

## Sunflower Hills Golf Course Advisory Board

Minutes from the meeting held Tuesday March 14, 2017

Sunflower Hills Golf Course Clubhouse

The meeting was called to order by Tom Roberts

Members Present: Tom Roberts, Jesse Rocha, Tom Cooley, Kevin Jones, Gene Reynolds, Roger Miller, Matt Palcher, Jeff Manning, Mark Mohler, David McLain, Dennis McWilliams

Members absent: Chris Bergman (excused), Clyde Townsend (excused)

Staff present: Jeff Johnson, Jonathan Bennett

Gene Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2016 meeting. A second was made by Kevin Jones.

Jonathan Bennett commented that the greens program from 2016 was successful and plans to keep foliar and fungicide plan the same for 2017. Jonathan stated that he plans to eliminate the collar height on the greens due to poor quality. Greens aerification is scheduled for April and after the greens heal he will determine if any areas need sod.

Jonathan stated that the fairways have been sprayed with round up and pre-emergent the first part of February. On some of the larger spots with clover they will be sprayed out. The fairway program from 2016 will be followed in 2017 as well.

Jonathan stated that 80% of the clover in the rough was sprayed last fall. All of the rough was fertilized as well. Another application of fertilizer and a pre-emergent will be applied in April. The majority of the rough will be overseeded in the fall.

The new tee on #8 will be opened within a few weeks and the rest of the tees were sprayed with roundup. The tee program was successful in 2016 and plans are to keep it the same in 2017.

Jonathan stated that drainage areas on holes #6, #10, #11 and #12 have all been repaired this past winter. He also stated that 40 ash trees and 5 other varieties were cut down this winter. Just about all of the trees that line the fairways have been pruned raising the canopies significantly. 85 Ash trees will be treated this spring and certain Ash trees that are not treated will be removed in the fall. Jonathan also informed the board that the maintenance shop had been cleaned over the winter. Walls were painted, new light fixtures added and more organization added.

Jonathan stated that the course is in need of a bunker renovation. New liners and replacing bad drainage would eliminate a lot of problems. Currently, it takes approximately 30 man hours to repair the bunkers after 1 rainstorm.

Jonathan also stated that we are in need of new forward tees to accommodate a shorter course for juniors, ladies, super seniors and beginners. Approximately 1 new tee on every hole is needed. With many in the golf industry promoting the "Tee it Forward" program this would

enhance our marketing efforts to those people wanting to play a shorter course. We currently have tee markers in some of the fairways but they are not level.

Tom Cooley asked if there have been any problems from the construction on I-70 on hole # 13. Jonathan stated other than dust there have not been any problems.

Kevin Jones asked about the fence around the perimeter of the course. Jonathan stated that the fence will be evaluated in the spring after it heats up. Many times during the winter the plastic fence contracts and some of the rails fall out of their slots.

Kevin also asked about the fairway bunker on #3. Jonathan stated that there are still plans to remove it but we need a loader from either the Parks department or street department in order to do so. Jeff Johnson stated that the back right bunker on #10 and the front right bunker on #15 were also ones that will be taken out.

Dennis McWilliams mentioned that the bunkers are always the #1 complaint on any golf course and he feels that ours have been much better than in past years.

Tom Roberts asked if Jonathan still plans to use the roller for the greens this year. Jonathan stated he would still use it on certain days. Jonathan stated that a new verticutter for the greens is in the plans and it also has an attachment for rollers.

Gene Reynolds stated that Jonathan has done a wonderful job and all board members agreed.

Gene asked about #11 green if has shrunk again. Jeff stated that although it appears so he doesn't feel like it has shrunk more than 2 feet from its original size.

Jeff reported that rounds and revenue for 2016 were virtually identical to 2015. Rounds were down less than 1% and revenue was down less than a half a percent. Jeff stated that Great Life Golf continues to buy more courses in the area and continues to set their rates at prices that are very low.

Jeff reported that the carpet was shampooed over the winter. Jeff also stated that new splashboards were installed under the hand dryers in the men's room as well as new grout on the sink area. Also, the ceiling in the snack bar had been repaired from a leak that happened in the summer of 2016. Finally, many areas on the outside of the clubhouse were touched up with paint.

Jesse Rocha asked about tournament bookings and Jeff stated that they remain the same as 2016. Jeff stated that one group is not coming back because of the lack of a banquet area. They loved the course and the service but they needed more space for their post tournament activities.

Tom Roberts asked if the pace of play suggestions made by Jeff and the senior league meeting made a difference in the first event and Jeff stated that it helped but some golfer may retreat to their old habits as the season moves on. Jeff stated that monitoring pace of play is an ongoing process to educate golfers how to maintain a brisk pace.

Jeff informed the board that the next meeting would be Tuesday June, 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

Roger Miller made a motion to adjourn and Gene Reynolds seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 10:40.