

Valley Golf Association
Spring Meeting
May 17, 2009

Meeting called to order by President Bert Verrall at 2:10 p.m. at the MTA conference room.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Bert Verrall called for a motion to accept the minutes from last fall when former Secretary Bonnie Prudence submits them. Suzanne Cyr motioned to accept the minutes of the last meeting and Lonesa Puckett seconded the motion.

Communications

Bert Verrall, President: There's a request from Birch Ridge Golf Course in Soldotna to sell the VGA mailing list.

Jeff Barnhart recommends that VGA not sell the e-mail list, but sell them the opportunity to distribute the information.

The renewed gaming license was submitted to the vendor. The tax returns and the gaming report to the State have been received and are available for review.

Report of the Treasurer

Debbie Affinito, Treasurer, was not in attendance, but put together a balance sheet.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
General Fund	\$4,143.50	\$5,928.22
Gaming Fund	\$6,706.71	\$7,647.13
Grant Fund	\$3,358.47	\$2,618.47

The Grant Fund is down because two golfers were granted travel money last year when they qualified for tournaments out of state and needed money rather quickly in order to participate.

The tax returns and books were available for review at the meeting.

Report of the President

Bert Verrall, President: Thanks to MTA for use of the building at no charge, thanks to the members for coming, and thanks to the VGA board members.

Last year there was only one tournament and that was at Settlers Bay Golf Course. There were originally two other tournaments scheduled but didn't generate the interest needed to play them. For this reason, the Tournament Committee has recently met and has decided to double their attempts at getting the interest back up. The Memorial Tournament this year is scheduled for June 20th. MTA has donated money for prizes for this tournament. It's a two-person best ball

tournament. The second tournament is set for September 5th and 6th. This tournament may be a fundraiser, but suggestions are welcome. A format has not really been discussed yet either. It will, however, be a two-day tournament. Both tournaments are scheduled to take place at the Palmer Golf Course.

In addition to these two tournaments, a match play tournament is in the works exclusively for VGA members. No entry fee required. It's a full handicap event. This tournament will start on July 1st and will be run primarily through communication, either online or through telephone calls. The winner will receive a trophy for one year until another tournament is held next year. This will be competitive USGA golf and players must have a handicap. The details are still being worked out at this point, therefore, any suggestions are appreciated.

Please participate in VGA. Current openings include a tournament director and a pull tab director. Bob Stoll retired from the scholarship committee so there will be an opening in that position as well. There are also several members up for re-election in the fall.

Report of Standing and Special Committees

Jim Palin, Handicap and Membership Committee Co-Chair: There are around 135 members so far. This year, everybody who has an e-mail address, will receive a form letter and information about VGA that will cover handicaps. Last year there were about 355 members, so the membership numbers are down, but it's still early. Some memberships may have been lost due to sending out just a postage card about this meeting instead of sending out a newsletter that included the application form.

Faye Palin, Handicap and Membership Committee Co-Chair: The computers will need to be replaced soon. The current software will no longer be supported after this year. Financially, if VGA is going to continue to do the handicapping, there needs to be a reserve to replace the computers. A rough estimate for the computers is around \$3,500 to \$4,000.

Craig Savage, Rules Chair: No new rules. The rules are republished every two years and the current book is for 2008/2009.

One thing that might be of concern to people is that the manufacturers of golf clubs are going to begin to comply with USGA's new groove rule, which means that they're not going to manufacture the square grooves in the wedges any more after this year. The pros have to go to the V-shaped wedges next January 2010. Amateurs will be able to continue to use the squared grooves that are in the current wedges, or current clubs, for another 10 years. There are no new rules regarding amateurs in this regard, but it's something to keep in mind.

Jim Flatley, Pull Tab Committee, after years of service, has moved on. President Bert Verrall took the test and stepped in. Ruth at Fishhook Bar sold 11 games last year. Her customers received \$36,000, she made \$4,000, and VGA netted about \$6,700. That's enough for VGA to fully fund five 1,000-dollar scholarships.

Bob Stoll, Scholarship Committee, was not in attendance. The five local scholarship winners will be announced at the end of this month. VGA has been able to give approximately \$110,000 to local students for school since its inception.

There was a Tournament Meeting, which has already been discussed. Phillip Meier stepped in temporarily and can no longer be tournament director, so that position is open. Maybe people can take turns running the tournaments so that one person doesn't get burnt out and new ideas emerge.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Bert Verrall, President: An Election Committee needs to be formed 30 days prior to the election in the fall. There should be at least three people on the election committee, preferably sooner than the 30 days required. If anybody is interested in serving on the election committee or any other committee, please contact any of the board members.

Good of the Association

George Collum, Palmer Golf Course: The original format is being re-enacted. The new format didn't work out as expected. It's a better finish on the original layout with holes 15, 16, 17, and 18.

The ponds are being cleaned up on Hole 17. It will have water next week. The plan is to just fill it and try to keep it filled from Memorial weekend through the beginning of September. It needs to be empty during winter. Hole 1 will also be cleaned out. There's actually a pond there. Hopefully by mid July it will be full of water.

The ladies' tees are being experimented with because it's a long golf course for women. The tees have been moved up on Hole 16, which was a long par four for women. Hole 17 will be left as a par four for women, but Hole 18 will be moved up and made a par four. So now it's a par 72 for ladies instead of a par 73.

The course will be re-rated. The score cards are current and are matching what's currently on the golf course. The rating will get changed when the course is re-rated due to sand traps, fairway bunkers, and water in the ponds. The course is underrated right now. It's too simple. It was once too hard and now it's too easy at the current rating. Hopefully the re-rating will take place this summer.

Another change is the cart path renovation. The City of Palmer is helping. The cart paths are being redone on Holes 1 and 2 completely and a culvert bridge is being put in on Hole 2. The cart path on Hole 5 is also being redone down by the green. The cart path on Hole 13 is getting some work done as well.

There's a new ball washer this year and new range balls.

The course wintered really well. The new grass looks good. The course is in really good shape for this time of year.

The Men's Club has started up. They're playing at 2:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will eventually switch to 4:00. The VWGA is getting together. They've been booking tee times at 9:00 every Monday for ladies' day. They have three tee times set aside. The AWGA comes out also on Mondays for ladies' day at 10:30 to 11:00.

More kids need to be involved in golf. Joe Butler runs the Junior Golf program. Get kids out of the house to play. They're the future of the game.

There's also the Friends of Palmer Golf Course Association. It's \$10.00 to join. Membership goes to helping with improvements to the golf course and Junior Golf.

Joe Butler, Friends of Palmer Golf Course: The Friends of Palmer Golf Course used to be a non-profit volunteer organization that tried to raise money for certain things, such as the addition on the current Club House. The organization has now been resurrected because money is in short supply. This is a 503(c) non-profit organization so that it has the ability to apply for grants. The goal is to benefit the Palmer Golf Course.

Currently, a raffle is going on. There are 200 tickets at \$100 per ticket. Half of the money is going to prizes; everything else is going to Palmer Golf Course. The organization is made up of all volunteers. There is not a website at this time.

George Collum, Palmer Golf Course: The airport is no longer planning to move the fence. The City Council is opposed to it and it is ultimately their decision. It's not the FAA's decision. It's just a recommendation. Any land that's taken from the golf course to expand the airport has to be replaced. They would have to replace the land first. There is interest, but it's a big process.

One possibility that's seriously being looked at is a new Club House. The estimated cost is around \$1.2 million. It could possibly be a one-level Club House with a lounge and a banquet facility and Pro Shop. It would fit this golf course and community well. It may have a full bar and a full-scale restaurant. Feasibility studies are being done right now and numbers are being collected. 2013 is the date to be looking at a new Club House.

The VGA and all VGA members are very welcome at Palmer Golf Course. The Palmer Golf Course is not interested in turning into a country club. It's meant for community use and therefore has reasonable prices.

Calvin, Alaska Golf-Shot: Alaska Golf-Shot just completed its first year and thanks everybody for coming in. Within a month or so, Alaska Golf-Shot will have a beer and wine license. Alaska Golf-Shot does advertise for tournaments so bring in any information that you would like advertised.

Representatives from Settlers Bay Golf Course, Fishhook Golf Course, and Sleepy Hollow Golf Course were not in attendance.

Jeff Barnhart, Alaska Golf Association: Most clubs in Alaska fall under the AGA. The AGA supports the VGA and promotes golf for the state. In order for a golf association to work, it must provide value for the members in order to grow in membership. There is an added value in being an AGA member. A VGA member can become an AGA member by being an associate member for \$20 or signing up for the full-blown membership, which is \$50. Privileges for being an AGA member not only include a handicap and a newsletter from AGA, but also 10 percent off at the golf shop and cottage rentals at Birch Ridge Golf Course in Soldotna and 10 percent off green fees at Palmer Golf Course as well as 10 percent off at their golf shop. There are other benefits in the works as well.

The AGA plans on re-rating Palmer Golf Course and rating Fishhook Golf Course and the Sitka golf course. Those ratings need to be correct so that the handicaps are more accurate.

Feel free to contact the AGA by telephone or e-mail.

Lonesa Puckett motioned to adjourn the meeting and Suzanne Cyr seconded the motion at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Martinez, Secretary