

LAKE FAIRWAYS GOLF ASSOCIATION
MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2024

Please note the date of the next meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at Noon

In attendance: Greg Mullens, President, John Hunter, Vice President, Bill Fleckenstein, Treasurer, Dede Martin, Secretary, Dan Thess, Pro Shop Manager, Freda Bennett, Membership, Cathy Reid, Ladies League, Mike Leslie, Man at Large, Al Keefer, Rules. Absent: Mike Craven, Men's League, Brenda Lavesque, Nine Hole Ladies League, Alan Cristello, Past President, Tom Charboneau, HOA Golf Liaison, Scotty Helmig, Grounds Keeper

Meeting was called to Order by Greg at 12:05 PM

Greg asked Dan Thess to please report on Pro Shop and Golf Course Maintenance (in lieu of Scotty).

Dan indicated that because of all the rain, the course was closed today. He indicated that if we get a lot more rain, the course could be closed tomorrow as well. Dan stated that everything is going well, not a lot to report. As far as the course goes, ELS has approved the money for the chemicals to get rid of the bugs. May need to close the course for a few hours. May do this on League days and have the starting time pushed back an hour or so. They will try not to impact the golfers. Scotty will come up with a plan on when this will happen and Dan will let us know.

Dan indicated that there has been some problems with outsiders and/or guests who have taken a Pro Shop golf cart and taken it to their homes. This is not acceptable. The carts are leased and must stay on the golf course for insurance purposes. Mike asked about whether or not these carts can be used on the perimeter road and Dan said this is acceptable as it is going back to the pro shop or to a hole on the course.

Dan indicated that there will be a "Glo Ball Tournament" which will be a 9 hole event on Monday, February 19th. He will put up a sign up sheet about 2 weeks before the event. The tournament is open to the first 40 golfers. The price will be \$15 per person. No prize money so you can sign up to play with whoever you want. The Pro Shop will provide prizes such as closest to the pin.

Dan indicated that the Pro Shops will be open the mornings of the Club Championships and then close so the employees can participate in the tournament. Dan said to let him know if anything is needed from him for this tournament. Dates of club championship at Lake Fairways is 3/2 and 3/3.

Dan indicated that the Rally for the Cause will take place on February 23rd. The 1st hole will be closed at 10:30 A.M.. Putting Green will be closed until 3:00 P.M. Will not be closing the course. If a member wants to play, they can start on Hole #2. If any outsider wants to play the back nine will be open.

Dan stated that he has looked into getting the courses rated. In Florida, the Florida Golf Association does the rating for the USGA. Lake Fairways has never been rated because it has less than 3,000 yards. However, now the USGA allows for courses less than 3,000 yards to be rated. It will cost \$2,500 for each course to be rated. Pine Lakes was rated in 2016 because they have 3,200 yards. They will be putting in for this cost in the budget in 2025. If ELS only approves for one course to be rated, it will be Lake Fairways as Pine Lakes has a rating. Dan indicated that the Ladies can play from the White tees and put in their scores from that tee.

Dan indicated that we have 338 members from both courses. It was suggested that when someone joins the course that on the membership form, it asks for an email address. Dan said that he is building his own data base which will include the email addresses. Something like this will help for instance when the course closes due to weather and an email can be sent out.

Dan said he looked into the GHIN system for handicaps but that would cost the member about \$20 and ELS about \$6,700. So for the time being we will keep with the system we have which is only costing about \$2 to \$4 per member per year. Dan does not know what the cost is to ELS as he has not seen anything in writing.

Dan indicated that they are making all the annual memberships go from December 1 to November 30 which will make everything conform.

Dan indicated that he will send out to the Presidents of the Golf Associations any information that needs to get out to the memberships of both Pine Lakes and Lake Fairways.

Greg asked if there are signs for "course closed" or "cart path only" other than on just the first hole. Dan said he is looking into this so that there are signs on both the front and back nines at both courses.

It was asked if Dan has knowledge of the budget for the golf course. Dan said he has found nothing that gives him info for line items so does not know what money is spent on specifically.

Dan indicated that hurricane damage (such as fence on hole #8) will be addressed separately than from budget. Insurance will take care of some of this damage.

It was asked how many of ELS parks have a golf course. Dan said he did not know specifically, but maybe 10. Also, there are only 6 parks that have restaurants. It was noted that ELS does not expect profits from these restaurants.

Greg asked if any news on the water leaks on the course. Dan indicated that nothing will be done until summer when there is less play.

Dan indicated that Kevin, General Manager of ELS does know a lot of what is going on and tries to keep up with problems.

The Secretary's Report was waived as everyone receives emails, one is posted on the LFGA Board and minutes are posted on the Lake Fairways website.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Fleckenstein indicated that there is a problem with the account at Wells Fargo. He is locked out of the account. Mike Leslie indicated that he was notified that their account card was fraudulently used. All monies have been put back in account, but they are awaiting new cards. Bill indicated that there are now only 3 names on the account, himself, Mike Leslie and Greg Mullens. All 3 are going to the bank tomorrow to try to straighten everything out. Bill indicated that the ending balance should be \$10,699.88 after a \$417.00 deposit.

Freda reported on membership. Currently 147 members (87 men and 60 women). There are 52 (12 month memberships), 45 (6 month memberships), 21 (4 month memberships) 11 (3 month memberships) 4 (9-hole memberships) and 7 (Sunday golf members). Freda indicated that there are several members of the course who are not members of the LFGA.

Tournament Report – John deferred to Greg because he was not available for the 2 day tournament and Greg handled it for him. Greg indicated that last year there were 16 teams and there were 10 teams paid out. This year there were 18 teams and 12 teams were paid. He indicated that everything collected was paid out. Next tournament is the Valentine's Day tournament which is handled by the Pro Shop. It is scheduled for February 5th. Greg also indicated that they are getting ready for the Club Championship.

Rules – Al indicated that there were some problems with the Men's Shootouts but he believes they are being addressed. Mike asked if on #10 on the right hand sign, if the stakes could be changed to red instead of white. Al feels that there are too many rules that are being changed to accommodate players that want relief. Should not do this but it should be brought up to the general meeting if a change is requested. A discussion was held about out-of-bounds rules that also should be discussed at a general meeting. Al feels that we should not be rating out course at this time as there could be consequences that we would not want to happen if the rating was taken away. Freda asked about the area on the left side of #10 that at one time was considered ground under repair. Al indicated that it should not be ground under repair. If your ball is behind the stationary box, you get relief from swing and stance. Otherwise, if you are in that area and the ball cannot be played, it should be considered unplayable with a stroke added. Greg asked John and Al to review these issues and come back with thoughts.

Cathy indicated that there is nothing to report for the Ladies League. Have 46 members with another member joining tomorrow.

Men's League – Greg indicated that Mike said he will be putting the sign up sheets for the Club Championship up in about 10 days.

Man at Large – Greg thanked Mike and Cathy for a job well done at the recent awards get together. They are gearing up for the Club Championship. The meet and greet will be at Lake Fairways this year for players and caddies. Greg indicated that he wants to have a table for the Board members as well.

Old Business – Greg indicated that the course rating is in the works with Dan.

New Business – Greg indicated that he has submitted the letter to Kevin for the \$4,000 for the Club Championship the first week of January.

Scotty and Dan will meet if anything is needed.

John Westfere has some paint in the cart barn for ground under repair. Greg will get together with him to see what is needed.

Freda indicated that she feels a letter should be sent from our Association about the Sand Trap hours. Our prospectus says that one of our amenities is a restaurant that is open 7 days a week. Greg indicated that he will get together with Tom Charboneau to see if HOA will help with this.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 P.M

Respectfully submitted

Dede Martin
Secretary