2021-08-11 MGA Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 6:31 PM, in person and by ZOOM. All MGA Board members were present except Doug Downer and Charlie Pruett (Bon Voyage, Charlie!). Club Manager Jeff King, Head Pro Alex Anderson and Superintendent Andrew Prosa represented Club management.

July minutes were approved.

Pro Shop: Head Pro Alex Anderson said he is excited to be at Hidden Creek and appreciates the warm welcome. He inherited great assistants and expects a smooth operation. Alex intends to emphasize communications with members so that he can offer the membership what it wants. Alex reviewed preparations for the upcoming Club Championship. Mark West reviewed the role of the MGA Board—to run tournaments and provide institutional memory, as well as to assist the Pro Shop as needed. He said some new developments are appreciated, e.g., towels in carts, and said pickup in parking lot and assistance with bags would be appreciated.

Club Manager: Jeff King announced that the Club would re-institute its earlier membership drive (half dues for the first year, no initiation). The Board expressed deep disappointment with, and opposition to, this decision. Mark West noted crowded conditions on the course, particularly on weekends, and said 7½ minute tee times don’t work. The Pro Shop will take a look at the situation.

Grounds: Superintendent Andrew Prosa said his crew is working against heat and dry conditions. Rough is looking better—fescue and aeration helped. Weak areas will come back when the drought is broken. The fall program of aeration and seeding will begin soon. Greens will be punched after Labor Day, and fairways and tees earlier. Equipment problems have affected the mowing schedule.

Treasurer: Doug Downer submitted a written report. We have about 270 paid MGA members and new members are still coming in. The current prorated membership charge is $100, and this will be reduced to $75 after the Club Championship. Account balance at the end of June is $39,251.17. The MGA is in a good cash position and could consider increasing budgets for some remaining tournaments this year.

Tournaments:

--Memorial: Bruce Svechota-Kingsbury said 50 teams was a good number. Pace of play was five hours, plus or minus 15 minutes. Five-hole playoff for the championship took two hours, so will need to think that one over. Dan Pennington raised the issue of team handicap adjustments. Question is whether the formula computed by Golf Genius should be accepted, or if the adjustment should be done manually.

--MGA Cup: Mike Saunders said the round of sixteen is ready to go, pairings posted, and matches should be played by August 23. Payment of sweeps has been authorized for bracket winners.

--Club Championship: Dave Ratcliffe said everything is ready to go this weekend. There will be 8 or 9 flights plus the Championship flight on Friday, starting at 8:00 or 8:30 AM. Gold tees may be played by those qualifying under the 60/80 rule.

--Breakfast Tournament #3: John Nix said publicity and signup info will be distributed after the Club Championship. Breakfast tournaments have been very popular this year, with unprecedented numbers of players signing up. May be necessary to limit the size of the field, with a wait list, to reduce course crowding and pace of play issues.

Other Business: Driving range safety was raised as an ongoing problem. Board members related anecdotes of serious accidents and near misses. John Nix suggested rules be established that only irons can be hit when golfers are in the #4 or #7 fairways. The far right positions, to the right of the stream, should be permanently irons only, since these positions provide most of the “hits” on #4 fairway.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.