



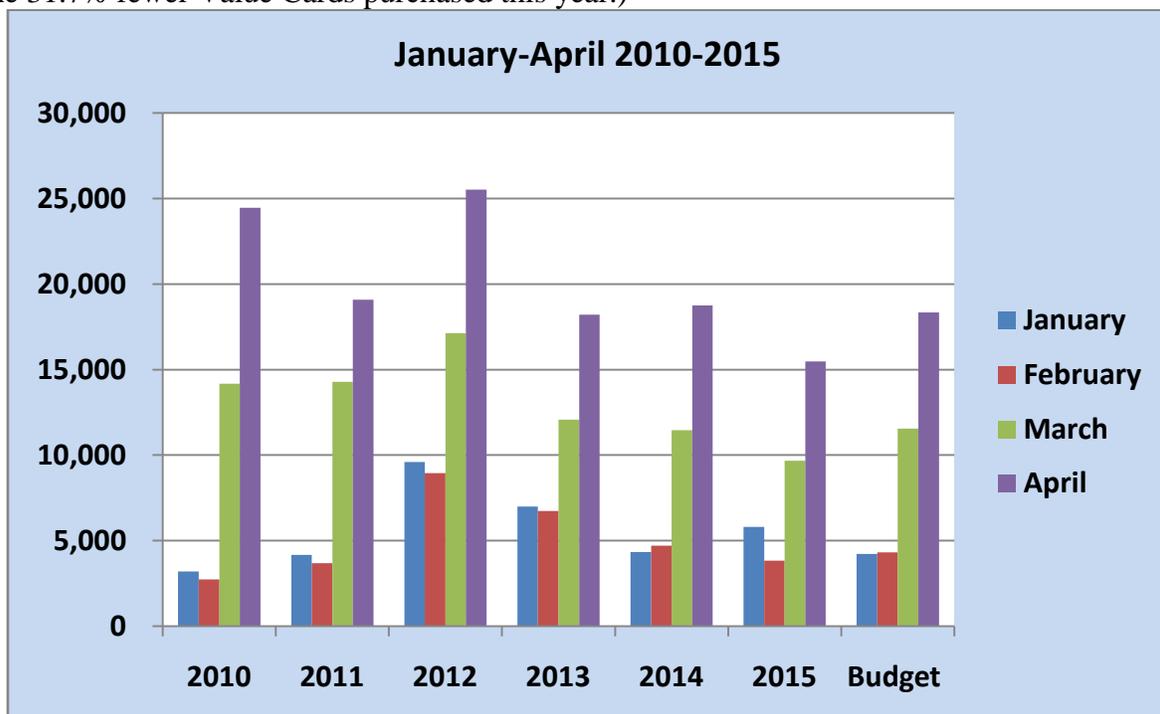
**Bella Vista POA  
Joint Advisory Golf Committee  
Minutes – May 13, 2015**

Members Present: Bill Barr, Jake Grasmick, Gale Harder, Harris McKee, Terry Predl, Kirk Van De Walle, Members Absent: Tom Stephens

Others Present: POA Golf Ops Manager: Andy Mar; POA Maintenance Manager: Keith Ihms; POA liaison: Ruth Hatcher; The Vista Reporter, Lynn Atkins; Visitors: POA Board Member John Nuttall

1. Chair **Jake Grasmick** called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of April Minutes: Approved without additions**
3. **Regular Business.**

a. **Golf Rounds—Andy Mar:** April Rounds were 2,863 below budget (16 %) and lower than any April from 2003 onward. Member rounds for members **without** Value Cards and guest rounds were at budget. Only rounds for those with Annual Green Fees substantially exceeded budget. Rounds for members with Value Cards were 28.3 percent below budget. (This reduction paralleled the 31.7% fewer Value Cards purchased this year.)



Jake Grasmick noted that one of his friends had reviewed records of weather related winter course closures for the past 12 years. In the first 10 years, there was an average of 10 closed days

per year. During the 2013-2014 Dec-Mar period, there were 43 closed days and in 2015 from January to March there were 29 closed days.

**b. Maintenance Keith Ihms**

**Keith** noted that on the day of our meeting the temperature did not get above 60 degrees, a temperature too low for optimum Bermuda grass growth although it is ideal for the bent grass greens. The fall aeration schedule has been modified to accommodate a scheduled tournament. Sodding has been underway on Scotsdale #17, Kingswood #1 and the #17 tee at Kingswood. In starting the budget process, he reported that he will be making a case to restore the full-time maintenance person to get back to 2003 levels. Metfield has only four full-timers to support 27 holes versus a five per 18 hole desirable level. Hiring part-time help has become increasingly difficult. Some Bella Vistans who had been regulars have now retired. One of the best, an octogenarian outworked the rest of the crew. Others leave nearly as soon as they are trained. **Keith** currently is short nine part-timers at a time when there are only 50 applications for all of the POA summer part-time positions. In response to a question about how to find which courses were closed for all-day maintenance, he noted that those days are included on the "[Blocked Tee Time Calendar](#)".

**Keith** also shared a *Benefits of Golf Card*, developed by a golf maintenance group to which he belongs, with the committee. Here is a list of benefits from the website [www.wearegolf.org](http://www.wearegolf.org):

**ECONOMIC:** Golf contributes \$68.8 billion and 2 million jobs to the American economy. Golf is a bigger job creator than spectator sports, performing arts, and the amusement recreation industries.

**CHARITABLE:** Golf raises more money for charity than all other sports combined. Annually, the game generates \$3.9 billion for philanthropic causes, almost all of which is unrelated to the golf industry,

**ENVIRONMENTAL:** Golf courses are responsible uses of green space, providing wild life habitat, a filter for runoff, and a cooling effect on developed areas.

**HEALTH & WELLNESS:** Golf is an excellent source of exercise. Playing 18 holes burns roughly 2,000 calories when walking and 1,300 calories when riding in a cart.

**A GAME FOR ALL:** Nine out of 10 golfers play on public-access facilities, 76 percent of golf is played at public courses, and the median cost of a round is just \$26.

**c. Course Reviews**

- i. **Highlands--Gayle Harder** said that the course looks good. Friends of Highlands have been doing lots of bed works. There are no signs on the restrooms identifying them as unisex. The Friends are planning another July 4th Tournament. They are considering some repairs on Mr. Mulligan; his replacement may be required in not-too-distant future. The concrete path on #5 looks very nice.
- ii. **Berksdale--Bill Barr** commented on beauty of wild flowers, a sample of which is shown in the heading of this report. He also noted that he is no longer getting complaints about the greening of fairways.
- iii. **Dogwood--Tom Stephens** though absent had contributed a written report. "On May 8, 2015 I met with Shirley Hatfield, Geoff Smith and Bruce Fleming to review what was happening at the course. Shirley would like the committee to thank Zadeen and Jerry Auyer for their work on the flowers and shrubs at the club house. The new computer is a whole lot faster than the old one. There is some slowdown when transferring data to other locations. (*Andy Mar said that there are some enhancements underway that will improve these interfaces.*) The floor in the pro-shop still needs a better cleaning. What is happening is not working. Should a customer take

off his/her shoes to try on new ones and step on the floor with their socks they come back dirty. The staff would like to see new signage pointing to "Home of Dogwood & Brittany" versus signs pointing to "Metfield".

Geoff needs new Water Stands for the golf course. Do any of the other course have new stands that are not being used? New sod is being placed on #1, #2 & #6. Issues with the common Bermuda thru-out the village. Cart path on #16 will be closed for repair and will need to route carts thru the condos. He wants to have a 3 year plan to replace problem cart paths.

I played the course on May 8, 2015 and found the course to be in great shape. The fairways are coming in nicely, the greens have healed and the traps were raked (except for standing water). Some of the tee boxes are a little rough and need more time to heal. Geoff asked me to report any cart path problems we had not discussed in our meeting. There are some issues on #'s 4, 8, 10 & 13."

- iv. **Scotsdale--Kirk Van De Walle** and **Jake Grasmick** complimented the great clean-up work being accomplished by the crew at Scotsdale. **Jake** said that they are so conscientious in their work that it's as if they have string weed-eaters in a back pocket. (**Kirk** is out of golfing until a broken ankle heals.)
- v. **Country Club--Jake** noted that the front nine was again closed on Monday and a half day on Tuesday because the low-water bridge between #1 and #2 had too much flow for carts to pass and asked again for POA board action to address. The high flows were caused by a water release from Bella Vista Lake.

#### 4. Reports from Management

##### A. Andy Mar

- 1) The spring mixer is scheduled this weekend and will likely be dampened by predicted showers. The 3-Skills Challenge is still scheduled for May 30th but sign-ups have been slow. If sign-ups pick-up Andy may call on us to help with measurements.
- 2) **Andy** and **Tom Stephens** toured Berksdale with an eye toward improving the marking on the course and plan to do the other courses as well. The irregular shape of many of the natural features including wild flowers and lakes would require many marking stakes which would be a cost in themselves but would also hinder the maintenance workers. To alleviate this issue, **Andy** and **Tom** have been developing some Local rules to facilitate play by outside players as well as our own Bella Vista golfers. In addition they would limit the need for so many marking stakes. He shared a draft of the Local rules that they have prepared for Berksdale, *viz.*
  1. All no mow areas (native grass) are to be treated as a lateral hazard.
  2. The no mow line is considered the hazard line in the absence of stakes.
  3. Birdhouse posts painted red, white or yellow are to be treated as corresponding hazard stakes
  4. Unmarked rock drainage is considered Ground Under Repair (GUR).
  5. All fans are movable obstructions
  6. The natural hazard (cut bank, rock edge or water edge) is the hazard line.
  7. Bridges over hazards are part of the hazard.
  8. Wild flower plots and flower beds are played as GUR
  9. Should line of site between hazard stakes intersect with the no mow area or natural hazard the hazard will be defined by the no mow line or the natural hazard line at the point of intersect.
  10. Washed out areas in traps are played as GUR. Drop ball in trap no closer to the hole.
  11. Rocks in traps are considered loose impediments and can be removed.

##### B. Board Liaisons

1) **Ruth Hatcher**--Commented on the value of the Course Groups like the Friends of the Highlands and the Scotsdale Lads and Lassies. These are really important and when players see what volunteers are doing it enhances their enjoyment.

5. **Guest Comments**

A. **John Nuttall** noted that he and **Bill Barr** have created a Bella Vista Golfing Group on Facebook and invited all to post events and activities and to share the site. There are currently 116 members who have joined the group.

6. **Old Business**

A. **Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Course Enhancements**--**Jake** reported that the Lads & Lassies of Scotsdale have carried out the beautification project around the pond near #18 green. The photos to the right and below show the landscaping. Funding for the plants was provided by Scotsdale residents **Richard and Ann Marie Steeneck** and labor was provided by the Lads & Lassies of Scotsdale.



2. **Membership Growth and Marketing**--The Bella Vista Golfing Group Facebook page noted above is the first step in improving the visibility of Bella Vista Golfing.

7. **New business**

1. **Harris** said that the Bella Vista Library Foundation recently conducted a very successful Murder Mystery Dinner and is in the preliminary stages of a second event. They would like to stage this Mystery as a Golf Murder Mystery and are inviting the golf community to be involved and participate. Keith Ihms, who has participated in such Murder Events in the past, noted how much fun they are. Both Keith and Andy Mar volunteered to participate as actors in a Bella Vista Golfing Murder Mystery.

8. **Volunteer Hours for April:** 116.5 hours

10. **Adjournment:** 6:14 p.m.

11. **Next Meeting:** June 10, 2015 - 5:00 p.m. Riordan Hall

**Submitted by:** Harris McKee, Advisory Committee Secretary

**Appendix I. 2015 Golf JAC Tasks**

1. Continue to develop marketing programs to increase play on Bella Vista Village golf courses with POA Marketing and Communications Manager.
2. Develop a program with golf group leaders to ensure earliest availability of unused tee times.
3. Continue to support course support groups like "Friends of the Highlands" and "Lads and Lassies of Scotsdale" with fundraising events.
4. Develop programs for increased play on Bella Vista Village golf courses during afternoons and evenings.
5. Continue monthly course inspections, documenting repairs and maintenance issues.
6. Assist with the 50th Anniversary Three Skill Challenge event to be held on May 30.
7. Participate in and promote activities for the POA's 50th Anniversary.  
Continue to participate in GRIP.