

Out of Bounds – March 2023

Lots going on at Stagg Hill! ~100 members responded to the survey last month. The survey was included in an email to members on March 18th. If you didn't get the survey, let us know and we'll forward one to you. The survey was intended to tie in with our long range planning. In April, the Finance Committee will begin work on our capital improvement needs for the forthcoming years. The thoughts and suggestions of members play into that planning.

Many comments voiced in the survey had to do with green surrounds and some fairway issues. First. I have always said it takes a few months to damage a golf course, but takes a year or two to get it back. As most members are aware, in early 2022 we suffered through a bad hire as Superintendent. The bad news is his time with us resulted in damage to the course. The good news is, as a result of his firing, we gained one of the most respected and professional superintendents in the area. Justin and crew have been working hard all winter in preparation for this golf season. One of his major priorities is the greens and their surrounds. I am confident by early in the season, you will see improvements!!

As I believe I mentioned last month, over the next couple years you will see new drainage systems installed under fairways #5, #11, #12, and #13. With proper drainage installed in the subsurface strata, we should minimize standing water and the damage caused by it.

If you haven't noticed, grass is beginning to green up. The spray rig has been applying preemergence. Justin is getting ready for greens aeration. Oh! Our native areas have been burned off. That was missed last Spring. So... if you know about where you lost a valuable ProV and want to give it a proper burial, now is the time you might find it's charred carcass. But, please don't hold up the group behind you looking for that gem!!! :-)

Along with course maintenance, I believe you all are aware of our need for a new maintenance facility. The existing facility does not have the space for proper equipment repair or equipment storage. We have hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment that can only do its job if properly maintained and cared for. We must have acceptable, efficient, and safe working conditions for our maintenance personnel.

By the time you read this we will have negotiated for the construction of a new facility. We have worked hard to secure a facility for today and tomorrow's needs, while having it affordable. The current construction schedule should see us in the new facility by fall.

At the advice of our resident ag expert on the Board of Directors... that's you, Steve... we recently sold our soybeans. Yep! Don't know if all the members understand we aren't only in the golf business, but we have farm ground. There is acreage west of the cart storage buildings that we share crop with a local farmer. He usually plants either soybeans or milo on our cropland. We share the cost of seed and fertilizer. He shares the grain. We tell the elevator when to sell.

We can continue to report revenue exceeding our budget projections. We're welcoming new members. Other than needing some rain, the future of Stagg Hill looks bright.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My cell is 785 633-1126. If I don't recognize the number, I probably won't answer. Leave a voicemail or just text me. I promise to get back to you.

Hit 'em straight!!!

Larry Williams
President, Stagg Hill Board of Directors