



RAC GOLF COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – Plaza Club
August 4, 2021

Chairperson Bob Cochran called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Members Present: Carolyn Bethea, Benny Blackshire, Denis Bluett, Carolyn Clark (RAC Liaison), Bob Cochran, Dick Green, Joe Law, Marty O’Neill, Molly Walker, and Ron Larkin (Director of Golf, Racket Sports, & Hospitality)

Members Excused: Ted Roberts and MaryAnn Wellander

1. The roll call confirmed a quorum and the agenda was adopted by vote.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting, which was held on June 22, 2021, were approved by unanimous vote.

3. **Chairperson’s Report:** The chairman welcomed the new Golf Director, Ron Larkin and then presented the following items:

a. Financials for Freedom Fairways.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>	<u>GROUPONS</u>	<u>GOLF NOW</u>
June	\$10,814.20	659	622	1	80
July	\$10,783.61	590	571	0	74

- b. New Leadership. By direction of the RAC Executive Committee, it was determined that Bob Cochran and Benny Blackshire have completed two terms on the Golf Committee and will be replaced with new members to the committee. No exceptions were approved. A new election of chairperson and secretary was ordered for this meeting.
- c. Election of Chairperson and Secretary. Bob opened the floor for nominations and Marty O’Neill was nominated for Chairperson and Dick Green for Secretary. There being no other nominations, the vote was unanimous. It was agreed the new officers would take over at the end of the meeting.

4. **Director of Golf Report:** Ron discussed the “Freedom Plaza In Sun City Center Course Visitation Report” conducted by J. Mark Black Consulting Firm. The report had previously been provided to members of the committee for review. The report analyzed the greens and tees and provided three maintenance options. Ron stated that after discussions with Siby Thadathil, Maintenance and Engineering Director, and Chris, the course maintenance supervisor, it was determined they would follow maintenance option 3. Ron assured the committee there would be closer attention to course maintenance “every day”.

Other topics covered by Ron were:

- a. Groupon and Golf Now. Groupon will not be used in the future. Golf Now is still a good deal for the course.
- b. Hole #5. There is a plan to make an exit from the fairway to the cart path before the tree close to the green. Currently, handicap carts must go by the green to exit.
- c. Reservation Times. There was a discussion about when residents could make tee times and Ron noted the suggestions by the committee.

- d. Course Staff. Ron briefed the committee on his ideas for part-time paid employees and the many volunteer rangers. The committee was supportive of his ideas.

5. Maintenance Report: There was no maintenance report as Siby was not present.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Restrooms – All of the fixtures are old and need to be replaced. A work order was submitted for the equipment by Bob, but nothing has been done. Housekeeping is shorthanded so the facility supplies (paper towels, toilet paper, and soap) do not get replaced on a regular basis. It was recommended to have facility supplies available to the Rangers so they could replace when needed. The combination code for the rest rooms needs to be changed more frequently.
- b. Pro Shop. They will continue to do events, however, the fish fry had to be cancelled. The Bloody Mary and Mimosa events were lightly attended. A Golf Mentorship event will be held Sunday August 8 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm.
- c. Greens Rolled. The greens will be rolled again in the fall.
- d. Tournaments. Several ideas were discussed including having a Men’s Day and a Women’s Day starting mid-morning and ending with a lunch. Toward the end of the meeting Ron expressed the desire to have more clubhouse social activity at the end of the men’s and women’s league/scheduled play. It was explained that, at least for the men, the starting time would need to be moved up from 7:15 to 10 or 10:30 AM so that the play would finish around lunch time. For men’s golf Charlie Utz needs to be included in the planning.
- e. Marketing/Advertising. Ron will be meeting with Chris Hall later.
- f. Golf Survey. Bob is looking into finding a good golf survey for patrons.
- g. Unauthorized use of golf course. This includes hikers, dog walkers, people fishing, and those playing without paying. Violations should be reported to the Pro Shop during operating hours and to the FP front desk after hours. The stickers for member golf carts need to be updated.
- h. Course Condition. Covered during the Course Report above.
- i. Course Rating. Plans for the rating are moving forward.

7. New Business: None

8. Chairperson Bob Cochran adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

9. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, at 1:30 pm in the Plaza Club.

Respectively submitted,
Benny Blackshire
Secretary