

Bella Vista Women's 9-Hole Golf Association
Board Meeting
February 5 2025 10:00 am
Country Club Board Room

Call to Order: President Susan Nuttall called the meeting to order at 10:01 am and welcomed the Board members. Those present were Susan Nuttall, Carolyn Merritt, Rhonda Dietz, Sandra Foster, Dee Korte, Barbara Tiedemann, Jackie Gain, Shari Ogburn, Margo Eckhardt, Becky Turner, Betty Whittington, Susie Grizzle, Sherrie Wenzel and Vicki Mulder.

The president directed attention to the contact list of officers for the 2025 season. The Hole-in-One Committee will need another leader as Jan Franklin will be moving. Becky Turner volunteered to head that committee. Recorder Dee Korte stated that she needed to relinquish her responsibilities as recorder and scorer for 2025. Sandra Foster will be interim recorder, and a communication will be sent to ask for another volunteer scorer.

Minutes of Board Meeting of October: The minutes from the Fall Brunch in October were distributed by last year's secretary, Carolyn Merritt. A few corrections were noted so that the minutes will be presented at the Spring Brunch in March. At that time the minutes can be approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Becky Turner distributed an expense report for the past 4 years. The forecast spending for 2025 seems to be about the same as past years.

Proposed Budget:

Expenses	
Decorations	380
Year End Payouts	1000
Weekly Prize Money	1200
President Gift	50
Roses	15
Go Daddy	44
Garden	0
Supplies	30
Room Rental	250
Total	\$2,969
Income	
Beginning Balance	400
Fund Raising	1200
Membership	1800
Total	\$3,400

Discussion about budget ensued considering the cost of room rentals. Riordan charges \$125, and Highlands Church charges \$80. Private rooms are preferred.

The Member Guest Golf Day raises a large amount of money for the league; however, the POA no longer has incentive on Wednesdays at restaurants for additional income. Discussion was held about adding new members and about losing current members this year due to age or distance travelled. Some investigation about procuring more income is needed.

Golf Plan: The president introduced a calendar for this year's schedule. The Spring Brunch will be March 24 at Riordan Hall. An extra week is available in March to set up Golf Genius with the new membership.

Golf Committee leader Margo Eckhardt stated that there is no information as yet for the league about which courses the league will play. She mentioned that Trevor Brunson has vacated the golf operations position, but the new coordinator, Nathan Morey, will get the schedule to her mid-February. Games will be added after the schedule is planned. Dates were noted for Bring a Friend and Member Guest Day. Better weather and detailed-planning strengthen the Member Guest Day attendance later in the season. If there are any other social days using restaurants, the managers of the restaurants and Tommy Lee should be contacted for availability. Susie Grizzle will send the communications.

Changing weekly information on Golf Genius will now be from 2 weeks to 1 week. Initial invitation will be sent Monday to the golfers. The cutoff day to register is Friday at 6 pm. A reminder will be sent Thursday. Pairings are emailed by noon on Sunday.

Social: Social Committee leader Susie Grizzle has rented the room for the Spring Brunch. A theme has yet to be established as well as a social committee.

Handbook and Rules Discussion: Information about BV9WGA is on the Golf Genius website.

Players without handicap: One concern is about new members without handicaps playing in the league. New members without handicaps are not eligible for prizes. There is a problem for Golf Genius to distinguish between these new members and current members. A solution would be for the new member not to play in the league until handicaps had been established, or another solution is for a handicap to be assigned to a new member until a handicap is obtained. Big Sisters are willing to help the new members (Little Sisters) play 54 holes and post scores in the GHIN program. Carolyn Merritt made a motion that the new members without a handicap be assigned an estimated handicap for the first 3 weeks of play.

Margo Eckhardt seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Timing of Hole-in-One: Discussion concerned whether membership was from fall to fall or spring to spring. Membership is dated November 1 to October 31 per Article 4 of the constitution. The president will email members to remind them of that time-line and that membership applications for 2025 should be completed as soon as possible. The Hole-in-One has to be on a Bella Vista Course.

Gold tee boxes: The president stated that there are no rules specific to tee boxes so the gold tee box players do not have to tee a ball between red markers on shared tee boxes.

Crossing Hazards on Dogwood: Discussion about Dogwood #13 and #14 concerned 'playing it forward' with one stroke penalty. Rhonda Dietz made a motion that Dogwood #13 and #14 be designated as 'play it forward' with one stroke penalty, and Dee Korte proposed the second. The motion passed. This motion will be posted in the handbook. A reminder was mentioned that Scotsdale #15 is not a 'play it forward' hole.

Pick-Up Ball scores: Instead of picking up the golf ball at the maximum of 10 strokes, it was suggested that a maximum score on a par 3 is 7, a maximum score on a par 4 is 8, and a maximum score for a par 5 is 9. This scoring would hopefully speed the pace of play. This scoring would be placed on the score card for a helpful reminder. Rewording of the pick-up golf ball rule would be required in the handbook. Rhonda Dietz made the motion for the new scoring of picking up golf balls, and Carolyn Merritt proposed the second. Motion passed.

Bunker Play: According to USGA rule a golf ball must be "unplayable" in the bunker before the player is allowed to move the golf ball behind the bunker with a 2-stroke penalty. Discussion designated not to change rule in handbook.

Adjusting rule for establishing a handicap: A proposition was made to change six 9-hole scores to 54 holes.

Add "at least" to Article 6: To be eligible for year-end awards, a member must have played in 50% plus one of the regular events played by the league. Discussion led the committee to not add the "at least" portion to the article.

Change Nominating Committee to June rather than March: It was suggested that the Nominating Committee be formed in August since March would be too soon to have a complete membership list. Becky Turner offered a motion to Change Article 7 to August. Shari Ogburn proposed the second. Motion will be presented at the spring meeting for a vote.

New Rules: Rules Chairperson Rhonda Dietz stated that a new rule states that stand-alone putters may still be used for putting but not for lining up the ball. A second rule was that if a score card needs a correction, it must be adjusted within 15 minutes. A third rule concerned broken or damaged clubs. A player is allowed to replace a damaged club with the same club substitute.

Handbook Printing: Members suggested that the handbooks continue to be printed for the 2025 season.

Preseason Golf: Dates have been designated for preseason golf at Berksdale. Preseason golf is a positive opportunity for new members to keep scores for handicaps and to meet other members.

Membership: Nineteen member applications have been submitted at this time. Notices will be in the Bella Vista Weekly newspaper, and applications will be placed in all the proshops including Tanyard Creek. Perhaps an article with pictures and description can be printed in the newspaper. Barbara Tiedemann is the Publicity Committee Chair. Other ways to advertise the 9-Hole Association could be through Facebook, golf expo, and other league communications.

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 11:56