



May 18, 2021

To: CMC, CWGA, & The Niners

From: CGC Board of Directors

Subject: Happenings at the Charbonneau Golf Course

As we move into our prime golfing season, we thought an update on happenings with the golf course would be of interest to the members of our three clubs that call the Charbonneau Golf Course home. Who can forget the extensive tree damage we experienced on the course as a result of the February ice storm? With some significant expenditures and an incredible community volunteer effort, our course shows only a few signs of storm damage. There were long term plans to remove and/or trim trees, but mother nature certainly speeded up that process. Hundreds of trees were affected on the course resulting in the complete removal of 14. Aside from our own Charbonneau Golf Course maintenance crew, we hired four outside contractors to cut, trim and remove damaged trees. Overall costs were in the neighborhood of \$200K. Sincere thanks to our pro, Chris Bensel, and course superintendent, Matt Collier, for leading our clean-up effort. You may still see some broken branches hanging in fir trees. These branches were not deemed a danger to players and will be removed over time this spring by our maintenance crew.

What happened to our greens this spring? If there was one thing that Charbonneau was becoming know for in the last year, it was the excellent condition of our greens. Then in April we verti-cut the greens and suddenly putting became a real adventure with little consistency from one green to another. Normally, we would have aerated our greens in March. Because of the significant clean up effort needed to open the golf course for play, we were late in this process. Instead of using tines to punch holes in the greens, we scarified them to remove thatch and open the roots to oxygen, followed by top dressing the greens with sand. Unfortunately, we experienced a panel failure with the main golf course water pump and unusually dry weather. We were unable to get sufficient water on the greens, which resulted in noticeable grooves on many of the greens. The water problem is fixed, we have top dressed a number of greens again and with the warmer weather the greens are responding. In another week or so, our greens will again be the envy of the Portland golfing community.

What has happened to the traps on Green 5 and Green 8? While most of us prefer not to be in them, traps do add both a degree of difficulty and character to a golf course. The right-hand green on 5 Green and the right-hand green on 8 green have both been filled in and will be planted with grass, essentially becoming grass bunkers. The trap on Green 5 was degrading the actual green stability on the right side and did not come into play that often. The trap on Green 8 was invaded with tree roots and a maintenance nightmare.

We also have made some golf course improvements that we expect will improve the course condition and play. I am sure all golfers have noticed the change made in the green area on 9 Green with the addition of a wooden wall between the approach and green area and the pond. This project was initiated by private contributions from golf course members and a matching contribution approved by the CGC board. The three clubs also made contributions. The result is a signature finishing hole and very improved view from the pro shop patio area.

We have also undertaken a project to improve drainage on the golf course beginning with the Yellow nine this year. Milroy Golf Systems, who built our golf warm-up area, the covering on the Patio /Terrace, and the reconfiguration of Green nine, has been hired to improve our drainage on the course. This will eventually lead to better/thicker fairways, fewer wet areas, and better play throughout the year. The concrete scuppers which supposedly provided some drainage but did nothing for below surface drainage are being removed and replaced with an underground main drain and catch basins. We will also be installing lateral drain lines throughout the holes tied into the main drain. With improved drainage we can start a more aggressive annual sand and seed process on the fairways that will lead to thicker grass fairways that can be driven on by carts year-round. In 2022 we will do the same thing with the Green nine and then finish with Red in 2023.

The Charbonneau Golf Course completed its most successful year ever in 2020-2021 (our fiscal year ran April 2020-March 2021). Golf proved to be one of the few activities that allowed social distancing and social interaction during the COVID pandemic. The result was that Charbonneau experienced over 68,000 paid rounds of golf versus 38,000 in the prior year. We were able to buy needed new equipment, cover unanticipated clean-up costs due to an unusual ice storm, and undertake course improvement projects all out of our increased operating revenue. Additionally, we completed a merger of the golf course with the Charbonneau Country Club, ensuring that the golf course will remain a center piece asset for the Charbonneau community and our active golf clubs.