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Subject: SLBC 🌴 President's Message 🌴 September Update on the New Green
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September 2023

Our New Green

There has been much going on since the last update on our new green at Bobby Jones Golf Course (BJGC). The agreement between the Gulf Coast Community Foundation (GCCF) and the City of Sarasota stipulated a completion date of October 31, 2023.

I'm sorry to say that the approval process time-frame for our project is turning out to be much longer than first expected. As a result the construction completion date has now been pushed back and is now estimated to be May 15, 2024. Construction commencement is expected November 1 this year, and the lawn bowling green grassing date window is now next year from March 15th to April 1st. Seven contractors have been invited to bid and were sent the documents on August 28th. These are due back on September 22nd.

We have expressed our unhappiness about losing another lawn bowling season though! Why the delay? Well we had the double whammy of the City taking four months to determine what internal permit route to take to begin with and, of course, they chose the longest route. As well the later construction start date means missing the grassing window for this year. There is a Planning Board meeting on September 13th which is open to the public, and final approval is expected at that meeting. However as previously mentioned we will at least have everything in place so that the construction can start when that approval is given.

The good news is the GCCF is committed to funding the project up to the agreed amount as laid out in the agreement. Beyond that, the GCCF would prefer to defer as many decisions as possible to the SLBC regarding the project, allowing the SLBC to take a lead role along with Richard Mandell (the golf course architect) in the construction process.

Lawn Bowling Games

As far as our members being able to bowl we're planning to make the same arrangements with Sun City and other clubs as last season. Of course your membership also entitles you to enter any of the South East Division sanctioned tournaments.

Talking of tournaments the 2023 National Championships will be held in Sun City Center, October 29 – November 4, 2023. Representing the Southeast Division in Women's Singles will be our very own Rusty Hein. Be sure to go and cheer her on!

Bowls USA Grant

We applied for and have been granted \$1000.00 to purchase a delivery aid and size 0000 bowls for our club members to use and try out.

Social Events

Every month a dinner is planned on the second Wednesday of the month for everyone at various eateries throughout the town. Be sure to check your email for the next get together details.

Giving Challenge

April next year is the Giving Challenge when every donation to our club is matched by the Patterson Foundation. This is a major source of funding for your club and the next one is even more important as we may need extra funds for completing our green.

If you have any suggestions, concerns or questions regarding your club or the new green, please contact myself or any member of the Board.

Michael Toll
President, SLBC

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