

[REDACTED]

From: Mike and Cathy Pond <[REDACTED]@charter.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 06, 2018 1:19 PM
To: Park Commission
Subject: golf courses

First off, thank you for all you do to make Madison a great place to live and visit..

I was at the golf sub-committee meeting on the 4th and heard all the reasons that Monona should not be shuttered, I would like to be an advocate of Yahara hills..

It would appear that there is no way to continue operating the golf enterprise without outside funding..

I know the mayor prides himself in all the green spaces he has created but has zero interest in subsidizing golf so if a decision is made to shut down a course, please consider leaving Yahara in tact as I believe it is the course with the most potential of all of them..sell all or part of Monona – reinvest all the monies in the remaining courses and create a golf course that Madison can take pride in.(Yahara) the Mayors legacy could include creating a gem of a course, thanks for your time and consideration, a golfer who loves Yahara, Mike Pond

From: Fey Nan [mailto:████████@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 4:05 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Monona Golf Course Public Comment for Board of Park Commissioners meeting 1/10/18

Dear Park Commissioners,

I have a conflicting meeting this evening or I would attend yours and provide the following input:

If (and when) you are considering alternative uses for any portion of public land under your control, please do not sell it to meet short-term financial needs. Land is such a valuable commodity; the City should retain any and every piece of land it can. But this doesn't mean the land can't be used for other things while still under the City's control – lease it instead and seek the kind of development that is desirable, appropriate, and in keeping with the City's comprehensive plan.

In 2009, while serving as Chair of the Plan Commission, I attended a Land Banking seminar with a number of city staff (Bill Fruhling, Heather Stouder, Linda Horvath and matt Mikolajewski). The presentation explained how Denver's Office of Strategic Partnerships is proactive when land may become available, issuing Requests for Proposals for the kind of development that's needed. The City leases the land for 99 years, providing the "patient money" to enable desirable projects that might not otherwise be possible.

According to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map, the Monona Golf Course area is designated for Employment and Transit-Oriented Development. By leasing any portion of this property, the City can actively seek this type of development if the land is no longer to be used for golf or park land.

Sincerely,

Nan Fey
██████ West Wilson Street
Madison, WI

Date: _____

CITY OF MADISON Registration Statement for BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Agenda No. <u>14</u> Do you have handouts? Yes ___ No ___ <i>Please provide copy to parks staff</i>

Name Peggy Gierhart
 Address 201 Kensington Dr
Madison WI
53704

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- Support
 Oppose
 Neither Support Nor Oppose

- and Wish to speak
 Do not wish to speak
 Available to answer questions

At this meeting, are you representing an organization or a person other than yourself: Yes No

- If you answered "no" **STOP**; you need not complete the rest of this form.
- If you answered "yes" provide the name, address and phone number of each person or organization you are representing:

Edgewood

Are you being paid for your representation? Yes No

Are you appearing as part of your other paid duties for this person or organization? Yes No

- If you answered "no" **STOP**; you need not complete the rest of this form.
- If you answered "yes" complete page 2 on back.

Speaking Limits:

Public Hearing (Common Council).....5 minutes
 Information Hearing.....3 minutes
 Other Items.....3 minutes

(SEE BACK)

My name is Peggy Gierhart. I have been the Edgewood High School girls golf coach for 15 years. Before that I grew up here in Madison as Peggy Kelly. I have played junior, amateur and professional golf in madison on and off for 40 years or so. I am very familiar with the local golf community and the Madison community as a whole.

I am writing in response to the current issue and challenge of what to do with the city golf courses facing financial issues.

I understand that the city is in a predicament with the need for repairs at Yahara. I won't claim to know the exact numbers and I do understand that there is not many options financially.

I would, however, ask everyone involved to please consider all options before having to close a golf course.

Even if you don't play golf, please gather as much information that you can on golf in Madison.

I feel strongly that Yahara would make money if the repairs are completed. I would hope, since the courses are after all, under the control of the parks department, that we could find a way to find the money to help the facility which in turn will help the Madison community.

My first plea would be to find a way for the city to finance the repairs to the drainage system. I don't have a great answer here but I would hope every financial loan option can be investigated. I truly believe that Madison has a responsibility to the public courses not only for the community as a whole but for juniors and the Madison public schools.

I could write a book and pull on your heart strings about Yahara and Monona and the city courses. I could talk about the long history of how many juniors started at these courses. I could talk about how many hundreds of golfers played and came to Yahara when it hosted one of the biggest PGA junior event of the year for over 25 years. I could talk about how the large facility at Yahara is perfect for all ages and levels of play. multiple golf teams to practice, for dynamic junior programs while having the ability to host large outings and multiple leagues.

Instead i would like to give a hands on perspective from someone who is in the trenches so to speak as a high school golf coach and as a Madison golfing resident.

With all due respect to the recent analysis that has been published, I don't think demand is our problem. Golf in madison is in huge demand. Yes, there are many golf courses but we don't fit the national average. We are a young vibrant active

city. All signs point to more and more growth in Madison and the population gets younger and younger with UW, Madison college and Edgewood College thriving. I believe the city's golf rounds played by college age kids were extremely high the last few years. The only reason that Yahara's rounds seem low is because when the weather is bad, the golf course can't handle the rain. This can be fixed.

High school teams have a really hard time finding a place to play. I disagree that the area is saturated with golf courses. Especially public courses.

East, Memorial, West, Lafollette, Edgewood, Monona and McFarland use the city courses right now. All of these schools have boys and girls programs that need a golf course to play and practice. This is not to mention Edgewood College, Madison college and others. This is also not including the golf programs that these schools play against. I host a high school tournament in the fall with the PGA. We host 25 schools around the state. They all love to come to play Yahara. I also host either one WIAA regional or sectional there every year. Yahara is a wonderful place to host high school teams. The courses are fair yet still challenging allowing so many levels to play the course. For over 30 years, the WIAA has approved Yahara as being a great fit for high school golf.

If Yahara is closed, where will these teams go?

-Monona being a 9 hole course, can't accommodate that many more teams and can't host 18 hole events.

-Odana is thriving with rounds and has little room for even one team right now, let alone 9 more.

-Glen way is also thriving and busy and is not a standard length course.

-Vitense is a practice facility but again does not have a course to host matches.

-A few private courses offer a day here and there for the teams (which we have appreciated) but they generally can't provide a home base to host events or offer accessibility to other schools for practice rounds, etc.

-The Bridges Golf course is very busy with leagues, there is no room for teams there either.

Where are the teams going to go? Where are the active Yahara leagues going to go? Every day at Yahara, I see hundreds of golfers playing in active leagues. The Madison High School golf programs want a home course. We have budgets. We do pay and we can pay. We don't want to have to limit or discontinue any level of after school sports. This could greatly affect that. If we have limited access to golf courses, we will have to make cuts or eliminate lower level teams.

We need our teens to keep busy. At some of the Madison schools, there are up to 30 or more golfers in a program. While maybe 10 of those players play

tournaments on a competitive basis, the remaining 15-20 practice and play every day after school and enjoy the recreation of golf. If we lose facilities for these kids to play, they are going to have less structured time after school.

So I hope the golf committee, the parks committee, city council and Mayor Soglin, for the future of madison and area public high school programs, are investigating every option possible before we shut holes down.

Because from my view, the course market is not saturated nearly as much as the strong desire to find a place to play.

As you can see, I don't see a downward spiral here. I see a city thriving in golf.

I see it. I am living it. We are already in need of more holes for the MMSD golf programs. Let's not take more away.

Yahara is a wonderful facility that will only continue to enhance recreation in Madison. Please consider investing in the repairs to save the facility that once thrived and will thrive again.

If you fix it, they will come.

Thank you so much for your time,

Peggy K. Gierhart
Edgewood High School Girls Golf
Head Coach
[REDACTED]@mac.com

From: **Heidi Fischer** <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 10, 2018, 11:14 AM

Subject: Monona Golf Course

To: <district10@cityofmadison.com>, <district17@cityofmadison.com>, <nanragland@att.net>, <anndave@chorus.net>, <madelyn.leopold@gmail.com>, <emily.gnam@cunamutual.com>, <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>, <eknepp@cityofmadison.com>, <district15@cityofmadison.com>, <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Please read attached.

To All Concerned:

As a resident of the Lake Edge Neighborhood, I would like to express my strong opposition to the potential sale of all or part of the Monona Golf Course. This property is a green space and recreational jewel in the heart of Madison's East side. I personally do not golf, but use the course for cross-country skiing and find it a great recreational resource close to my home.

It is unfortunate that the golf course is not generating enough revenue to support its operation. Before you decide to close the course, I implore you to explore all options – perhaps a long-term lease to a private operator with use limited to golf course/open space, a new clubhouse that could better generate revenue by hosting special events such as weddings, etc.

If despite all efforts it is determined that a golf course operation cannot succeed, the property should still remain in the public domain as park/open space. A sale of the property would be extremely short-sighted as the revenue would be exhausted in no time and residents left with nothing. Further, a sale of all or part of the golf course is completely counter to the City's own goals regarding active living (as stated on the Public Health website), namely:

- Promoting community design and development that supports physical activity; and
- Facilitating access to safe, accessible, and affordable places for physical activity.

Please keep this vital and beautiful asset in the public trust. Thank you for listening.

Heidi Fischer
[REDACTED] Major Ave.
Madison, WI 53716