

Golf Course Maintenance Oversight Group (GCMOG)

Meeting with Maintenance Contractor Down-to-Earth (DTE)
Wednesday, February 03, 2021

Purpose: Develop/Discuss Plan for Spring 2021 Activities

CCC General Manager Mike Roberts and the others (Steve Chapman and Dick Arnold) met with DTE (CCC Superintendent Graig Foley and Regional Manager Dave Cimini) in the Activity Room from 10:30 to 12:30. Mike led the meeting using an agenda he had prepared. Topics discussed were:

Current Overall Course Conditions – Consensus was that the course is in generally nice shape in most areas – a score of 6-7 on a scale of 1-10. Overseeded fairways have come in nicely and look very good. Approaches are excellent. Greens are quite playable, albeit with some weeds and damaged spots. Greens speed is a little slow. Tee boxes are mostly good.

Weed Control – The outbreak of unsightly Poa Annuua on some of the greens (e.g., #9 and #10) is an issue. DTE has applied an herbicide to the greens and surrounds with another application scheduled for next week. DTE reported that Poa is widespread problem for Florida golf courses this year with several others dealing with it. Additionally, the pre-emergent weed control Ronstar will be applied during late February and March. Review of the contract showed the agreed-upon goal of weed-free greens.

Curfew Application – Curfew is a soil fumigant that has proven itself very effective on nematodes in the Southeast and right here at Continental. The current plan is to apply it again this year on the fairways and greens on May 18th. We are hoping we can get some pricing consideration from DTE as they should realize some savings from not having to use as much Indemnify as previously planned. The golf course maintenance contract covers normal nematicide application with products such as Indemnify. Curfew is considered an extra-cost upgrade. The final pricing will be the determining factor in deciding if Curfew application must be limited, postponed, or cancelled.

Repair of #6 and #7 Greens – Hexagonal plugs from the nursery green near #17 have been placed on these greens in the large diseased areas. The greens should be fully grown in by the end of the summer.

New Sod Patches on #7 Fairway – DTE will work with us on leveling the newly-sodded areas of the fairway. Use of a sod cutter and fill soil were mentioned. The same situation and remedy apply to #14 fairway.

Cart Path on #13 – The long-term objective is to provide a continuous concrete cart path on the left side of #13 as the lollipop approach has

resulted in an unsightly dirt path being created by heavy cart travel. As an interim solution, it is hoped we can provide a path of lime rock before the upcoming Florida Professional Golf Tour tournament on February 19-21.

Other Improvements to #14 – There is a wide swath of rough on the left side of the #14 fairway that is often in play. Converting this area to fairway would make the hole nicer and more playable. DTE recommended the area be tilled and sprigged provided there is adequate irrigation in the area (DTE to investigate and confirm). Other areas of concern on #14 are the two fairway bunkers (removal of one is to be discussed at the 2/15 Golf Board meeting) and cart path lollipop exit and entry areas. DTE has suggested adding coquina or lime rock buffers and was asked to provide a price quote.

Right side of #18 – There is a memorial tree and some mounding about 150 yards out from the green on the right side that hinder play. Discussion is about relocating the tree and eliminating the mound(s). DTE was asked to provide a quote for the tree relocation.

Soil Samples – DTE informed us the current plan is to take soil samples in April.

Tree Trimming - Recent tree trimming was discussed with mixed opinions about what has been done and what should be done in the future. A temporary moratorium was mentioned until guidelines can be obtained from a knowledgeable source. DTE was asked to provide their thoughts and suggestions.

Irrigation Well Issues – The new pump in the old and damaged 10" well continues to operate and provide sufficient water for the over-seeded areas and the greens, albeit while continuing to clog some of the spray heads with sand. Remember that our objective is to create another primary water source and to relegate the 10" well to backup status. To that end, an 8" well has been drilled and it seems to be able to supply adequate water flow. Bids are being obtained for the remaining items: new pump, electrical connections, VFD solution, plumbing connections. The idea of using the pond as a water source has been put on the back burner for now due to expected high costs.

Hole-by-Hole Reviews – DTE mentioned their experience at another course where community individuals were responsible for regularly examining and reporting on conditions and problems of specific holes. These were discussed in a monthly meeting with the maintenance contractor. Our group is divided on how and how often to perform similar reviews. DTE was asked to provide what they considered to be best practices in this area of course management.

Next Meeting – April 7th, 2021, 10:30 AM, Fitness Center Activities Room