play in other groups that get preferred tee times, that will have an impact on what is assigned to the group. If groups are linked, that will adversely impact tee-times; days of the week also have an impact, for example Fridays are always quite busy. There has been a lot of thought into the system and they are trying to be as fair as possible to everyone. Unfortunately, with times now 9 minutes apart (instead of 8) and increased demand, preferred times are more difficult to come by.
- Leagues have been very successful this year. The women's Wednesday league has 104 people signed up. Golf staff is considering having an appreciation luncheon at the end of March for the members. It would be in the tent outside.
- Looking to the immediate future, as part of the major construction project Mr. D's will get renovated and Hole 1 Course 1 will be modified slightly to accommodate the expansion of My Pi. Tees will be moved to the right and some trees removed. JR is also looking into a more up-to-date lightning warning system and we are a year away from needing to get a new cart fleet. The latter two projects are subject to the budget approval process.

<u>Director of Golf Course Maintenance Report</u>: Wes Dinsmoor

- With cooler temperatures turf growth has slowed which was predicted all along. Members are doing a good job with the 90-degree rule however, as noted previously there is still damage especially around greens and tees near the cart paths.
- Wes and staff are aerifying high traffic areas.
- The rough is showing more traffic wear this year than it has in the past.
- Several areas need concrete work.
- Bridge repair will continue in the summer.
- 2020 saw 117 inches of rain which is double the historical average.
- Regarding lakes and littoral zones, the Masters Association is responsible for managing them and there are strict county rules for maintaining them. Wes explained that the aquatic plants that live there are essential for the ecosystem and generally the plants must stay unless there is an adverse impact on the golf courses. Wes has gotten several calls from people who do not like the look and want them removed.
- Wes is still losing people and he is attempting to hire staff to get up to capacity.

Subcommittee Reports

Member Friendly - Carla Cohn and Terri Axelrod - Carla contacted two new members; both were renters last year and were happy to be contacted.

Tournaments - Chuck Rosenblatt and Lela Cannon - Play for Pink dates are set and the subcommittee will be meeting with JR to finalize plans for the week-long event. Lela commented that Course 4 was rated #164 for golf residential communities nationwide by Golf Week. In the past two years there has been a concerted effort to get course raters to visit Boca West so that the courses could get additional recognition. This will continue after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

New Business:

Chuck Rosenblatt raised a question whether we should pass a local rule that states that the ball must be holed and that if it hits a wire it is still in play. After considerable discussion, the Committee decided not to implement such a rule universally and it will be left up to individual groups to decide how they want to proceed in their games. However, for tournaments the rule has been the shot must actually go in the hole.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be on February 18th