



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BONITA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB, INC.**

Place of meeting: Bonita National Clubhouse
17671 Bonita National Blvd (Aerobics Room)
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

Date of meeting: December 20, 2024

Time of meeting: 4:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** R. Donatuti, President on December 20, 2024 at 4:01 p.m.
2. **Certification of Quorum:** R. Jackson, Secretary
3. **Proof of Notice:** S. Olsen, Assistant CAM, Troon Management

Attendees: R. Donatuti, President (Via Telephone)

P. Hanson, Vice President

R. Jackson, Secretary

N. Oliver, Treasurer

D. Jimenez, Director

T. Casey, Director (Via Telephone)

C. Podley, Assistant GM, Troon Management

S. Olsen, Assistant CAM, Troon Management

J.P. Shepherd, Head Golf Professional

Absent: R. Winter, Director

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

- R. Jackson moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by D. Jimenez and passed unanimously.
- R. Jackson moved to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2024 Special Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by P. Hanson and passed unanimously.

- **R. Jackson moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 Special Board Meeting. T. Casey abstained as he was not present at that meeting. The motion was seconded by P. Hanson and passed 5-0, with Directors Donatuti, Hanson, Jackson, Oliver and Jimenez voting in favor.**

5. President's Report:

R. Donatuti wished all members Happy Holidays. He also wished Jason Ellis the very best in his new position at Troon in the Jacksonville area. He stated that Bob Pacheco and Jim Gibbons are working with Troon to correct irregularities in our financial reporting. Last, he asked all golf members to vote on the upcoming EZVote seeking approval of changes to the Declarations and Bylaws.

6. Treasurer's Report:

N. Oliver and Bob Pacheco stated that the Finance Committee is working with Troon to reformat the financial reports to have them coordinate with the audited financial statements prepared by our auditors in accordance with GAAP. There are no material variances between our financial reports and our audited financials, and BNGC is in a strong financial position.

J. P. Shepherd reported that rounds were over budget in November by over 750 rounds, and December is also trending over budget. We will likely end the year at around 51,700 rounds, well below budget primarily as a result of various adverse weather events in 2024.

Bob Pacheco explained BNGC's investment holdings and that our funds are placed in T-Bills invested using a ladder approach (over three years with capital reserve funds, and over 6 months for operating funds). All funds can be accessed immediately, if necessary. As of November 30, 2024, BNGC has \$3,675,782 in capital reserve funds, and \$415,328 in operating funds. Of course, these funds will be increased in January when dues payments are received. T. Casey thanked Bob Pacheco for explaining the investment holdings and investment approach used.

7. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Greens Committee: In the absence of R. Winter, J. P. Shepherd stated that the Greens Committee continues to analyze issues affecting the pace of play. Through November, the average round length was just under 4 hours. The Pro Shop monitors the pace of play every day and instructs the golf staff to enforce the pace of play rules. Jason Ellis had fertilizer added to numerous areas and he is very happy with the shape and condition of the course.**

- B. **Finance Committee:** N. Oliver stated that the Finance Committee will be updating its Charter in the near future.
- C. **Golf Operations Committee:** P. Hanson stated that the Handicap Subcommittee plans to implement two aspects of the Cap Patrol software in an effort to ensure fair play in all events. First, peer review emails will be sent at random to golfers asking them to state whether they notice any errors in the scores posted by their playing group. No response is required to these emails unless a posted score is challenged. D. Jimenez stated that the Handicap Subcommittee and Troon know which members are not posting accurate scores based on historical data and she does not agree with letters being sent to our members asking them to validate the scores of their playing partners. P. Hanson and Chris Trout stated that the peer review letters do not accuse anyone of posting inaccurate scores and members only need to respond to the peer review email if the members note a discrepancy in the scores. The members are told to do nothing with the peer review email if they do not note any inaccuracy in the posted scores. D. Jimenez requested that the Handicap Subcommittee state what the process/penalty will be for members who are not posting accurate scores and she stated that this is no different than a compliance issue and needs to be addressed via the governance policy and club rules. The remainder of the Board did not agree and wants the peer review letters to be sent and handicap adjustments to be made as set forth below.

Second, the handicaps of certain golfers may be adjusted downward in light of a great deal of data accumulated over the past two years. For example, our members shot their handicap 22% more in competition than in open play, even though one would expect lower scores in open play versus competition. One person is cashing in about 80% of all events played in.

J.P. Shepherd will be sending an email and video to all members to explain these two, new aspects of Cap Patrol that will be implemented.

J.P. Shepherd explained the Preferred Reciprocal Program he would like BNGC to join for 2025. The 2024 Preferred Reciprocal Program was very successful and well received by our members. D. Jimenez stated that some of the clubs who participated in this program in 2024 allowed early tee times and she asked that BNGC do the same: J.P. Shepherd is looking into this and will advise the Board of Troon's position. The club professionals at about 20 local golf clubs would like to expand the program in 2025. It will still cost only \$35 to play at participating clubs (\$50 for guests) and there would be a greater, negative impact to BNGC if we do not participate in the program. J. P. explained that a significant reason to enter into this program is that it will provide revenue for the outside golf staff and our restaurants. The Board unanimously agreed that BNGC should participate in this program in 2025.

P. Hanson stated that the Bylaws of the Ladies Golf Association (LGA) provide that the LGA controls all aspects of the Ladies' Interclub (LUSH and Gulf Coast Interclub) and only women who join the LGA are eligible to participate in Ladies' Interclub events. The fee to join the LGA is currently \$55 per year, and the ladies chosen from the LGA to play in Interclub events pay \$78 for the cart fee, lunch, and gratuities. P. Hanson also stated that Troon invited all ladies who are interested to join the LGA and only LGA members are eligible to participate in tournaments and events including the Ladies' Interclub. D. Jimenez read a portion of the LGA Bylaws, which state that: "Section 1 – Membership for BN LGA is available to female BNGC resident golf members and transfer members wishing to play in the 9-hole, 18-hole league, Interclub or any BN LGA sponsored events and tournaments." R. Donatuti stated that allowing members to play in events as a non LGA member will reduce the effectiveness and possibly viability of the LGA.

R. Jackson disagreed with P. Hanson, and stated that membership in the LGA should not be required for female members to be eligible to play in Ladies' Interclub events, because (a) BNGC financially supports the Ladies' Interclub; (b) there is a great benefit to playing in these events because those chosen do not get a Chelsea point for play at BNGC and get to play at other courses in season; and (c) the Bylaws of the LGA (both from October 2023 and March 2024 on the BNGC website) clearly state that the LGA Chairperson for Interclub "will be responsible for obtaining a list of resident members that want to participate in team play." R. Jackson requested that an email be sent to all golf members advising them that any female member is eligible to play in the Ladies' Interclub matches and membership in the LGA is not required. The issue is fairness to all BNGC female members. The prior issues with the Men's Interclub selection process were rectified this year by the GOC and J.P. Shepherd by adopting a qualification process allowing a fair and equitable way to select those who will play in the Interclub events. Sandi Cummings stated that she is always looking for people to play in Ladies' Interclub events. J.P. Shepherd will draft an appropriate email to be sent to all golf members.

D. Governance/Compliance: D. Jimenez stated that the EZVote language for the proposed changes to the Declarations and Bylaws needs to be finalized well before it is sent to the membership on December 30. R. Jackson requested that the draft be circulated to the entire Board before December 30.

E. Communications Committee: No Report.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business:

A. Motion to Approve Engagement Letter with the Phillips Feldman Group.

N. Oliver made a motion to approve the draft engagement letter for accounting services (\$25,000 per year) and tax return services (\$4,500 per year) for 2024, 2025, and 2026. T. Casey seconded the motion. The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the approval of the engagement letter because they are satisfied with the services received, it is important to have a certain continuity of financial service providers, and if, in the future, the service is deficient then BNGC will seek replacement providers. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Management Report:

In the absence of Simon Coulls, J.P. Shepherd stated that BNGC has hired Alex Beckett as an intern in outside services through the RISE program at Florida Gulf Coast University. BNGC is looking for ways to enhance BNGC's inclusivity and will explore additional ways of doing so, such as a charity event with Special Olympics. The Pro Shop now has complimentary coffee and cookies. A virtual golf shop will be available soon, so that members can purchase BNGC merchandise online. The annual member services agreement will be coming out next week.

J.P. and Cecilia Podley wished the Board and all golf members Happy Holidays.

11. Golf Member Comments: There were no additional golf member comments.

12. Member Online Questions: There were no online questions regarding the Agenda.

13. Adjournment: P. Hanson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by D. Jimenez. The motion passed unanimously at 5:53 p.m.

Approved January 27, 2025
Robert Jackson, Secretary