

## **Birch Bay Village Golf Committee Meeting**

**March 5, 2024**

**Golf Committee members and others present:** Steve Franklin (Chair 1-25), Leslie Feaster (1-25), Dori O'Dell (1-25), Elizabeth Wilbrecht (1-25), Dave Schwab (1-25), Don Shank (1-25), Craig McCallum (1-27), Krista Templeton (Rec-Center Manager) Steve Brandt (Groundskeeper), Rod O'Dell (Golf Club Liaison), Bob Simpson (Handicap Chair for the Golf Club), Dave Pimblett (President, Golf Club), David Franklin (General Manager BBV), Dave Wilbrecht (Liaison BBV Board of Directors), Ernie Hutchins, (President BBV Board of Directors)

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Steve Franklin at 1:08 PM

**Approval of Agenda:** Don Shank asked that a golf merchandise sale be added to the agenda. Dave Wilbrecht asked that grounds equipment and golf membership be added to agenda.

**Approval of Minutes of February 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Dori moved the amended minutes from the February meeting that took David Franklin's name off the list of participants and changed the date to the 6<sup>th</sup> of February be approved. Dave Schwab seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Golf Committee Co-Chair:** Steve Franklin asked for a volunteer to the co-chair of the Golf Committee. Dorie nominated Don Shank. Don Shank accepted. Dorie moved that Don Shank be appointed the Golf Committee Co-Chair. Craig McCallum seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Lynden High School Women's Golf update:** Ernie Hutchins reported that there has been a policy written regarding the use of the BBV Golf Course by High Schools in the area. Ernie went over the contract with Lynden High School as well as the policies, expectations and needed insurance the schools need in order to access our course. There would be one tournament played here by them. Tee times would be in the afternoon. The team must be accompanied by their coach and must check in at Rec Center and check out when they leave. They must inform Rec Center of any interactions they have with other golfers. Ernie felt this contract put us in control of the situation. With this contract we have a policy to follow. Ernie said that the policy can be amended and changed by the Golf Committee but all policies need to be presented and voted on by the BBV Board of Directors. Ernie and Steve Franklin both felt that the coach and team

should be clear about the agreement and what is expected of them prior to signing it. Ernie plans on taking them out on the first tee and reiterating the local home hazards and water hazards on the course. Craig McCallum asked if the parents need to sign as the kids are under 18? Ernie said that will be looked into and we need a policy in place in order for the team to play and it needs to be completed soon and voted on by the BBV Board.

Krista said Blaine High School has requested time for two tournaments. Steve Franklin asked how the Golf Committee felt about the High School playing two tournaments. Craig McCallum likes the idea. Steve Franklin felt there should be some monetary payment. Krista said BBV typically doesn't charge for young people's tournaments. The committee decided to pursue a monetary payment from the high schools due to the fact that the youth rate is \$5.

Steve Franklin said we need a motion. Dori O'Dell moved that we present a policy for High School Golf to play on the BBV golf course to the BBV Board, Craig McCallum seconded it, the motion passed unanimously. Craig McCallum moved that we allow the Blaine High School Golf Team to play their two tournaments on the BBV Golf Course pending approval of the BBV Board of Directors, Don Shank seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dori O'Dell moved that we allow the Lynden HS Golf Team to hold practices at the BBV golf course pending approval of the policy put before the BBV Board of Directors, Craig McCallum seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Buildings & Grounds/Golf Committee Sub-Committee:** Dave Wilbrecht said he had talked to Ruth Balf (Committee Chair of Buildings & Grounds Committee) and Steve Franklin about getting together to make decisions regarding the Rec Center. Dave would like the sub-committee to talk about 2024 building projects and what is being planned for updates. There is a scheduling conflict on the date that is planned so a new date will have to be decided on. The two independent groups are sharing the same building and we need to plan for the 2025 budget. Everyone on Buildings & Grounds and Golf Committee will be invited to the initial meeting.

**Marshalling & Incidents:** Dave Franklin said that since our course is not busy the Marshalls could be "paid" by getting free rounds of golf. BBV needs more staff on the administration side so there is no money to pay Marshalls. We are also hoping to get a compliance officer for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Dave Franklin said if people have questions or concerns about people being inappropriate or reckless on the course, they can call the regular BBVC office number and the call can be forwarded to the compliance officer. The Marshalling and the Compliance offer are both dependent upon the BBVC Board approving it. A long discussion with many different ideas ensued.

**Rec Center Report:** There were 3 incident reports. New tournament on July 20 put on by North Bay HOA needs approval. Approximately 40 golfers. They pay green fees. This was unanimously approved by the committee. The Golf Clinics will start next month. We will have junior and adult sessions. We will keep a record of what was taught and only have 7 people at a time participate. Dori reminded people that loud and cursing behavior at the rec center is not appropriate and we should be aware of our etiquette in public places.

**Groundskeeper Report** – Steve Brandt reported that there are too many carts on the golf course. This abundance of carts directly effects how much water is used on the course. He is going to be using more water agents on the course. A discussion was had about limiting golf cart use on par 3 holes. People who were limited physically could request an exemption. Steve thought that would help as well as contour mowing and putting off watering until later in the season. Dori O'Dell said if we're thinking of trying the no carts on par 3, we should start in the beginning of the season. Bob Simpson suggested we start out a hole a week, do it incrementally. Golf Cart rentals bring in about \$4000 per year. Do we want to give up the golf cart rentals because people can only use them on 4 or 5 holes?

**Golf Club Update** – Dave Pimblett said that the Golf Simulator is put together and he is working on an update. The Golf Club will be offering some evenings in the clubhouse with some beginner lessons. They will use the simulator to offer those lessons at the end of March for beginner lessons or people can come to get ready for spring. It would be set up and taken down on the same evening. They are working on looking for a storage space for it.

**Junior Golf** – Dave Pimblett said they are busy working details out. Week of July 8<sup>th</sup> for Birch Bay children and grandchildren. Ernie wants to take a step back and Dave Pimblett and Zane will organize and Ernie will do a little teaching. Young children will have lessons in the morning and older children in the afternoon. Steve Franklin mentioned that perhaps we could use the simulator with the children's group? Bob Simpson asked if the children's certification program was still intact? He wondered if perhaps the golf club could cover the cost of the \$50 youth golf pass if they passed the skill certification test. Rod O'Dell reported that the golf club met and discussed the simulator and the proposal to move club championship and summer bash due to conflicts in and out of the village. They also talked about promoting the golf club and was put in the March BBV Bulletin. He is glad they have opportunities to use the Simulator.

**WA Golf Update** – Steve Franklin said that Colin from WA Golf is coming to rate the course. He is planned to come in August but we have not received an exact date and will keep poking and prodding to get a date. If anyone wants to be included let him know.

**Budget** – Steve Franklin went over the budget spreadsheet. The focus is on how to drive more revenue and alleviate expenses. What can we do to grow revenue. A number of ideas were discussed about how to attract new golfers and bring back some of the “old” golfers that used to play the course. The idea of also attracting “out of village” golfers was discussed.

**Mission Statement** – Due to time constraints Steve Franklin offered to put together a few mission statements based on the information the Golf Committee has provided him.

Don Shank said he wondered if we would like to have a fundraiser of used or not wanted golf equipment.

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. Steve Franklin said that the next Committee meeting will be recorded and minutes will be completed when the secretary is again available. Don Shank moved that the meeting be adjourned, Dori O’Dell seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05.