

Riverbend Golf Club Inc.
Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 29, 2023 - 3:00 pm

President Kevin Kennelley called to order the Riverbend Golf Club Annual Meeting on March 29, 2023, at 3:05pm.

Board of Directors in attendance: Liz Haney, John Melson, Bill Barry, Ken Kotansky, Rosalie Deitz and Wally Willrick.

Secretary, Liz Haney confirmed the Proof of Notice was properly mailed on February 28, 2023, to all members and posted to the community bulletin boards.

Liz Haney, Secretary, read the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting held on March 24, 2022. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Kevin Kennelley thanked the support of the Administration Office and volunteers who officially counted the ballots and proxies.

Election of Directors: The Election Committee members were validating and counting ballots; therefore, President Kennelley moved the Election of Directors results to after the Annual Reports were presented.

President's Report

President Kennelley reported our aggressive campaign for new members and our successful summer program has helped us to end the fiscal year with a slight financial surplus. In addition, the Pro Shop has done a good job in managing the increased level of play and accommodating all our members.

Our overall financial expenses have increased due to inflation, payroll expenses and insurance. Our Finance Committee and the Board of Directors approved the 2023/24 budget with a 4% increase.

John Scotten, our Superintendent for 47 years retired September 30, 2023, and Jeff Heward was appointed the new Superintendent. Mr. Scotten was thanked for his 47 years of service to Riverbend.

Our new golf cart fleet with Lithium batteries was delivered in January 2023.

A 5-year Golf Board guidance document has been developed to set direction with structured plans for the golf club going forward.

President Kennelley thanked retiring board member Wally Willrick for his many years of service as a Board Member and past President of the Riverbend Golf Club.

Treasurer's Report: (John Melson)

The February financial report, the eleventh month of Riverbend's fiscal year shows a budget surplus of \$29,245. Our revenues are \$132,000 over what we budgeted; our expenses are \$102,813 over what was budgeted.

The largest contributor to the increased revenues was 32 new Full Members since April 1, 2022, along with the 10% increase in cart rentals. These two areas increased revenues \$75,000 over budget. John thanked the Finance Committee, Henri DesPlaines, Chuck Howard, and Bill Barry.

Expenses higher than expected include:

Payroll – for the first time in years we had a full staff in the maintenance department. To accomplish this, starting wages were increased and recruitment incentives implemented.

2 Hurricanes and other major projects on the course had unusually high overtime hours

Inflation – Fertilizers, chemicals, pesticides, and petroleum products had much higher costs than expected with some products increasing by 100%.

Reserves were depleted by \$381,000 due to:

- New Greens mower 53,000
- New pumphouse system for the irrigation \$125,000
- New Club Cart Fleet \$170,000

Highlights of the 2024 budget approved by the Board:

- Total income projected increase of \$248,507 was from increased full membership and a 4% increase in maintenance fees paid by members and increased fees paid by golfers.
- Increases in expenses are primarily due to inflation, payroll expenses and insurance.
- The increase in reserves from \$113,000 contribution to \$130,000 helped replenish reserves.

Riverbend Golf is in good financial condition and remains the most reasonable golf course in the area.

Committee Reports

Greens: (Bill Barry)

- Spring 2022
 - The DryJect process was used to break up 50 years of organic matter impeding healthy root growth on our greens.
 - Aerification of fairways, tees and approaches done twice
 - Bunker on #16 was repaired as well as the irrigation
 - 3 Greens repaired that were severely stressed: #7, #11 and #12
- Summer 2022
 - Aerification continued greens fairways and tees
 - Bunker edges restored on all bunkers and the chipping green bunkers
 - 2 Hurricanes resulted in standing water, turf repair, washed out bunkers and debris removal
- Autumn 2022
 - Bunker on #14 was reduced in size, reshaped, and irrigation reconfigured
 - Reduction and replacement of invasive turf (St. Augustine) with new Celebration Bermuda grass on #1, 2, 4, 17 & 18
 - Our aged Pumhouse system and electrical service station were replaced.

Applied new Golf Course Management & Maintenance standards

- Heights of cuts were established (greens, tees, fairways, approach, rough)
- Instituted a new Fairway design
- A first cut was introduced.
- Contours were created around shaded and weak turf areas to protect those.
- Cart paths were extended in some areas to block invasive grasses from condo areas
- A 15-month calendar of scheduled maintenance was established
- A daily task board was introduced for the staff.
- The parking lot resurfaced and speed bumps added
- A small nursery project started.

Maintenance Facility Overhaul

- The Office computer system was upgraded.
- The breakroom was improved with new lighting and restroom.
- Parking area was increased (old growth removed).
- Old useless equipment was disposed of and now all relevant equipment can be stored inside.
- Facility exterior re-landscaped

- Late Fall and Winter 2023 On-going

- Experienced crew members added to staff
- Driving range tees overseeded providing a higher quality turf to manage increased use
- All tee boxes overseeded
- Priorities established for all tournaments play and special events
- Green speeds made consistent by reducing heights, rolling more frequently and employing USGA recommended topdressing practices.
- Water Management practices instituted resulting in ~50% less water usage and improved turf
- Continued Management of cart traffic with ropes and signs being moved frequently
- Greens were repaired in weak areas
- Special attention has been paid to weak areas of the course.

Results

- Tremendous improvement evident all over the golf course
- Improved green speed, ball roll and consistency.
- Weak areas have improved on our 50-year-old greens.
- Golf course is firmer and dryer due to improved Water Management Practices
- The weed population is reduced and best practices are being employed.
- More consistent turf with denser rough and greener canopy throughout the course.
- Improved Member Satisfaction.

Special thanks to the Greens Committee members: Mark Zabel, Bill MacNamara, and Ken Kotansky.

Pro Shop: (Liz Haney)

Rounds & Revenue from April 1, 2022, to March 15, 2023:

- Rounds in 2022–2023 were 22,004 which is a 3.4% increase over 2021-2022
- Revenue in 2022 – 2023 was \$535,270 which is a 11.3% increase over 2021 – 2022

In July of 2022, Jonas Tee Times, electronic system was rolled out allowing the pro shop to maximize, and members to book tee times on line. This leads to more accurate billing for members for Pro Shop services, including golf lessons and clinics.

Over 200 Riverbend members participated in 8 formal leagues at Riverbend during 2022/23 "season" (Nov-Apr).

Riverbend held six 9 Hole Mixed Event Scrambles averaging 100+ participants for each event.

The 18 Hole Ladies League and the 18 Hole Men's League held Member Guest Tournaments.

March 2023 Club and Flight Champions are:

Men		Ladies	
Edward Miller	Club Champion	Linda Barry	Club Champion
Mark Fickle	A-Flight	Kerry Lipuma	1st Flight
Larry Hooker	B-Flight	Tracy Zaweski	2nd Flight
Phil Duffy	C-Flight	Lucy LeDuc	3rd Flight
Jim Malkasian	D- Flight		

Our 2 teaching professionals, Trevor Freeman, PGA, and Michael Jones, Director of Golf, USGTF, from May 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023, provided Riverbend members with 700 lessons (1 hour and/or ½ hour lessons) and approximately 315 members participated in clinics, (Sip & Chip, Jerry's clinic, and Group Lessons).

The Teaching Professionals developed a Junior Membership Readiness Certification process for Members under the age of 16.

In 2022, the Cart Barn team assembled and send to the driving range approximately 4,500 buckets of range balls, for individuals, clinics, and league warm-ups.

Riverbend 14-year-old Dylon Plimpton made his first Hole-In-One playing with his Father on Father's Day, June 19, 2022, Congratulations Dylon.

The Board thanks Michael Jones, Director of Golf, the Pro Shop and Cart Barn staff and Trevor Freeman for their continued support to all Riverbend members and their guests.

Membership / Marketing : (Rosalie Deitz)

Our total memberships for the year 2023 was:

Riverbend	311 (Equity Membership)
North Passage	42 (Equity Membership)
Full Members	108 (Equity Membership)
Associate Members	5 (Non-equity Members)

The 2022 Summer Membership program resulted 201 members for a total revenue to Riverbend of \$152,489.

Ranger Report (Ken Kotansky)

Four new rangers were added to the team and 2 retired. Mickey Brande and Ed Geulfi were thanked for their service and Mary Ross, Chuck Howard, Russ Gladwyn, and Tim Weber were welcomed to the Ranger team.

A basic CPR and first Aid training was conducted for all Rangers and a safety kit added to the ranger cart.

Rangers focused on dress code, inappropriate cart entry from North Passage, non-member play, consistent repeaters of code violations, early start infractions, children play and of course slow play.

A starter ranger was assigned to make sure early players were not abusing the starting times thereby allowing our grounds crews to complete course preparation

Ken shared information on Ranger history at Riverbend.

Documents: (Ken Kotansky)

A 3 – 5-year guidance document was developed for each committee on the Golf Board. This is an active document and will be updated, as necessary.

Election of Directors: Kevin Kennelley, President announced the results of the Election of Directors. Rosalie Deitz and Chuck Howard were elected to the board for the term 2023 - 2026.

MOTION: Bill Barry made the motion to conduct the Golf Boards Organizational Meeting on Friday March 31, 2023, to elect officers and committee chairs. Seconded by Rosalie Deitz. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no Unfinished Business and there was no New Business to come before the Board.

Questions/Comment from the Membership

Tom Buoy asked to recognize and thank the military Veterans in attendance. March 29, 2023, is the 50 anniversary of the Paris Peace Accord which ordered the withdrawal of US forces from Vietnam in 1973.

Christen Weber reported the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Riverbend Country Club is on April 21, 2023, at the clubhouse and encouraged everyone to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Haney
Secretary