

MINUTES OF THE LAKE FAIRWAYS GOLF ASSOCIATION
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

Attending: Greg Mullens, President, Alan Cristello, Past President, Bill Fleckenstein, Treasurer, John Hunter, Vice President, Dede Martin, Secretary, Freda Bennett, Membership, Mike Craven, Men's League, Gloria Craven, Women's League, Dave Malmberg, Pro Shop, Annie Souza, Guest, Ed Di Stefano, Director of Golf, Scotty Helmbig, Grounds Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by Greg at Noon. Greg introduced Ed Di Stefano to be first on the agenda and welcomed him to our meeting. Greg asked for a report from Ed. It was mentioned that we, here at Lake Fairways, would like to see more of him.

Ed reported on the Pro Shop inventory, stating that more will be arriving daily and hopes that the membership will like what he is buying. He stated that instead of pricing the merchandise and then discounting it, he is pricing the merchandise at 30% above wholesale and that is what is on the price tag. Ed stated that golf equipment price is dictated by the vendors (this includes golf balls). Bill indicated that he can buy golf balls at a lesser price at the golf shop next door. Ed indicated that what he is buying may not be apples to apples as he is buying the newest balls and Bill may be seeing the price of older balls. Ed said he would check into it. Bill indicated that he feels the clothes pricing is still too high. Ed feels that the clothes will sell because of the Pro Shop credit that the members receive from tournaments and league. He plans to purchase Foot Joy clothing which is a fine line of clothing.

Ed indicated that he is still getting organized as he hit the ground running in February which was right in the midst of our high season. He will get the booklets that the Association creates as well as the Ladies League's booklet so that he can have all the tournaments and special days notated on his calendar. He will do the same for Pine Lakes.

Dede asked about lesson costs. Ed says that from his days in Naples, he has cut his cost of lessons in half. He has been a PGA member for 33 years and has worked in golf for 43 years. He stated that he has attained 2 stars which you will see above his insignia which means only about 1% of PGA pros have this designation.

Gloria asked what Ed thinks is his most important role here. Ed indicated to improve things and make a great golf shop. He would like the whole operation to run well. Gloria indicated that, she being a fairly new member to golfing, felt that what she got from our membership that there were a lot of things lacking regarding the course and the golf shop. She hopes that Ed will help to get us in the right direction.

It was asked of Ed, if he was the supervisor over the groundskeeping. Ed said that he has nothing to do with that except to make recommendations to the ELS manager which he has done. Gloria indicated that, if she understands, Ed has no say over when and where "ground under repair" painting is done or anything like that? Ed said no.

Al asked how often Ed has ridden around the course to look at what needs to be done. Ed said he has ridden around many times and has made recommendations to Julie, such as closing each

course for a month at a time in the summer to get work done without the interruption of golfers. He indicated the months of June, July August and September. Dede indicated that the leagues start in September, just an FYI. Mike asked if Ed could get supervising authority over the groundskeeping, but Ed said that was not in his contract.

Freda asked about help for the golf shops. Ed said that there are two new hires working out of Pine Lakes. He said not sure about more staffing yet.

It was brought up about the players seen on the golf course in the late afternoon who are probably not members and what about that? Ed said he is aware of that and hopes to have late afternoon rangers out there.

Mike asked about the hiring of residents. Ed indicated that it is an ELS rule that residents not be hired.

Memberships. Al brought up the rumor that the 3 month membership was going away. Ed said that at this time there will be 3 month (running from January through March 31st), 6 month (running from October through March) and yearly memberships (running from January through December). Ed said that he does want to be the one to take all the memberships in so that he can meet everyone personally and he said that he would be willing to be at Lake Fairways on certain days so that no one would have to make the trip over to Pine Lakes. Freda indicated that she has information that would make the 6 month membership more in line to be from November through April. Ed said he would like to see that data and would be flexible. Also if someone were to come down, say the last week of October, he would allow a 6 month membership with a few free days. Ed said he does not see going back to having any other types of memberships. Ed indicated that because he doesn't know the membership, he will be tracking it from this day forward. Ed indicated that when we pay our membership, he will give us a laminated card which we should carry at all times in case a ranger asks to see it.

Mike asked about the coupon books. Ed said he is going to have coupon books for members and spouses and separate ones for outside players and will be priced separately.

Greg asked if there were going to be any changes to the cost of tokens and/or Pro Shop carts. Ed indicated not at this time. Greg asked if what we are doing with the monthly tournaments, winnings going as credit on the books still okay? Ed said yes.

Per Ed the POS system we have is capable of doing a lot more than what we are using it for, such as the credit book, group emails, more info. Ed said, "I want to make it better"

John said there are always rumors going on and one of them was that there was only going to be yearly memberships available. Ed said absolutely not true. John asked if Ed has investigated ELS before coming on board. Ed said he did do some checking and he admitted that some things are different than what he expected.

Ed said he wants to keep communications open. Ed addressed the handicap systems being used and indicated that we cannot go to the GHIN system yet as the USGA is changing their rules for

the length of courses that they endorse and our courses come under that change as we are not considered long enough currently but will be once the changes are made and we ask the USGA to re-rate our courses. Dede asked if the cost of the GHIN system is higher but Ed said it is comparable to what Golfnet is charging us.

Greg thanked Ed for coming to our meeting.

Scotty Helmbig our course superintendent was asked for his report. Scotty indicated that he has some new hires and that is helping a lot. Holes are being cut twice a week. Cannot do any more than that because of our small greens. Annie Souza said she sees the improvements especially in the fairways being defined, sand traps being groomed...effort is there.

Scotty indicated that they do a lot of the work in the dark as mowing of greens, changing of holes etc so hope things are okay. He said that holes are changed in Lake Fairways on Tuesday and Thursday and Pine Lakes Wednesday and Friday. Will do extra for special tournaments.

Greg asked about the removal of the wood chips in those areas that were affected by the hurricane. Scotty said that Julie (ELS stand-in Manager) is high on pine straw and he has ordered a huge amount which will go in places such as Greg is indicating. He said that his ride around with Julie was cut short by rain and he does not have another date to finish it.

Scotty said they have done application on the grounds for weeds and feels there is an improvement since that was done. Still more to do.

Al asked about a roller. Scotty said they do not have one at this time and asked Al what he would want Scotty to do with a roller. Al indicated that the greens are very bumpy and wondered if rolling the greens would help that or is it just weeds on the green.

Gloria asked about beautification of the tee boxes. Scotty said that the previous manager, Jason, wanted everything to be uniform. Scotty said that they will be removing the mulch that was put down and he will be putting in some grasses that will be ornamental and look nice. These grasses will have pine straw surrounding them.

Scotty was asked about aeration schedule. Right now the following weeks, either Pine Lakes or Lake Fairways will be closed:

May 8th
May 15th
June 5th
June 12th
July 24th
July 31st

This will be posted.

Mike asked about the sprinkler system damage from hurricane. Scotty indicated that he has cleaned and/or replaced what is needed. Working on old piping on hole number 3. Will need to tear up cart path and replace.

Scotty commented that he had been asked if 8:00 shotguns would be okay during the summer months and he has agreed so long as everyone starts on the front. That allows his workers to get things done.

Greg asked Scotty if he needs special project money such as irrigation system, retaining walls etc. Scotty said if he were to propose a capital project it would be to replace the 40 year old greens. What has been done in the past was a band aid, not a fix. He said he would go down 12 inches and then would sprig with paspalem grass. Scotty did say he had to give Julie an amount of what is needed to replace all sand in the traps. That is to be ordered.

Bill asked about some of the bad tee boxes such as Hole #3, #5 and #15. To be looked at and either resodded or overseeding.

Freda said she thought the greens were going to be Bermuda, but Scotty said, no, paspalam is the best to have.

Greg thanked Scotty for his attendance and report

Greg asked if Secretary's report could be waived as everyone gets this emailed to them and one is posted on the LFGA board. Motion was made, seconded and accepted.

Treasurers report – Bill indicated that we have a current balance of \$8,943.05. All bills have been paid to date. Motion was made to accept, seconded and accepted.

Freda said as membership chair she met with Ed. She said he doesn't understand our membership but that she will get her spreadsheet to him so he can see for himself when our members arrive for membership months. Freda suggests that Ed be here at Lake Fairways at least 2 days a week for people wanting to sign up for their memberships. She said it sounds like Ed will try to be flexible.

John reported on Tournaments. As he is the new Vice President, he is getting his feet wet with the May Memorial Day tournament which will be played on Monday, May 1, 2023, He will post the notices at both Lake Fairways and Pine Lakes where members can sign up for play. Cost will be \$4.00. Greg indicated to John that the postings for tournaments should be up 10 to 14 days before the date.

Greg indicated that there is no Rules Chair report today.

Gloria said there was nothing new to report from the Ladies League. Annie Souza indicated that they have a date in February 2024 for the Rally for the Cause which our ladies league will be doing in conjunction with the Pine Lakes Ladies league. Hope Hospice will be the cause in memory of Nancy Sweet and others.

Dede indicated that the Ladies League Summer League will be joining with Pine Lakes this year and will play one week here and one week there with an 8:00 Shotgun start. Most players will play 9 holes but some ladies will continue on to the back nine.

It was indicated that there will be different hours for the Pro Shop and driving range during the summer months and Greg will get that info from Ed.

Men's league report from Mike was, "same old same old"

Greg brought up that if we are doing the New Year's Resolution tournament, the timing would be New Year's Day. It was decided by the board that the tournament would be pushed to the following week so as not to interfere with the holiday

Greg said he will get together with Julie and Scotty for a ride around to look at the course and what to do with the wood chips and debris.

Al said that he and Greg and Pine Lakes Board members met with Julie and said she is "just sick" at what the places look like. Al feels Julie will make things right.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Dede Martin, Secretary