

Minutes of Lakes East/West Greens Committee

Friday, Jan 2, 2026

Chair: Bear Hunt

The meeting convened at 8:10 a.m. Not in attendance was Eddie Renio, Director of Golf.

Chair Bear Hunt reiterated his intent to step down as chair in the spring and suggested the committee start thinking about a replacement. There was some discussion that perhaps the next chair should be a full-time resident instead of a winter resident because of the meeting schedule. Some noted that the committee does not meet during summer months, which might accommodate a winter resident serving as chair. No decision was made on that issue.

Course Condition

Rick Doyan provided the Superintendent Report which led to a wide-ranging discussion of course conditions and issues affecting both Lakes East and Lakes West. Rick acknowledged the courses have posed challenges and especially Lakes West. Both courses were affected by the rain event late last year that caused a washout that affected seeding and operations. Following are the highlights of what he reported:

1. He said the patches of grass that appear periodically on the tees might be a result of equipment tires grinding clumped seed into those spots.
2. He said the rain had an especially devastating effect on Lakes West. He acknowledged that West is experiencing more issues than East. But he said groundskeepers are hopeful to get both courses in shape by spring.
3. He said groundskeepers are thinking about fewer chemical applications and that it is time to spray the rough.
4. He explained darker spots on greens and fairways as the difference between Bermuda and Rye grasses.
5. There was a wide-ranging discussion about several issues including collars, dirt on greens resulting from worms and workforce challenges. He said December is especially difficult to maintain sufficient workforce because of the “use it or lose it” vacation policy. “We struggle during December because of that and it means fewer employees during that month in particular,” he said.
6. Asked if workers understood golf etiquette, he said there is a general awareness.
7. There was a discussion about adding more ball washers and yellow-tee yardage. Rick noted there are yardage markers on the yellow tees and some committee members suggested personal ball-washing devices instead adding more ball washers to the courses.

Other Business

1. Gregg Marmesh reported there are now 14 rangers in the network, up from about 10. He noted the perspective from rangers are that Lakes golfers seem “more respectful” than players at other venues.
2. There was a discussion about keeping golf carts off the driving range. Staff acknowledged that is an occasional issue. There was no consensus on a solution (i.e. signs, barriers), though it was noted that barriers could create a tripping hazard.
3. Bill Talbert and Bob Brandolini invited committee members to submit ideas for a “wish list” for the Golf Advisory Committee. They said the Advisory Committee is soliciting input on any course/play improvements/ideas they might include in the Advisory Committee plans for the future. They asked committee members to submit their ideas before the meeting on Jan. 8. Just a footnote, Bill sent an email to committee members on Sunday listing four items that were recommended at the meeting.

Committee Roster/Email Addresses

Some additions and revisions to the email list we provided last month. This list adds to our roster Rosie-Rivero-Haugen, vice president of the Lakes East 9-hole league, and Georgia Press, who is replacing Joanne Maynard. We also are posting a new email address for Polly Thompson.

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Eddie Renio erenio@suncityaz.org

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.