

From: wiegand@cs.wisc.edu <wiegand@cs.wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 8:42 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions

Contact Information:

=====
Name: Nancy Wiegand
Street Address:
1225 Dayton Str
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 6082611451
Email: wiegand@cs.wisc.edu

Comments / Questions:

=====
Subject: General Parks Questions

Comments / Questions:

Even if the golf courses aren't self-sufficient financially, it's important to keep that land as city parks. Further, golf courses make for excellent cross country ski areas. Because of the grass, not as much depth of snow is needed to be able to get out and ski. In fact, golf courses are great for skiing. Be sure to keep that land open as parks.

From: wiegand@cs.wisc.edu <wiegand@cs.wisc.edu>
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions

Contact Information:

=====
Name: Nancy Wiegand
Street Address:
1225 Dayton Str
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 6082611451
Email: wiegand@cs.wisc.edu

Comments / Questions:

=====
Subject: General Parks Questions

Comments / Questions:

Even if golf courses are not self-financing, it is extremely important to have them for people's health and well-being. Even if the golf expenses can't be reduced, the open space land is direly needed. Absolutely, never sell the land for development. Keep it as parks and green space. We need lots of that!

From: Foster, Grant
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 6:27 PM
To: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fw: golf course closings

Please share with Task Force members and add to the public feedback. Thanks!

Grant Foster
District 15 Alder
Madison Common Council
608-285-2519

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15/blog/>

From: Patrick Soukup <ptsvegas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 18:15
To: Foster, Grant
Subject: golf course closings

January 21, 2020

I am strongly opposed to the closing of the Monona Golf Course.
It is a valuable asset and would be a shame to lose it.
It is an ideal course to play for golfers of all ages and it's terrain is excellent.
I have been playing Monona for some 56 years and paying city taxes as long.
Let's do the right thing, Save Monona!

Patrick Soukup

From: Susan Ela <elasue64@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf Task Force Email List

Please add us to your email list to keep us abreast of decisions about the golf courses. We are neighbors and users of the Monona Golf Course, and hope to see this gem remain available to the community, and especially for youth and seniors who may not have the opportunity to golf at courses farther away. Also, we firmly assert that Madison green spaces need to be preserved at all cost, and not be bargained away for economic reasons. Once gone, never to return....

Thank you,
Sue Ela and Jay Mimier

February 3, 2020

Eric Knepp
City of Madison Parks Division
City-County Building, Room 104
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Madison, WI 53703

RE: Task Force on Municipal Golf
in Madison Parks

I attended the meeting held on January 29th and was impressed with the progress that is being made. I am a golfer of many years with a history of playing at private clubs and municipal courses.

The lone public speaker, I believe Mr. Bob Jones, spoke about reducing the number of holes at Yahara. The concept of removing the Enterprise label from the golf operation and using the Special Revenue concept was also brought up. I agree that accounting changes probably brought us to this point and perhaps making another change in accounting will provide a more positive financial view of preserving municipal golf in the City of Madison.

I am not versed in the concept of using a Special Revenue fund. As I understand the accounting system contemplated, all revenue generated at the four golf courses would go into that fund held within the Parks Department Budget. Expenses associated with the golf courses would be debited against that fund, with excess funds being rolled over and available to be tapped for capital improvements. Any deficit would be made up from the Parks Department's budget.

This approach does secure the continuation of the municipal golf courses but removes some of the paper expenses as well as the PILOT payment from the accounting. It appears that income generated from the courses would probably cover the operating expenses under this scenario.

Yahara clearly has the largest projected capital needs as identified in the Capital Assessment report. Increase storm water capacity, increase drainage, and adding cart paths account for about 23 million dollars in the proposed expenditures. As suggested by Mr. Jones, eliminating nine holes would be a good starting point.

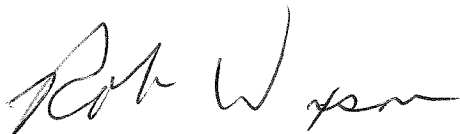
If those nine holes were all part of the water problem, I suggest that you should look at redoing the course so that there would be three nine hole courses and abandoning the lower part of the complex and not bother doing any of the renovations suggested for those areas. My guess is that a chunk of the cart path money is to provide passage in the lower parts of the course.

Combining the two courses into either 18 or 27 holes appears to be doable. 27 holes would be comparable to Pleasant View and allow for dedicating one set of holes to nine-hole groups and rotating that assignment during the week, much like what is done at Odana to keep things more interesting for the nine-hole leagues.

Perhaps the start of all three nine holes could be in the area of the shelter on the south side of the property. Another good start would be the 10th hole on the East Course that would end after nine holes with the 6th hole of the West Course back at the shelter.

I am sure that with some creativity that 27 holes could be carved out of the existing property, using mainly the existing holes, leaving the problem areas to resort back to wetlands or prairies.

Thanks for your work to solve a difficult problem. I like the approach of putting the golf courses directly under the Parks Department but using the Special Revenue approach to assure that golf generated income offsets golf operational expenses. Without the Special revenue fund, income generated from the golf courses could be used for non-golf related park activities. I assume that this was part of the rationale of using the Enterprise concept. That clearly has not worked.



Rob Wixson
3817 Council Crest
Madison 53711

c.c. Zachary Henak (my Alderman)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Meyer** <dma@chorus.net>
Date: Sun, Feb 9, 2020 at 2:51 PM
Subject: Re: city golf courses
To: Bill Barker <barker.bill@gmail.com>

General ideas, philosophy and social/political questions.

1. Golf is a game that can be played for life, unlike any other sport, more so than bowling, tennis, or disc golf. Even the walking is healthy.

It's an extremely social activity and Madison city courses continue to be a good value although the prices have gone up in recent years, still a bit less than the privately owned courses around the area. And, I can tell you, the staff at city courses are much friendlier than most other venues. I have a couple great examples.

I think it's greatly under estimated as to the diversity, in age, racial makeup, economic resources, etc of frequent users of the city courses. To me, it's much closer to being on a city bus, than most people think. Golf at our public courses are not upper class white people.

2. What is reasonable for citizens of a capital city, the size of Madison, to expect the govt to provide, beyond, of course roads, garbage collection, schools, police/fire, etc? Not all citizens ride buses, not all citizens use a bike path, not all citizens go to the Monona Terrace or Overture Center. Yet the city spends tax money on those resources.

What message is a capital city, the size of Madison sending to its residents, potential residents, visitors, etc., if they can't maintain more than a minimal supply of 18 holes golf courses? This situation reminds me of how I felt years ago about two things. At one point, I could not believe how small, neglected and in disrepair our airport looked. It seemed an embarrassment that our capital city and the home of the flagship university welcomed people to Madison in that airport. Now, our airport is absolutely wonderful.

Similarly, though one could argue it's gone too far the other way, but the span of a mile or so along East Wash approaching the capitol, was horrible for many. many years. Now, with the new hotels, condos, Breese Stevens, etc etc it's really quite impressive.

If we can't fund and maintain more than one 18 hole golf course, you are telling taxpayers, retired people and especially retired city workers (who make up most of the group of a dozen golfers I play with a couple of times a week) that our city can't get things organized well enough to do more than the bare minimum, unless you are a large, lobbied, well connected group of developers. It's an embarrassment and Madison at it's worst, squeaky wheels at the far ends of the political/fiscal spectrum get oiled.

3. What fiscal models do other cities commonly use to provide and maintain golf courses? I don't know, but has this been explored by Parks, the park commissioners, the

golf sub committee or the task force? Has any research been done? Is the "golf enterprise" model common? Should we have been investing X % each year into 5 and 10 year planning and staying ahead of maintenance issues? Milwaukee County has an absolutely wonderful system, as does Waukesha County. What models do they use? Can Madison explore a partnership with Dane County or some type of public/private partnerships? Have there been any research on changing up the model we use?

Anyways, these are some thoughts.

Dave

From: Bob Stockton <bobhstockton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:13 AM
To: Scott Jamison <skjbiz@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Task Force on Madison Municipal Golf Closure Options

Good morning Scott,

Thanks for your thoughts on this critical issue for golf in Madison. When you attend the public meetings you can attach your statement to the public comment sheet at the door. You do not have to make a speech there. Or send an email to Ryan Brinza at Odana. He will put it in the public comments for the Task Force to read. His email is

rbrinza@cityofmadison.com

If you want to discuss further, attend the Tee off party at Odana on Saturday. I will be there noon to 1.

All the best
Bob

Thanks Scott

Sent from my iPhone.

On Feb 27, 2020, at 7:42 AM, Scott Jamison <skjbiz@hotmail.com> wrote:

Thanks Bob for this material and your invite for an opinion.

My opinion is highly influenced by my memory of Madison golf in the 60's through the mid-70s when golf was a backdrop to my youth and it was a SIGNATURE sport in Madison. I played very, very limited golf from 1979-2009 and gave little thought to the changes impacting golf anywhere.

When I return to the game in Winnetka, Illinois, I was blessed to play the public course that for decades had supported much of the sports activities in the community. The course was built in the 1910-20 period and used the dirt excavated from the Metra train project that was being built through Winnetka on its way to Chicago. The dirt was dumped on a marsh area (Winnetka is 30%+ former marsh area) and the resulting "gem of a golf course" has thrived through the decades. While the course has always been promoted as a dual purpose project, the secondary purpose of "flood plane" for large rains, etc has largely not interrupted summer golf play UNTIL 2010 and beyond. One season massive rains created a flood condition so bad that the course was closed for

weeks and the resulting damage made the course a "pig sty". The community rallied and supported a massive drainage project next to the course, but the resulting rancor has changed the image of the golf course in the Winnetka community. Does this sound like Yahara GC? Long time season pass holders at the Winnetka GC starting dropping their pass to play select public course elsewhere.

My experience in Winnetka is reflected in the current Madison golf scene. The report states: "Past experiences show that when Yahara is closed, most customers do not go to other City courses". This is NO surprise. The ease to drive to Evansville, Waunakee and even Janesville make those options attractive. In fact, did you see the season pass rates and benefits announced by Evansville GC for the 2020 season? Back to the 60s!

The report states: "60% of all student rounds are played at Yahara and Glenway". I totally get the attraction of Glenway (close by, 9 holes, cheap), but Yahara? What students would drive to Yahara and pay \$30+/round when they can go to UW Ridge and pay \$26/round? Only students looking for "spur of the moment" golf would be forced to play Yahara.

The loss of Monona GC would change the feel of Monona. Can you imagine Shorewood Hills, Nakoma or Maple Bluff without their signature golf course?

My opinion is the PILOT has to be done away with, Yahara GC has to close (or be sold to a golf visionary!) and the city needs to understand that raising golf rates is a simple math formula that prevents meaningful rate increases. IE, what is the difference between 4X3 and 6X2? Evanston and Waunakee will have a sign at their city edge saying "Welcome Madison golfers!"

Thanks Bob for all your interest and work on the public golf issue.

Regards! Scott

From: Robert H. Stockton <bobhstockton@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 2:25 PM

To: Rob Burnham <rcburn1@yahoo.com>; Bob Caflisch <rjcaflisch@gmail.com>; Jim Devine <jtdevine3@icloud.com>; Scott Jamison <skjbiz@hotmail.com>; Peter Ritz <ritz.pb@gmail.com>; Jim Harrison <1puttforme@gmail.com>; John Roach <johneroach@mac.com>; Michael Remington <remingmj@aol.com>; Randy Sproule <randysproule@gmail.com>; Rob Wixson <rgwixson@gmail.com>; Carl Marquart <carlmarquart@yahoo.com>; Tim Muldowney <timmuldowney@gmail.com>; Doc Cramer <cramerdoc@hotmail.com>; Bob Stockton <bobhstockton@gmail.com>; Don Staniforth <dss101@charter.net>; Tim Indra <tim.indra@gmail.com>; Brian Myrland <brian@dbchold.com>; ROBERT LATCHAW <rlatchaw@tds.net>; David Maraniss <david_maraniss@msn.com>; Cal Stone <candkstone@yahoo.com>; Tim Goldsworthy <tgoldsworthy@madison.k12.wi.us>; Ralph L Stamler <ralphstamler@yahoo.com>; Jim Myrland <jim@dbchold.com>; Mike Weiden <msweiden@gmail.com>; Mike McKenna

<mjmckenna59@gmail.com>

Subject: Task Force on Madison Municipal Golf Closure Options

Good Afternoon to all my fellow golfers,

Below you will find the link to the presentation by golf staff at the task force meeting last week. Please look through all of it.

Note: There are two possible options for each closure choice, either stay in the current enterprise system of accounting or merge into the Madison Parks Dept.

Basically when you merge into the Parks Department, you no longer will pay the PILOT fee (Payment in lieu of taxes fee). As an Golf Enterprise system, the golf courses have to pay a tax to use the park land. Of course when the City Council collects the PILOT fee it goes into the general budget for other uses, which I feel is wrong. If that money had been used for the golf capital needs in years past, we would not have the issues we have today. Why should we be paying a PILOT fee for park land we already own?

Please review this document below and let me know what you think. I have been asked to be a participant in a focus group in the next couple of weeks. I would like to voice our collective thoughts at this 90 minute meeting. Please email me your thoughts after reviewing the link.

Also there will be two public comment meetings, on Feb 5 and 10th on the course closure issue. Please plan on attending and give your two cents worth! Odana is not an option to close, but the increased volume (if other courses close) will influence our ability to play there when we want. If courses close, shorter tee boxes will be added to accommodate seniors, women and youth at the remaining courses.

FYI...The Task force knows that Odana Clubhouse needs to be razed and are discussing. If golf becomes part of Parks, they would recommend building a community center there to serve all members of the public. The increased population in the area (Westgate Project and other large apartment projects), would justify a reconfiguration of the clubhouse, parking lot, tennis courts, and playground area. I have been in favor of this for years and written several letters to past aldermen. The Odana clubhouse is the oldest(1956) and most inefficient building in the Madison Parks Dept. Flat Roof is falling in/leaks terribly, single pane Plexiglas windows, and a 56 year old boiler to name a few issues.

Click link below to review the presentation....

<https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8086623&GUID=A3F8D55D-8C44-4474-9486-7A6DF509C600>

Your voice and presence will be needed. I will send out the times and dates(possibly March 5 and 10) for public comment meetings. I will provide you a summary of the focus group I participate in after March 10.

Reminder to attend Golf Kick Off Party at Odana this Saturday after 10 am. Beer will be available to purchase! Support Madison Golf by purchasing a Loyalty membership and gets you reduced rates.

All the best,

Bob/Your commish
608-695-6250

Golf! You hit down to make the ball go up. You swing left and the ball goes right. The lowest score wins. And on top of that, the winner buys the drinks.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Revisiting Bobby Jones**Hagen Brody**

On Tuesday the Sarasota City Commission will once again consider right-sizing the 45-hole Bobby Jones Golf Course down to 27 holes. If approved, this would free up nearly half of the existing footprint for a new public park, which incorporates significant water quality improvement measures, and puts the course on a path toward long-term financial sustainability.

This is likely the last chance we'll have to get this right.

I grew up playing Bobby Jones as a kid and witnessing the course's decline has been tough. The facility, on 283 acres of public land in the heart of our community, has been consistently losing more money with each passing year. According to experts, a major overhaul of the aged infrastructure from tee box to flag pin is necessary to bring the course back to life.

However, without a significant reduction in size, the cost to overhaul anything more than 27 holes will devastate the already failing financials.

Last year the 45-hole course required an infusion of \$860,000 just to

break even, and this year that subsidy will likely be north of a million dollars if left as-is. That burden is paid for by all City of Sarasota taxpayers, even though only about 7% of the rounds played at Bobby Jones are played by city residents. That's not right.

The environmental significance must also be carefully considered. Millions of gallons of stormwater run through Bobby Jones each year, pouring in from as far north as University Town Center. The fertilizer and pesticides required to maintain fairways and greens at the current size is obviously not ideal, since the property doubles as a stormwater basin that feeds directly into Phillippi Creek and ultimately to our delicate bay waters.

Also, it's just impossible to justify dedicating the vast majority of this public land to a single use when there are so many residents nearby who don't play golf and would love to have other outdoor recreational options.

There is a better way.

The 27-hole option will right-size Bobby Jones by restoring the original Donald Ross-designed 18-hole regulation course, and reconditioning the nine-hole Gillespie executive course. This will dramatically reduce the cost of the overhaul and maintenance expenses — giving Bobby Jones a fighting

chance of sustainability.

The most exciting aspect: This proposal frees up 145 contiguous acres for a new passive and active public park space.

A diverse community surrounds Bobby Jones. If we get this right, it seems there's enough room to offer something for everyone.

Of those 145 acres, 53 would be dedicated to meaningful wetland restoration, to do a much better job filtering the stormwater runoff aggregated onsite before it hits our waterways. An important benefit, but it also broadens our ability to tap into state and federal resources to help pay for the project not otherwise available.

Make no mistake, this is a uniquely transformational opportunity for the east side of the city — which is deficient, in my opinion, both in public park space and quality of life investment. It puts Bobby Jones on a sustainable path so that future generations can enjoy the historic course at an affordable price, and it takes meaningful steps toward improving water quality issues in our region.

On Tuesday, it's clear: At Bobby Jones Golf Club, less is more.

Hagen Brody is an attorney who grew up in Sarasota and is currently an elected at-large Sarasota city commissioner.

February 29, 2020

City of Madison Parks Division
City - County Building, Room 104
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Madison, WI 53703

RE Golf Course Issue

Dear Sir or Madam:

In the past few years, I feel the City of Madison has been relegating the golfing community members down to second class citizens. On the City's website page (Madison Parks Facilities), I get the impression that the City feels the Madison golf courses are amenities for the community members and possibly uses all of their amenities as reasons for companies to move to Madison. The current issue seems to be "should the golf courses be self sufficient" based on annual operating income only?

From the Madison Park Facilities page under "play", I would have several questions for the City of Madison:

1. Baseball – Do fees collected for the facilities use meet or exceed the cost of maintaining and operating the baseball facilities? Or does Madison subsidize these facilities?
2. Basketball – Do fees collected for the facilities use meet or exceed the cost of maintaining and operating the basketball courts? Or does Madison subsidize these facilities?
3. There are more than thirty items listed as "Play" on the City of Madison "Madison Park Facilities" web page. The same two questions above could also be asked of these amenities. So how many "play" activities are fully self sufficient and how many are subsidized by Madison?
4. The high schools in the Madison area use the Madison Golf courses for their golf teams and possibly for gym type classes. How much money comes out of the Madison School districts to pay for their use of the golf facilities? When the teams come to the facilities, they use a lot of the practice green and driving range. Do they even pay for the range balls?

Many of the Madison area citizens do not golf, but many Madison citizens also do not play baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, ice skating, etc. One point of view could be that most types of "play" related to City of Madison Park Facilities are subsidized, unless you are "playing" golf.

Now that I have pointed out the obvious subsidize/self sufficient issue above, other possible issues could be in place. In the governmental funding world, sometimes an initial type of expense is not categorized correctly. The next few years a different employee assigned to that fund looks back at the late year's categorization and merely follows the same method of expensing the amount. Ten years or so down the road, no employee has yet questioned the categorization of the expense and it is still being expensed incorrectly. When a governmental employee is asked "why do you expense that cost to this specific fund?" too many times the answer is "we have done this for many years". There is no thought as to "why" before it's applied to the governmental fund. The question would be "are all expenses applied to the specific fund an ordinary, necessary and reasonable cost based on the golfing facility operation?"

The golfing operation is a governmental income stream. Sometimes expenses get charged to an income stream under the theory "the operation can afford to pay the cost". Using Odana Hills as an example, does the general Madison Parks budget get charged a pro-rata share of driveway and parking lot maintenance cost to cover the operations of the tennis courts? How about any utilities used in support of the tennis courts?

Monona golf course was reduced in order to make facilities for the Madison School system. Sometimes when a property is still under the same top tier owner (in this case the City of Madison), all of the utilities and expenses do not actually get re-worked for separate billing to the proper operation. Is the Monona golf course paying for any costs via failure to split up all of the utilities to the property?

One last issue, what are the costs of capital improvements for let say bicycle paths - a listed Madison amenity. In no way shape or form does this amenity pay for yearly maintenance let alone capital improvements and/or expansions. Why should one amenity need to at least break even and all others deserve subsidies? The only obvious answer is that "golf" has a convenient way to collect user fees but most other Madison amenities are more difficult to collect user fees.

Based on the fact that I actually live in Fitchburg, I realize that my one opinion as a non-resident has little or no value to the City of Madison. The above dissertation is merely observations and intended to interjected thoughts based on experiences prior to my retirement.

Thank you for reading the thoughts above. Please have a great day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being the most prominent.

Dan E. Smith
Licensed CPA
Licensed Real Estate Broker
4420 Crescent Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711-4848

From: Rob Hall <robt-hall@charter.net>

Sent: Monday, March 02, 2020 1:49 PM

To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Golf Task Force Email List

I would like to receive emails about the work of the committee.

I am also wondering how many parks in Madison pay local taxes for land value? I would also like to know how much do any of the other parks in Madison make annually for the City? Are the golf courses the only Madison park land that earns any sort of income?

I am not too sure that the city is treating its parks equally. I am not sure why making a profit on golf is a requirement? I would argue that if making a profit is a requirement for any parkland, then it should be required of all parkland.

Please pass this email on to whomever may be serving on this committee.

Robert Hall

Name: Steve Wilcox

Street Address:

18 Flagstaff Ct

Madison, WI 53719

Phone:

Email: steve.wilcox@charter.net

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Golf Program

Comments / Questions:

I think it's crazy that the city sees the golf courses as a revenue source instead of a recreational opportunity. The city should not be charging the golf courses the annual \$400,000 fee. Golf courses should be treated more like parks, which pay no fee. Without this fee the courses would be far more likely to break even.

If you feel that a course needs to be closed the clear choice is to close 18 holes of Yahara. That land could be sold or converted to park land.

Thanks.

From: Jeff Poirier <poirierjeff@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2020 7:17 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: forum and survey on Madison golf courses

Hello,

Thanks for setting up the survey and forums on possible uses for Madison golf courses. I'm excited to see how other uses could be incorporated into these spaces. I won't be able to attend, so let me share some thoughts.

I do think we're over-served in the number of courses and would love to see these amazing city properties better used. I'm all for reorganizing the golf use into a smaller space to open up for other uses like housing, outdoor recreation, and community centers.

I have a strong preference / hope that the other uses could include mountain bike terrain. I think it's an ideal use since the areas can be relatively compact, get multi-generational use, and are relatively low cost to create and maintain. If you've ever looked at mountain bike trail maps for areas like Ringle, Nine Mile Forest, or Sylvan Hill (I spend time up in Wausau), you'll see the trails have a lot of squiggles and switchbacks to make them interesting to ride in a small area. On a typical summer evening ride at Nine Mile, I'll see young girls learning to ride on bikes nearly as big as they are, hard-core racers, and older riders just out to enjoy being in the woods, all co-existing and sharing the trails. Gravel and vegetation management are the key building blocks along with support from the biking community. CWOCC.org up north has done amazing things coordinating with the city and county to open terrain. That model could hopefully be copied in Madison. Winter use could be shared with snow shoeing or winter fat-tire biking. The latter may be a fad, but it incrementally only takes grooming. Lastly, the additional uses might help make park concession operation more viable.

Thanks for letting me share.

Regards,
Jeff Poirier
225 Carillon Dr.
Madison

From: garoesing@aol.com <garoesing@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Brinza, Ryan <rbrinza@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program

Contact Information:

=====
Name: Gerry Roesing
Street Address:
9801 Hill Creek drive
Verona, WI 53593
Phone: 608-848-1123
Email: garoesing@aol.com

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Golf Program

Comments / Questions:

I just finished the questionnaire regarding the golf courses future. I see where the parks department makes it's decisions, at least partially, on racial equity. Great! Since Madison's golf courses are available to all races equally, what could be more fair than that?

Gerry Roesing

From: lberton52@gmail.com <lberton52@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Brinza, Ryan <RBrinza@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program

Contact Information:

=====
Name: Lynn Berton
Street Address:
1130 Sherman Av
Madison, WI 53703-1620
Phone: 6082840294
Email: lberton52@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

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Subject: Golf Program

Comments / Questions:

I completed the golf survey but there wasn't a space for additional comments, so I'm sending this message. I want to defend keeping all the Madison courses as they are. Yes, they lost money, but why do we assume our city golf courses need to make a profit? Do other city parks need to make money? No.

The rates at our city courses ought to be competitive with private courses. The Bridges rates are cheaper for me than our city courses. If more players are needed, LOWER the rates, and you'll get more players.

I golf Yahara and Monona. Monona's usually is good shape, but Yahara is abysmal. If it were kept up, more golfers would use it. I don't golf Glenway because it's across town for me and only 9 holes. I don't golf Odana because play is painfully slow whenever I've been there - "Slowdana," is its nickname among my golfing friends.

As a city course, some golfers are discourteous and even dangerous, and yet, I've been told these players cannot be prohibited from playing and repeating their bad behavior. One time at Monona, my party was behind a single golfer who was playing several balls. There were 4 parties waiting to play Hole 8. The single teed off at the upper tee, and I went to the lower tee. The single teed off behind me! I could have been killed had he hit the back of my head!! When I complained at the clubhouse, I was told this single player always plays multiple balls, and he can't be told not to because Monona is a public city course. That's ridiculous! Dangerous players should be barred from playing and endangering other players.

So, I would like to see the city keep all 4 courses and all the holes. Lower the rates, keep all courses in good shape, pair single players up when possible, establish and uphold good golf etiquette including speed of play. I believe that in the long run, these measures would make the courses more profitable. Nonetheless, if Madison's courses are

considered, "Parks," hold them to similar standards that are held for all parks. If Eken Park doesn't have to make money to support itself, Yahara shouldn't have to either.

From: Mike Ales <labgear@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2020 8:20 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf Inquiry

Dear Golf Program,

I am writing to express my opinion on decisions pending regarding Madison's four municipal golf courses. In terms of the elimination of any of the courses, I believe categorically that Monona Golf Course should NOT be one of them.

First, of the east side courses, Monona is the only aesthetically pleasing course. Yahara is essentially not visible from any road and is barely within the city limits. Monona is easily accessible from city streets at city speeds. Yahara has a very dangerous entrance and requires crossing a 55 mph highway intersection when accessing from the east. Monona has 9 very manageable holes, which can be doubled up for a nice 18 hole day. Yahara has far too many holes available for the traffic it brings in, creating an expense to income disparity. With modest improvements and committed management, the Monona clubhouse can be comfortable and capable of serving grill food and drinks of different types. Yahara clubhouse is oversized for the traffic and is rarely at capacity. Monona golf course is generally in good playing shape, and needs only moderate upgrades to some infrastructure. Yahara regularly has half of its holes under water or otherwise inaccessible during the playing season. Drainage and other basic terrain problems are very expensive issues to address.

Keep Monona Golf Course open. Sell half or more of Yahara to either the County for future landfill space or to the Ho-Chunk for expansion of their

facilities. Yahara has been a huge drain on resources compared to Monona, for the value it brings. Thank you for your attention -

Mike Ales - Madison east side resident and golfer

From: Pete Waite <waitepete@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: golf course survey

Just wanted to follow up after taking the golf course survey. I thought it was poorly designed because

- 1) there was no question asking how many years people have played the course.
- 2) it assumed you currently play the courses when there are many people who used to play all the time but are too old to play now. Their opinions are extremely important.
- 3) there was no area to write in comments/ideas about what courses to keep or close.

So, speaking for my 91 year old dad...he played for more than 50 years on the courses, mostly Monona and Yahara. He played a few times a week. He would like to see Monona stay open because without it the people on the east and north side would have to play at the Bridges or Yahara. Monona is much better than the Bridges. He'd like to see Yahara sell off 18 holes and take care of the other holes (traps especially) better.

I grew up playing at Monona a few times per week. Living in Monona, I was able to ride my bike to play. Kids couldn't do that if you close Monona. I agree with my dad about Monona and Yahara. I'd say keep all the city courses but sell off 18 of Yahara and see how that goes.

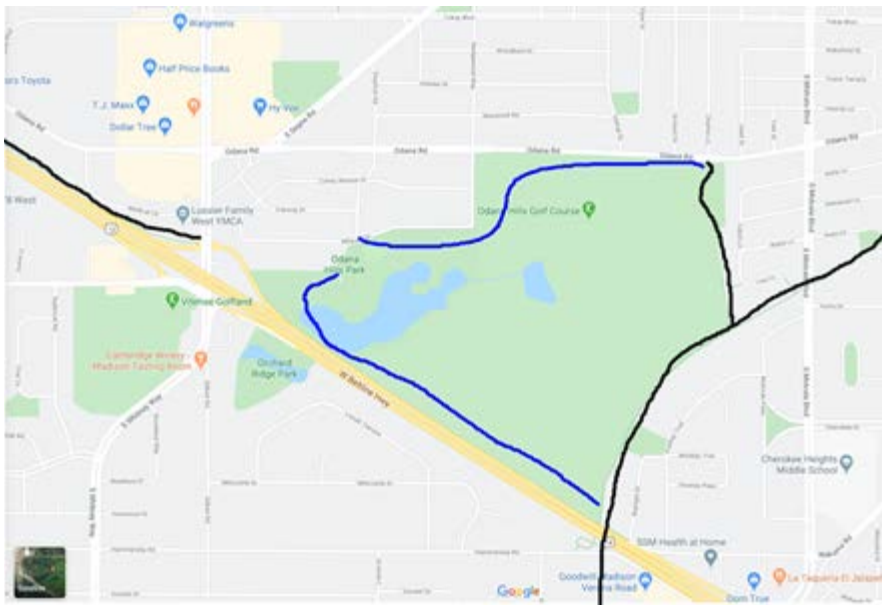
Pete Waite
Madison

From: Nathaniel Detra <ndetra@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: City of Madison Golf Courses

I was unable to attend the meeting regarding the golf courses last night, but I wanted to share my thoughts.

I would like to see a small amount of the space currently used as the Odana Hills Golf Course to be used to make a bike path connection between the Southwest Commuter and the Beltline bike paths. The beltline path could be a very useful transportation corridor for people on bikes and on foot if it were connected to our larger off-road path infrastructure.

Even getting close to a direct connection would make a big difference. In this image I've drawn two different blue lines showing the kind of connection I'd like to see. The black lines show the existing paths



Regards,

Nate Detra

From: Warren Day <warren@warrendaylaw.com>

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2020 5:34 PM

To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Golf comments

I completed the online survey but I think it is deficient. It does not ask how many times I play other courses in the area - an indicator of potential market for the city courses. And it does not ask for suggestions - which I will offer here.

1. Glenway is a short course, little-played but popular with old golfers like me. To make it more popular to play, your department or the mayor should invite city garden clubs to “adopt” a hole at Glenway, and add raised flower beds near tee boxes and other places. They could use Parks (Olbrich) plant stock and would have an excuse to play more often, and to see their work. The beds would make the course more enjoyable and expand city recreation opportunities. I bet there are volunteers that could repair the patio stonework.

2. At Yahara the two “back nines” are nice and quiet, but less played because staff saves them for 18-hole golfers who are few in number. The course should advertise and start play on these nines instead of the interstate nines. Over the years I have rarely been allowed to play the back nines.

3. I think paying \$15 per hour to law mowers is too much. I’ve seen the city employees sit on their vehicles next to each other in the Yahara trees beyond the view of the clubhouse and smoke and josh together in the mid-morning sun. Nice. Another time I saw a stupid employee somehow cut a buried water line near a tee box or green being rebuilt. This inspires no confidence that revenues don’t meet costs.

4. City greens fees are competitive - but slightly higher than area courses that I play - Door Creek and Evansville to name two. You should consider a \$3.00 2020-only surcharge dedicated to capital improvements - and hire out the work if cheaper. See if/how that improves the financial picture pin combination with other promotions for 2020.

The golf courses are a beautiful asset for the city. Sadly the golf public might be aging-out, or interest waning much like the tennis rage of the 1970’s-‘80s. Few people under age 65 can afford to take 3-5 hours to play anymore.

WARREN J. DAY

608-807-6010 - o/c
warrenday1@hotmail.com

2010 Hawkinson Road, Oregon, WI 53575

From: Robert Beets <robert.beets@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf course survey

It was not well done because it was so limited in scope with no open-ended question. So I am submitting them here.

I have not golfed at the city courses because I am new to town. But I like golf and I usually prefer city run golf courses because they are used by a wider range of patrons. When run well and provide a good quality course and atmosphere, and good jobs for a few residents, it's great.

I do however dislike the pollution and land use issues that come with golf. These factors should weigh heavily in decision making. And in this light, I strongly prefer disc golf courses that do not pollute, but would require fewer changes to the infrastructure than other sports. Disc golf is also a much more accessible sport because the gear is much cheaper.

Golf is good. Disc golf is great! Community resources for sport, exercise, nature that attract a diverse usership is ideal.

/ Robert

From: JJ Henrikson <jjhen517@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:47 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf Task Force Email List

jjhen517@gmail.com

Question: Understand that Golf courses made money in 2001 and 2015 only, why didn't City step in with Pro's and work out marketing program that could produce year around income?

After Pros left, why didn't City bring in someone like they did for Breeze Stevens, Vern Steiman, Madison Mallards, etc to promote the courses for year around activities with golfers and non-golfers.

Look around the city and Parks, the golf courses could have and still could take advantage of the Foodie, Craft Beer, and Craft Distillers that is still going on.

It's too bad that other Arenas, Parks and other facilities that do not pay City anything continue to be subsidized and golf courses, which suppose to pay their way have no marketing support what so ever.

Jerry Henrikson

From: Doug Rezner <thedash@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Planning <planning@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: golf course "idea"...

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I have an *outside the box* idea for you for if/when you choose to re-design one or more of the city courses. Consider designing the course(s) around three 6-hole options vs. today's standard of two at 9-holes!

This would allow one getting off work late to still get some holes in before dark AND therefore also provide an additional sale/revenue that may *not* have been realized with only a 9-hole option one knows they will not be able to complete it!?

If one wants to play 18, they simply play all three 6-hole courses! Provides a lot of additional options in scheduling tee times; ALSO, think of the revenue increase...

Consider the following example:

Today: \$20 for 9 or \$40 for 18
6-hole course: \$15 for 6 or \$5 off if 18 = \$40! -- same as today, but more 6 or 12 hole sales at an average of 10% increase over 9-hole prices = not to mention add'l later sales/tee times...!!

Like I said, an *outside the box* option, but sure seems to make sense and *opportunities...!*

Doug Rezner 608.698.0556

From: Dar McDuffee <darhmcd@gmail.com>

Subject: GOLF TASK FORCE

Date: March 11, 2020 at 5:48:53 PM CDT

To: district10@cityofmadison.com

I was unable to attend either of the public meetings regarding the future of our golf courses and thought that the online survey would give me an opportunity to offer comments. It did not, so I am writing you. Please share with all members of the task force.

I hope the city decides to keep Monona open as it provides green space that is rapidly diminishing in this city with all the new construction. Although it is a prime real estate property- please -we do not need any more condos or apartment buildings and especially expensive apartments. We need recreational opportunities that do not require that we drive further from our homes. Yes Madison has many beautiful parks but green space on our major roads such as Monona Dr is aesthetically important.

I love Monona because it is a neighborhood course and it is only 9 holes. Many seniors such as myself play regularly because of it's close proximity to our homes. I would compare it to Glenway in that it is a neighborhood institution. Monona generates less revenue than Glenway which is probably due to incomes not being as high as residents on the westside but we still play and love our course.

It's a shame that Bridges has taken away players. If it had not been built perhaps we would not have the financial problems that exist. I hope the city gets lots of revenue from that course and maybe some of that money could be used to subsidize Monona. I have read how some cities do subsidize their municipal courses and I hope the city considers this option. Annual fundraisers could be another option as well as renting clubhouses in the winter for wedding receptions, retirement parties, etc. Parties could reserve just as they do park shelters and limited staff time would be required.

Lastly I just want to say can services for those of us that our lower middle class please exist. We've got Monona Terrace that benefits our businesses, Overature Center for folks who can afford the price of a ticket, lots of programs for lower income folks how bout a little piece piece of the pie for the the average citizen.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan Stern <jstern0503@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2020 1:48 PM

To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Golf Inquiry

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for providing a survey regarding the future of Madison golf courses. What was missing in the survey was a place to provide additional feedback and thoughts. I have added those below for what it's worth.

I am an avid golfer who has lived in Madison my entire life and accessed the Madison area courses as well as courses throughout Wisconsin with associates and friends and hope to continue it for years to come.

Here are some additional thoughts:

Yahara Golf Course

Sell 18 holes for residential or commercial use. Use that funding to pay down the deficit and make improvements and upgrades to the remaining Madison courses. The remaining 18 holes should be kept reducing tee and green sizes and also reduce the number of bunkers by filling in or creating grass or Fescue type grass hazards. By eliminating 18 holes and making the suggested changes to the other 18 this would reduce the annual maintenance costs and wear and tear on the equipment and it should also reduce the number of staff needed for daily maintenance.

Monona, Glenway and Odana should be kept. While the buildings at these courses as well as at Yahara are in need of updating and some repair most golfers would tell you they do not need to be replaced. Golfers will accept older buildings and facilities as it's the golf that is the primary reason we are there. Over time address immediate needs such as roof replacement and other related items through long term planning. It doesn't have to be done all at once. Look at it the same way you would look at making improvements to your own home.

Try harder to be creative in regard to fund raising and generating more revenue for the courses. Think out of the box in dealing with how to keep them. It seems at times the goal is to limit the reasons why we should keep them (the survey) and provide easy avenues and reasons they should be eliminated.

It may be appealing to eliminate some courses today but in the long term I assure you, they would be sorely missed.

Thank you

Gary Stern

From: Paul A. Hartwig <xyzpah@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf courses in MADISON

Consider closing large Yahara. Could be used partially for expansion of city landfill adjacent.

Do not close other courses. Valuable greenspace and accessible to the public with minimal transportation required. Return to professional management. Cities do not do a good job of managing these type of projects. Don't demand large profits, break-even plus some minimal return on investment.

Do not ever consider housing, especially apartments. City that is now landlocked should not try to commercialize these properties to increase tax take to fund dream projects.

Non-financial value of these properties only increases as city population increases and time goes on. I am not a golfer. Please forward to my alderperson. Resident at 4966 N. Sherman Ave. 53704

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: rodzak@yahoo.com <rodzak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 9:41 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Brinza, Ryan <RBrinza@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program

Contact Information:

=====
Name: Jeff Rodzak
Street Address:
137 E Wilson Street, Unit 912
Madison, WI 53703
Phone:
Email: rodzak@yahoo.com

Comments / Questions:

=====
Subject: Golf Program

Comments / Questions:

Recently completed the golf survey. A few years ago, LaCrosse experienced similar issues with their city course in regard to maintenance and profitability. They ultimately contracted and partnered with Kemper Sports who assumed management and course operations. The changes that were made were amazing and Forest Hills is now a well supported and popular golf course in the LaCrosse community. Perhaps an optio to consider? Thanks.

From: Steven Weiss <marste@charter.net>

Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 9:49 AM

To: Golf Outings

Subject: Re: Community Input for City of Madison Golf Courses

I did complete the survey. The real issues concerning golf are not addressed there:

1. Why is golf treated so differently from every other recreation/sports activity in the city, such as biking, dog recreation, disc golf, basketball, skiing, outdoor hockey, etc. Not one activity other than golf is expected to be entirely financially self supporting. Golfers contribute to every other activity through our taxes, so why can't some tax dollars be spent on the golf courses?
2. For many years, golf revenue actually exceeded golf expenses and money was taken from the golf enterprise to fund other park expenses. Perhaps the city owes the golf enterprise the value of those funds, had the golf enterprise been allowed to keep and build up its excess, to re-invest in the courses now.
3. Public links golf is not the exclusive domain on fat old white guys. There is as much if not more racial, gender and sexual preference diversity on the golf courses than anywhere else in the city parks. And it must be understood that the city's golf courses allow for the less well off, both youth and adults, to participate in the sport. Yet there seems to be some unspoken prejudice against golf based upon an unfounded and false stereotype of who plays golf on the public courses.

The ultimate issue is not simply one of finance, but rather one of equity and allocation of funds and the importance of all forms of public recreation.

From: T K V <pzamaker@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:31 AM

To: Golf Outings

Subject: Re: Community Input for City of Madison Golf Courses

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in reference to the Madison golf courses. I think there is a tremendous opportunity for the city and county to do something dramatic, long lasting and that benefits the entire community. It will take some considerable investment by the city and perhaps the county but in the long run it will be well worth it. The biggest concern seems to be the Yahara Hills facility. I think there are some good options here. The city could sell all or part of the property. One possible purchaser is the Ho Chunk Nation. This would perhaps allow them to expand their operations and not necessarily for gaming purposes. Another is the U of W so they could have a U W arboretum East. Then there is of course Dane County. A part of the property could be made into a large park for camping as well as winter and summer activities like hiking and snowmobiling. The county or city could completely revamp the golfing into just an 18 hole golf course. What probably makes the most sense is to build a brand new club house facility off of highway AB. Revamping the golf course would require a complete redo and the city or county could farm out the entire operation to either a privately operator like the folks that run The Oaks Golf Course with the city sharing in the profits of the operation. The city or county could ask Andy North to offer his services in golf course design and have him over see the completion of the project. I am thinking a public/private partnership would work the best so that the government gets out of the golf course running business which the city has very little expertise in. The city and county do have the opportunity to make a first class golf facility for the whole area and the state of Wisconsin to enjoy. It would cause more tourism to the area especially with the Ho Chunk facility right next store. I have lived in Madison since 1969. I have played all of the Madison area public golf courses every year since then. The one great thing about the game of golf is I am able to play the game with my children, grand children and great grand children!! It gets us all out of doors and enjoying nature.

I thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Terry K. Voice

From: Tom Stoebig <tstoebig@charter.net>

Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 1:35 PM

To: Golf Outings

Subject: RE: Community Input for City of Madison Golf Courses

The survey makes me angry because of the design of the questions. We know the problems facing the Golf Enterprise Fund as well as where the drain on revenues is occurring. The Golf Subcommittee already adopted a motion that ought to rule the day. If the city is unwilling to invest in keeping all four city golf courses open, then it needs to close all 36 holes at Yahara Hills, lay off most if not all of the seasonal staff currently devoted to Yahara Hills, and eliminate one of the two year-round golf "professionals". That action just might lead to positive balances to the Golf Enterprise Fund in the future. Do me a big favor, and share that with the task force.

From: Don Marx <donmarx@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 1:24 PM

To: Golf Outings

Subject: Re: Community Input for City of Madison Golf Courses

Nothing in this e-mail i.e survey has anything to do with golf and my opinion .

I am a retired School Teacher /Former long time Golf Coach here in Madison.

I have associated with High School Golf and the State of Wisconsin golf situation since the early 80's

No one in Madison (Parks) has ever asked me what I think)

Only golf pros, and special appointed people have had a say.

I have dealt with more kids and many, many adults during my long life of golf in Madison.

Check out my plaque at U-Ridge on the Hall Of Fame Wall!!!!

Thanks in advance; Don Marx

From: Ircink <ircink@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf Inquiry

Hello,

I just completed the Community Input Survey for the purposes of informing the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks. Since there was not a final comment section on the survey, I wanted to share my comments regarding “considering other users and uses of the public space.” My comment is that should a decision be made to close a course or anyway lessen the current land that the courses are on, that this land not be used for commercial or residential real estate. I recommend this land be converted into public park space where many recreational opportunities for multiple users would be available.

Thank you.

Fran Ircink
Madison, WI

From: jerryhermanson@charter.net <jerryhermanson@charter.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:24 AM

To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Brinza, Ryan <RBrinza@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program

Contact Information:

=====
Name: Jerry Hermanson

Street Address:

1818 Dondee Road

Madison, WI 53716

Phone: 608-577-9197

Email: jerryhermanson@charter.net

Comments / Questions:

=====
Subject: Golf Program

Comments / Questions:

If the city would have addressed golf course conditions years ago we wouldn't be in this situation. If the city gave half the consideration to the golf courses that is given to bike paths the courses would be in great shape. If the city would like to raise extra money for some restoration on these projects they could consider selling off some of the city parks that are mowed and maintained every week but are seldom, if ever, used. I'm sure some developers would pay big bucks for some of those properties. It's a crying shame that the city would even consider selling off the Monona Golf Course so someone could build another strip mall.

From: Bob Newton <rcnewtonrc@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:36 PM

To: Golf Outings

Subject: Re: Community Input Requested for City of Madison Golf Courses

I was hoping that there might be a place to comment on the current state of the city courses and possible courses of action concerning the future of the courses. The questions asked have little to do with my views.

As for options going forward, I would suggest maintaining Gelnoway, Monona, and Odana as they currently exist and find some sort of mixed use option for Yahara, perhaps making the wetlands area into a wildlife park, along the lines of Turville, and making the rest into an 18 or 27 hole course. It is particularly useful for high school golf teams and for those looking to book outings. If Yahara could be made into an eco-friendly course with walking only, it might work better in concert with a wildlife park and still be available to high school students.

Another option would be to solicit support from American Family and the local professional golfers, namely Steve Stricker, Jerry Kelly, and Andy North to launch a capital fundraising campaign to help rehabilitate Yahara.

From: Michael W. Coenen <steamfittermike@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 3:43 PM

To: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Chandra Miller Fienen <chandra@startingblockmadison.org>; dsteinbring@gmail.com; James Kopp <jekopp.wi@outlook.com>; noelopezwi@outlook.com; Veronica Vega <veronica@blwcenter.org>; Bill Barker <barker.bill@gmail.com>; Henak, Zachary <district10@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Madison Golf

Task force members,

I went to the public input meetings for the golf task and tried to speak about Madison Parks mismanagement of the cities courses. I didn't succeed in finishing my thoughts because I get to fired up trying to speak at these meetings. The solutions being offered all include closing courses, to me this is unacceptable. With some proper management, which includes some cost cutting measures I believe we can keep all the courses open. I am 4 years into my retirement and the parks dept. wants to bail on 2 of my favorite courses. One of the biggest problems in Madison golf is nobody in parks understands golf. The bad decision making goes back for as long as I can remember. Most of the supervisors that have been hired are more worried about their jobs than actually managing the facilities for long term sustainability. We need to stop making bad maintenance decisions and stop losing money. Saving money is the same as making money. Next we have to stop losing rounds. Closing 18 holes at Yahara will kill the high school and junior golf tourneys or you will be closing it to public play.

I have held a season pass or loyalty card going back over 40 years. When I travel I play muni golf where ever I go because I believe in supporting municipal golf. Munis provide golfing opportunities to juniors and seniors on fixed incomes and your everyday working class golfers at a reasonable rate. I have played in Dallas, San Antonio, New Orleans, Chattanooga, Milwaukee Co. and many more. What they all have in common is a minimalist feel, from minimal club house staffing to reasonable playing conditions. Monona and Glenway have that same feel, not Odana and especially not Yahara Hills. Yahara generated a lot of revenue in the past and it may again. Right now it needs to be run like a business with financial issues. Run like a muni, spend money wisely and save where you can.

Yahara's club house is continually over staffed. The culture of the course playing like Augusta National has been going on for years. The fairways don't need to be mowed so close, the lower you mow the more often you have to mow for the health of the turf. Mowing heights should be brought up and mowing schedules cut back, to cut costs. The same applies to the tee plates and aprons. The amount of acreage put in no mow could be greatly increased. The decision to install the sprinkler system with heads down both sides of the fairway should never have been made. Double watering fairways and watering the rough is an extravagance we didn't need. With our average annual rainfall

the rough will be fine on it's own. Going forward as heads fail they should be replaced with heads that only water the fairway. Watering should only take place if rainfall is below 1" a week. The biggest maintenance issue at Yahara that has been ignored for years is the drainage. The broken drain tile needs to be fixed and the flow to the west needs to be restored. There used to be visible flow now there isn't even a seep. These items should have been addressed when they came up, not ignored. I call this demolition thru neglect. We have lost thousands of rounds because the course is closed or unplayable. Mr. Knepp says he has good relationship with the Ho Chunk, has he ever discussed a possible solution. Has anybody? We don't need to move yards of dirt around, I think these 2 items will go a long way to fix the problem. The next item is the compaction of all the turf. In the past the whole property was aerated every fall. The cores were just left to over winter on their own and we just played around them. This hasn't been done for years and it shows. The better the turf breathes the better the water will soak into the ground where it belongs. The next money loser is the bunkers. Two years ago they rebuilt some of the bunkers with new drains but they were refilled with the same cheap sand they have been buying for years. This sand has too many clay fines in it and the clay filters down and plugs up the drain. The freshly rebuilt bunkers are failing already. Pennywise pound foolish. This same mistake has been made for the life of the course, please stop. Our area was more than 14 inches above normal for rainfall each of the last 2 years yet the sprinkler sys. was still fully charged going into November. This system should be shut down in Sep. Why are we wasting the electricity? No oversight!

The bureaucratic culture of ignoring maintenance issues until it becomes OMG we have to do something is the root of the problem. Mr. Knepp reported Madison Golf hasn't turned a profit since 2004, so we just muddled along for 15 years and now the only solutions are course closures. This is unacceptable! We don't need new club houses, we need timely maintenance on what we have. Home owners don't do this neither should Parks. The city doesn't allow landlords to demo a property thru neglect neither should Parks. I have a long list of managerial items but I will stop for now.

Golf is great recreation with wonderful life lessons. Kids that learn to play golf make better life decisions. Madison Parks golf is a gem that has been left in the mud. Please reconsider the path that you are on.

Thank you,
Michael W. Coenen

From: **Susie Madden** <susiemadden65@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2020 at 9:38 AM

Subject: Please do not reopen golf courses!

To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: <district4@cityofmadison.com>

Hello,

Despite the fact that Governor Evers' extended safer-at-home order allows for the reopening of golf courses, I feel strongly that the City of Madison should NOT reopen public golf courses.

In this time of human suffering, and with City golf courses being a money-losing operation, reopening courses would send the wrong message to city residents and non-residents. At \$15-\$50 per person, golf is a game that few people can afford.

This is not the time to be granting exclusive use of City lands to wealthy golfers. If anything, the courses should be kept available for walking and relaxing -- something almost everyone can enjoy.

I urge you not to open City golf courses while safer-at-home orders are in effect. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susie Madden
111 N Hamilton St., #203
Madison, WI 53703

From: noreply@cityofmadison.com <noreply@cityofmadison.com> On Behalf Of Webadmin
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 8:10 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Mayor

Submitted on Friday, May 8, 2020 - 8:10am

Name: Gerry Roesing

Address: 9801 Hill Creek dr., Verona, WI, 53593 Home Phone: (608) 848-1123 Work Phone:

Email: garoesing@aol.com

Message:

Hello Mayor,

I am writing about today's WSJ article about City golf courses. As noted, golf course usage is way up. I live on a golf course and have marveled at the tremendous surge of golfers once it was allowed. Lots of Golfers walking here also.

My point is this. I have long felt that there will be a new "normal" once the pandemic is behind us. That people will revert to a more simple lifestyle. Including a return to more golfing. So, before going ahead and making any decisions as to what should be done to make the city golf courses more profitable, please hold off and see what the balance sheet looks like at the end of this year. There may be no need to address any shortfall as there may not even be one anymore. Also, would you please forward my comments to the committee studying this issue? I do not know how to contact them. Thank you.

Gerry Roesing

City of Madison resident

From: jf.heinowski@gmail.com <jf.heinowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Brinza, Ryan <RBrinza@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program

Contact Information:

=====
Name: john heinowski
Street Address:
1618 tarragon d 1618 tarragon dr.
madison, WI 53716
Phone: 223 5103
Email: jf.heinowski@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

=====
Subject: Golf Program

Comments / Questions:

my recommendation to the golf task force is this close glenway, and close down 9 holes at yahara...before this task force, why was there no interest in in the golf courses in general, are golf courses considered to be step children in the park system? Yahara is our east side country club in disguise,yes it gets wet but lets keep it.Thanks for you and you're love of golf Par 4!

From: [PATRICK E. MCBRIDE](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf Task Force Recommendations
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:40:35 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am a resident of Madison WI since 1984 and have played golf on the public courses since 1984 every year. I suggest the following:

1. Sell 9 holes at Yahara Golf Course
2. Raise rates as possible to close the gap in revenue

It is vital to keep Glenway and Monona golf courses open for youth to learn this wonderful outdoor activity, and for others, such as seniors and beginners to have a place to play.

Odana and Yahara golf courses are vital for true championship golf courses for the more serious golfers in a grow community. Continue these important vital resources in a livable city!

Many of us, such as myself, a retired community mentor, can not afford a private golf membership.

Thank you

Patrick McBride
5114 Lake Mendota Drive Madison 53705

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From: [Charles Stern](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:54:24 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am 72 years old. Grew up 2 blocks from Glenway. Still play there often. For older and somewhat stiffer players like me the shorter yardage is important.

Charles Stern

From: [Peter Thomas](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Comment on agenda item for May 18th golf task force meeting.
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:59:04 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Opening golf courses during Coronavirus:

I have been in Arizona since October. The golf course is here never closed. They did employ some rather unique rules that allowed for safe golfing. I think your task force should consider employing these rules and open all courses up.

- 1) They inserted into each golf hole a small slice of foam or PVC piping. So when the ball was putted into the hole you could easily pull it out without grabbing or touching the PIN. Nobody ever touched the pins. Some courses even took out and reinserted the metal golf cup upside down, it allows for the same thing.
- 2) they only book every other tea time in order to limit golfers and spread out the groups.
- 3) They sanitized each golf cart before and after someone used it.
- 4) they allowed one person per cart, even encouraged it.
- 5) they removed or covered all ball washers divot repair jugs, and water coolers.
- 6) almost all tee times were paid for online. You Did not have to go into the clubhouse. The person checking you in never touched your bag, you put it on and off the cart. all you did was verbally check on W/ them before golfing.
- 7) they encourage everyone to bring some sanitizing wipes, and wipe down the scorecard the scoring pencil Etc.
- 8) everyone was careful not to pick up you're playing partners ball, club, etc so you never touched anything that wasn't yours.

Peter Thomas
Monona, Wi
608 436 0120
petethomasedj@gmail.com

From: [KEVIN CAMPBELL](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Yahara
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 2:02:26 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please don't close Yahara. It's the only championship course we have. The other courses have more valuable land anyway.

Thanks. Kevin

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Patrick Delmore](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Keep golf courses open
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 2:09:04 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I have lived in Madison over 45 years and own a house. I have played golf on Madison courses over 25 times a season for 30 years. The city heavily subsidizes the Overture Center and Monona Terrace while golf courses are not subsidized and pay PILOT. This is an equity issue. Golf courses offer low cost recreation to moderate and low income residents, unlike the higher cost options available at the subsidized Overture and Monona Terrace sites. Please keep the courses open. Thank you. Pat Delmore 601 Seven Nations Drive Madison 53713
Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [Doug Duncan](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: No Benches at Odana.
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 2:27:32 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Last Thursday I walked 18 (fairly hot day), fortunately had two bottles of water with me but finished them off by 12. I knew I was getting dehydrated (and was wishing for some sort of bottle stop or vending machine on the course, but knew there weren't any). I really just wanted to sit down. Alas, no benches. Anywhere. (Unless you count the toilet seat in the portable toilets). By 15, I finally just flopped on my back on the tee box. Glad it wasn't wet.

I assume the reason for no benches is so no one sits together. Seems to me we can figure out that if we sit we should keep same 6' as when we're walking... especially if you put "warning" or "reminder" signs on the bench. Or just a sign that says "one person at a time on the bench" should do it.

So couldn't we have a bench like every three holes if not every hole ... with reminder signs?

No water, No benches. That's a tough go for walkers. Especially the number of retired folk, like me. (Age 71), who play Odana. Next time I'll bring three bottles of water, but I really don't want to resort to a power cart just because there's nowhere to sit on the course.

thanks for your consideration.

~~ Douglas M. Duncan ~~

From: [GEORGE PASDIRTZ](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Cc: billnitzke@gmail.com; gtridley81@gmail.com; [Thomas Scott](#); jimlazarz@gmail.com; denny.gustin@jarocco26@gmail.com
Subject: Reducing Expenses at Municipal Golf Courses
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:20:10 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Task Force Members:

Golf course closures and consolidations are going to happen. At the same time it would be useful to experiment with ways to reduce expenses and allow the remaining Municipal courses to break even and remain open. Possibly Madison would be interested in experimenting on one of the courses before it ends up being closed.

Here is a proposal:

<<https://golffactsfictionssystems.blogspot.com/2019/01/how-to-fix-it-az-golf-course-closes.html>>

Although the proposal is for an Arizona course, with a consolidated spreadsheet showing the major expenses on Madison courses, the proposal could easily be modified. It may also be possible to partner with one of the major Golf Associations in the experiment.

Thanks you for your consideration.

George W. Pasdirtz
Longtime Madison golfer.

From: [ian gaylor](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf Task Force Options
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:42:49 PM

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Dear Task Force Members:

Thanks for all your work.

My opinion: If you have to close a course, please choose Yahara. I personally love Glenway and Odana. I golf there in the summer and ski in the winter. I know many residents who feel the same way towards Monona.

Yahara seems to have long term issues, such as drainage, that would be difficult and very expensive to correct.

Thanks for considering my two cent's worth!

Ian Gaylor
318 S. Owen Drive
Madison 53705

Sent from my iPhone

From: [patricia smith](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Madison golf courses
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:03:17 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As an avid sports person and long term golfer I fail to see why the golf community cannot receive some level of support from the city. Middleton has done a much better job supporting Pleasant View Golf course than what Madison has done supporting its golf courses. As the population ages support for green space where people can exercise, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors makes a lot of sense. If all of the current golf courses cannot be supported then I would be in favor of selling one of the 18 hole courses at Yahara and use the \$\$ to help improve the other 18 hole course as well as the other courses in the city. Thank you

From: [James Reinke](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Monona golf course
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:11:10 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am a senior citizen and have only golfed for about 3 years. I have only golfed at Monona golf course. The grounds crew do a great job getting the course looking good. The high school kids from Monona Grove and La Follette schools use the course and is walking distance from the schools. They also have a great 1st start program for the young kids.

Please keep this course open
Jim Reinke

From: [Peter McNamara](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Monomaniacs
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 6:27:58 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please keep Monona golf course open!

Peter McNamara

Sent from my iPhone

From: ckaether@charter.net
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf course decisions
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:02:23 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

MY THOUGHTS (I am 71 years old, a graduate of Madison schools, have been a Madison area resident and avid golfer since age 23, have an 8 handicap, play WSGA events every summer, and have coached HS golf)

1. Your task force represents ALL of Madison parks and recreation activities. I would hope that you decide to keep ALL present courses operational. However if you find cost effective, common sense reasons that necessitate golfing opportunities needing to be reduced, then I would suggest that Yahara be the first facility to be reduced (to 18?)
2. ACCESSIBILITY: Monona, Glenway, and Odana are all accessible by bus, bike, walking. None of these options are available for golfers desiring to play at Yahara.
3. MAINTENANCE COSTS. Monona and Glenway are both 9 hole courses. Odana is 18 holes. Yahara has 36 holes requiring the highest expense to the city (also major issues with drainage and sand traps)
4. OFFERINGS: Monona, Glenway, and Odana provide many more opportunities for beginners and players of all ages, junior programs, MARGA (senior mens) events and play, women's events and play. Both Monona and Glenway provide manageable, enjoyable, affordable RECREATIONAL golf opportunities for residents of ALL ages.
5. BALANCE: West side opportunities in Madison or NEARBY: ODANA, GLENWAY, VITENSE, PLEASANT VIEW
South side: 9 SPRINGS, FOXBORO
East side: BRIDGES, 6 MILE CREEK
Monona/east side: MONONA, YAHARA, DOOR CREEK, THE OAKS

Golf is a LIFETIME RECREATIONAL activity that can be enjoyed as an individual, as a family, as a group of friends, as a charitable fundraiser, as leagues, and many other reasons for people of all ability levels. You are charged with providing the city of Madison residents and all others who visit this wonderful city with as many positive recreational activities as possible. Madison is known for its wide variety of recreational opportunities that continues to make it a highly recognized place to live and visit. Golf can and is a big attraction for many. I urge you to maintain the present level of commitment to golf. If not, then please consider my reasons and recommendations. Monona and Glenway must continue to exist!!! Madison is not in need of another real estate development if that is the intended use to replace these golf properties. Feel free to contact me. I hope to watch your virtual meeting.

Respectfully- Bill Kaether 608-575-3412.
bkaether@charter.net

From: [Jim Wedde](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: golf task force suggestion
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:58:31 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

IF half, or more, of the cost to upgrade the 4 golf courses is needed at Yahara, the solution is clear. SELL YAHARA. I'm sure the Ho-Chunk would be interested in the property, since it would tie nicely with the casino.

To me, Yahara is like the car that has a lot of miles on it and is starting to nickel-and-dime on repairs. Better to trade it in/sell it off than pour more money into it.

Thank you!

Jim Wedde
187 Robinson Road
Oregon, WI

I am a regular golfer at Odana Hills, a member of the Gisholt League that plays there on Mondays.

From: [Thomas Kuchenbecker](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Yahara Course Future
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 9:16:23 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings

I sent a letter re my views for the future of Yahara in March and now want to reiterate some thoughts since I will be playing in a league at Yahara on Mon evening, the same date as the virtual meeting.

I urge the committee to take a long term view on the positive prospects for Yahara rather than focus on the recent past negative results. Much of the decline in play at Yahara in recent years can be attributed to poor management and neglect of course maintenance. Despite this, there has been a resurgence of play at Yahara and the other courses this spring. The virus situation is a big factor with golf being one of the few activities people can play and maintain social distancing. This is not likely to completely resolve in future years and I believe this will result in a resurgence in golf play everywhere.

The planned frontage road and interchange construction along the course will make access to the course and the nearby casino much easier and safer. The planned casino hotel will also attract more visitors there for longer stays. This is perfect for joint promotion of both facilities, golf during the day at Yahara, gamble and stay overnight at the casino. Also, Yahara can be a big draw for large corporate outings and tournaments with it being the only 36 hole course in the region plus having a nearby hotel.

The only factor holding back this bright future is needed maintenance and upgrades to the course which should have been done routinely as years passed by. I believe closing Yahara or reducing the number of holes is a very short term fix and narrow minded approach on solving a current budget problem at the expense of neglecting the long term future prospects and needs of the city. This spring shows there is great interest in golf as a recreational activity and Madison is supposedly a city that places great emphasis on providing recreation for its citizens and desires to be first class in all things. Finally, reducing golf and recreation in a city with a continued growing population seems counter intuitive.

Respectively
Thomas Kuchenbecker

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From: [Jeffrey Schimpff](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Public Comments on May 18 meeting, Agenda Item 6 - Unfinished Business
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 10:14:45 AM

Hello,

Please consider my comments regarding Task Force Deliberation, Discussion, and Possible Recommendations, discussion item 9227.

I am led to believe that there are currently more golf holes available on City of Madison municipal golf courses than there is current demand for, and that as a result golf requires significant taxpayer-funded subsidies.

I also recognize and have long opposed the use of various pesticides in maintaining a comparatively sterile landscape on golf courses. The use of pesticides is generally harmful to a wide range of native biota, and represents a threat of contamination of our city drinking water supplies. The Regent Neighborhood, for one, appears to be an area epidemiologists could label a "hot spot" due to the number of reported unusual cancers, including the brain cancer glioblastoma, that have been fatal to residents of the area over at least the past two decades.

Note that I do recognize that while there appears to be an observed association in medical literature between pesticide use and cancers and other ailments in humans, it is very difficult so far to demonstrate a causation. I do want to stress, however, that the "Precautionary Principle" of science dictates that we should be reducing our exposure to pesticides to the fullest degree possible.

Assuming there is less demand than the current array of golf courses can supply, then I favor an option that does not necessarily close Glenway Golf Course, but that eliminates pesticide use.

My primary recommendation is that the Golf Task Force conclude that a combination of factors indicate that Glenway is no longer needed as a golf course of any style. This public land would be perfectly suitable for conversion to an oak savanna landscape, with some area designated as an off-leash dog park. It would also be a great place for a network of mountain bike/cyclocross trails, especially because it is immediately adjacent to the Southwest Path, to which it could easily be connected. These trails can be used for skiing in winter, which is a common current use of the fairways and woods edges.

My second choice - while I am no golf expert, is based on my understanding that so-called Scottish-style courses need little or no pesticide - would be that Glenway be revegetated to make it a collage of native vegetation with truly rough roughs, and a minimal amount of fairways and greens of high-maintenance grass. Some vegetation could be native blueberries, strawberries, wild asparagus and other edibles, so golfers and others could stop for a quick snack.

Remaking Glenway and possibly other municipal golf courses might serve to stimulate increased participation in off-path cycling, or golf. Most importantly, it would protect drinking water quality for the wells both to the north and south of Speedway Boulevard, in the

Lake Mendota and Lake Wingra watersheds.

Sincerely,
Jeff Schimpff
Madison

From: [Gordon Ridley](#)
To: [GEORGE PASDIRTZ](#)
Cc: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#); billnitzke@gmail.com; [Thomas Scott](#); jimlazarz@gmail.com; denny.gustin; jarocco26@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Reducing Expenses at Municipal Golf Courses
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 10:38:43 AM

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this should definitely be on the table for Madison restructuring. Yahara Hills has done part of this defacto: they don't maintain fairway bunkers much any more so you better hit the green or the fairway. Water is still cheap here, shouldn't be but lot of it around. (Oil cheap enough now to oil all the greens but that won't last for long.)

Golf is a tough game to learn and more poor lies will frustrate beginners and some better golfers too, but like you say, do you want something affordable to play or not have the facility at all? Gordon

On Thu, May 14, 2020 at 3:20 PM GEORGE PASDIRTZ <pasdirtz@wisc.edu> wrote:

Task Force Members:

Golf course closures and consolidations are going to happen. At the same time it would be useful to experiment with ways to reduce expenses and allow the remaining Municipal courses to break even and reman open. Possibly Madison would be interested in experimenting on one of the courses before it ends up being closed.

Here is a proposal:

<<https://golffactsfictionssystems.blogspot.com/2019/01/how-to-fix-it-az-golf-course-closes.html>>

Although the proposal is for an Arizona course, with a consolidated spreadsheet showing the major expenses on Madison courses, the proposal could easily be modified. It may also be possible to partner with one of the major Golf Associations in the experiment.

Thanks you for your consideration.

George W. Pasdirtz
Longtime Madison golfer.

From: jgurriell@charter.net
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Keep Monona in play in bounds
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 4:05:34 PM

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Due to my abilities I can handle playing at Monona. I do need to use a golf cart too. I like the idea of Dane Co, helping out to maintain these courses. Yahara was great during dry summers, not so w/this excessive rain which will probably continue for a long time, so thats a BIG issue. Please maintain as many courses as possible, this is the only time I actually feel like I'm retired. I've been through 2 major surgeries, lucky I can still play. It's good exercise too. GL make it happen, TY Jeff Gurriell

From: [Janet Murphy](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Natural golf courses?
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:29:24 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Golf Task Force,

I think we could put Madison on the map if we had one or more natural golf courses. It would be a somewhat different game, but I think many would find it more interesting and beautiful, and less sterile and artificial. It would also be much cheaper to maintain, and much less polluting.

Why don't we try it before closing courses? Glenway would be the good choice to start with because of its location by a neighborhood, bike path and natural areas. I might even golf again!

Regards,
Janet Murphy

From: [Judy and Amy](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Save Monona Golf Course
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:58:46 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Golf Task Force Members,

I sent you an email in April, but I did not see it among the emails in the attachments to the agenda for your May 18, 2020 meeting, so I will reiterate my thoughts here. I should also let you know that the summary of the March 5, 2020 meeting at which the public was invited to make written and oral comments is not a good representation of the oral comments made at the meeting. I myself spoke, but I was not listed as a speaker and my comments were not summarized in the document. In addition, there were several other speakers whose names and comments were not included. Most, if not all, of us whose comments were omitted spoke in favor of saving Monona Golf Course. It is very distressing to see that the summary of oral comments does not fairly present that sentiment.

As a long time east side of Madison resident and golf enthusiast, I strongly urge you to save Monona Golf Course. The key reasons are as follows:

1. As a matter of fairness and equity, the east side of Madison should have an easily accessible, affordable neighborhood golf course, and Monona Golf Course is it. The west side has two, Odana and Glenway. Yahara is certainly not a neighborhood course, and it is not easily accessible. The need for an east side neighborhood golf course is even more imperative when considering all of the housing construction going on on the east side, as some of the new residents will undoubtedly be golfers.
2. It is my understanding that The First Tee of South Central Wisconsin teaches more kids at Monona Golf Course than at any other municipal course. Many, if not most, of the kids are underprivileged. Presumably, it would be a hardship for their parents to get them to other courses. As you may know, First Tee not only teaches the kids golf but also helps them with learning skills and other skills needed for a successful life. The positive ripple effects from this program are part of the value of Monona Golf Course and would probably be lost if this golf course were to disappear.
3. Monona Golf Course has a driving range, the best driving range of the municipal courses in my opinion. Glenway does not have a driving range, a serious shortcoming. Many golfers like to practice in order to improve, and that means going to a driving range. Also, if we want to encourage new golfers, there have to be driving ranges where they can learn and practice. New golfers should not play on a course until they have had adequate practice, so we need driving ranges. And a course that has a driving range is ideal. Monona Golf Course is challenging yet short enough for a newer golfer to play. At Monona new golfers (as well as seasoned ones) have the opportunity to practice and then play the course--all in one location.
4. Monona Golf Course drains better than any of the other municipal courses. It has rarely ever closed during golf season, even with torrential rains and flooding. This means fewer golf days lost and less lost income.

5. Monona Golf Course is an east side gem, and we eastsiders would like to keep it. It is part of our wonderful quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on the task force.

Amy F. Scarr

280 Division St., #305
Madison, WI 53704
608-335-6610

From: [Reid Pappas](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020 7:02:28 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I have been a lifelong Madison Municipal Course player for over 30 years. I find it incredible that there was not a financial plan to update capital equipment and facilities. No company or municipality can run without appropriate maintenance and upgrades to industry standards. How did we get here? I think I have a couple thoughts on that

1. Poor clubhouse aesthetics. By not keeping the clubhouses up to date, comfortable, better HVAC and updated restrooms. Kitchens need to be able to prepare high quality food and service needs to be quick. None of this is happening now. Outdated aesthetics, minimal service, uncomfortable temperature in some of the clubhouses because of inadequate air conditioning. This would also inspire people to have events at the courses (weddings, scrambles, holiday parties).

2. Poor on course service. It is crazy to think of the number of times I've not encountered a beverage cart. Easy money and soft drinks and alcohol have great profit margins.

I hate to see any of the courses go but if one must Glenway makes the most sense to me. It is prime real estate. The neighborhood it is in has some very high home values and I would think the city could make a lot of money on it and use that money to improve the 3 remaining courses.

Thanks for taking my input into consideration.

Reid Pappas

From: [Gemma Gliori](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Monona Golf Course
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020 8:48:59 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to implore you to consider the impact to the East Side community, if Monona Golf Course is closed.

1. Because it is located in the middle of town, this course is easily accessible to both the young and old golfers, skiers, and walkers.
2. Monona has many leagues, some of which are over 40 years old.
3. Monona has a driving range, which is great for experienced and new golfers.
4. Monona drains better than any other city course and is rarely closed during golf season.
5. Monona Golf Course enhances the quality of life on Madison's east side.

Experts are saying that COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future. With certain precautions in place, golf becomes one of the safest outdoor activities the people can enjoy. This is no time to take away the only community course East sider have available to them.

Thank you for your consideration.
Gemma Gliori

From: [DarwinThompson](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Task Force Meeting 5-18-20
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020 9:10:44 AM

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1. When Dan Staypay was Parks Director he had generated a fund that was in excess of \$500,000.00 for golf courses, that was then used for OTHER city projects, now the CITY is scrambling for funds to update courses.
2. Yahara Hills is the only city run golf course that has it's own water supply, not needing t0o use city water to maintain their course. This is a big savings on a dry summer.
3. The city would probably get a better deal closing Monona than any other course and selling that parcel of land.
4. Do a better job of selling the use of all city golf courses. Daily or weekly ads in the Capital Times and/or Wisconsin State Journal.
5. Bring back the PGA Professionals to run the courses and manage the club houses and golf cart rentals, golf instructions.

Darwin Thompson

From: [Stangl, Pamela](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Support for Monona Golf Course
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020 9:43:20 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To: The Madison Golf Task Force

I strongly oppose any proposal to close the Monona Golf Course.

I'm a resident of the east-side of Madison, having lived in the area for over 30 years. I have been an avid user, supporter and volunteer of Madison Parks and Rec during this time. I have been a year-round user of the Monona course for over 15 years as a member of the women's Swing and Ms league, as an individual golfer, and in the past as a cross-country skier. I am a current member of the Adopt the Ice volunteer and help maintain the Olbrich ice rink.

Over the past few years I have followed the problems the City has with keeping all the city golf courses open. As I see it, the future of any sport is getting the young interested. Those who play a sport in their youth more often continue to play as an adult. The Monona course is in a prime location available to the neighborhood children and a safe and easy location for parents to drop their kids off for instruction and play. It's a great location for the high school golf teams to compete and for the cross country running teams to train. Additionally the Monona course drains the best of all 4 city courses and never closed during some of our most wet springs/summers. It is in wonderful shape for play other than some neglected sand traps. It's length of play is much better suited for young, older, female and true recreational golfers. It is a wonderful neighborhood green space that benefits the neighborhood, the community and the city. Unfortunately none of the above facts fit the Yahara course.

In these unusual times we are very lucky to be able to use and enjoy our city parks and golf courses, golf being one of the few sports available. Parks are what makes a city great. City courses allow golf to be an affordable sport, giving more diverse populations an opportunity to play. I feel there needs to be more thought given to this problem and sacrificing a great eastside neighborhood resource to save another resource is not a solution. More thought should be given to other solutions of revenue if the city is not willing to change the budgeting to assist in keeping the golf courses open. I do not support closing any of the courses but if there is no other alternative, then I feel that Yahara would be the course to be sacrificed either through full or partial closure.

I strongly oppose taking this beautiful neighborhood green space, Monona Golf Course.

Thank you for your time,

Pamela Stangl
3813 Margaret St
Madison, WI 53714

From: [Joanne Ruzicka](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Public comment on Madison golf courses
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020 2:07:29 PM

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These days, golf courses must maximize income with thinking of multi-purpose use of their spaces. Even churches now rent out their buildings to groups, when not in use for church business (Boy Scout groups, neighborhood meetings, other groups). The question of how the outdoor space and facilities at golf courses, can be used by other groups should be given much consideration.

Weddings at a golf course are wonderful. I have attended a couple weddings at golf courses and it has always been a lot of fun. A few tents and some extra plants look great with all the natural greenery. It also reminds the guests what a nice course it is and maybe that they haven't golfed there in awhile.

Private golf courses often have walking/ running paths that are separate from golf cart paths. Again make the space multiple use. Frisbee golf, cross country meets, offseason activities...

Yahara has had a nice food menu the last few years. Our golf league began staying after league and in addition to a beverage, most ladies ordered off the menu. It allowed us to get to know each other better and form closer relationships. Yahara could offer lunch specials to draw in more than just golfers for lunch.

I have been on the Madison Golf courses email list and received discount offers for golf. Special prices for golf need to be advertised more broadly, like in the paper. I see advertising from Pleasant View, Bridges, Door Creek. This is the competition. Many golfers need to feel they are "getting a deal". Offer lunch and golf deals - you will make money on the beverages that accompany the social time discussing those drives and memorable putts. Activities for beginner golfers should be especially encouraged. Many are nervous about their golf abilities and they can only improve with more practice at fun events.

Solicit company golf leagues for a variety of golf abilities (suggested fun events not just longest drive and things won by more experienced golfers).

Yahara golf course is a wonderful facility. I love the animal life you see almost every time you golf; deer, sandhill cranes, fox and lots of birds. There are features that could be promoted. It has a nice clubhouse and large parking lot.

Many City of Madison Park facilities are not self funded. The golf courses should not be held to a standard that other facilities are not.

Golfing adds to my well being by getting exercise AND encouraging me to keep my body in good shape so that I CAN golf.

Madison should consider how to promote Madison as a golf destination and use the assets it already has. The golf courses are a treasure not to be wasted.

Joanne Ruzicka

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kathleen Ricci](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Monday's hearing
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020 3:22:40 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear task force,

I support keeping all municipal going courses open, with the exception of Yahara.

I can be reached for additional information at: 637 Crandall Ave., Madison, WI 53711.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Ricci

From: [Peter Anderson](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Do Not close Monona Golf Course
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020 8:21:55 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I support option 2, either a or b. Please do not close Monona Golf Course. It is an important east side resource. The other options impact only the east side. Share the pain.

Pete Anderson

From: [David Michaelis](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf recommendations
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020 10:40:01 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am a life long City of Madison golfer. I have read the task force Scenarios but I recommend one more scenario: Sell off Yahara golf course completely and eliminate the Enterprise! Take the money from selling Yahara golf course and upgrade the 3 remaining courses (Monona, Glenway and Odana). These 3 courses are City of Madison course whereas Yahara has never been a City course.

David Michaelis

Sent from my iPad

From: [Mackenzie Arney](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Keep Glenway open
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020 10:49:20 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

We would like to submit a few positive comments about the Glenway course and hope that the City of Madison chooses to keep this course open.

- it is within walking distance of our home, which is a great benefit to us but everyone in the neighborhood or those might buy a home here later on
- the clubhouse and course are very well maintained
- the number of holes and the variety of par/distances is great, also it is very walkable which is appreciated to not have to rent a cart
- it is affordable to golf there
- if it were to close we would be very disappointed and probably golf less with the city

Thank you!

Mackenzie Arney and Andrew Behm

From: [Mark Brylski](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf Scenarios and Models
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020 11:27:32 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

All,

I wish I could be available for speaking, but I'll at least try to log-in and watch. My comments are below. If you wish to contact me, I am happy to answer any questions.

Golf Scenarios:

When I watched the Task Force come up with four scenarios, it was rather disappointing how little thought was given to the process. Members just spit out scenarios at the tail end of a meeting. And these quickly formulated scenarios only showed members bias and/or initial reactions. No thought or discussion was provided to any of the scenarios. How can the public judge the validity of this Task Force on such marginal input and information. The biggest problem with this is that there are many, many scenarios and not one from the public was even considered (because the public comment period had not yet happened.)

If the point of the scenarios was to check the feasibility of differing options, then that is fine, but that was not made clear to the public and certainly didn't seem to be the intention of the Task Force chair.

Looking at all the public comments, it is clear that people want their golf courses. If you had driven by Yahara Hills Golf Course these past few weekends, you would have seen the parking lots full (even with the pandemic restrictions.) So I suggest a slight variation on a number of scenarios out there: Monona should be made into a Par 3 course with the southwest corner of the course sold for development (from LaFollette's soccer fields to Monona Dr.) This preserves the parklike atmosphere, not to mention that many of the large, beautiful trees lining Monona Dr. would be preserved. Plus it would also provide a place where kids can bike for lessons. --- Yahara Hills then would become a 27 hole course with much of the lowland transformed into a natural area for wildlife and a place to control drainage problems. This natural area could have walking trails, and it may be that grants are available for restoration of wildlife habitat. I considered changing this to an 18 hole course, but after watching and experiencing certain events, you really need an extra 9 hole overflow option for golfers; plus golfers from Monona that still want a true golf experience (par 3, 4 & 5 holes) would be migrating to Yahara.

Management Models:

On a separate point regarding management models, the scenarios proposed only give two models. This is disappointing because it may be better to include Private or Lease to Private Management Models into the discussion/scenarios. For the past few months, I thought the best way to go was with the Park Department taking over, but recent events changed my mind. MARGA recently cancelled their leagues because the 'city' could not come up with a feasible way to collect fees. This seems completely ludicrous. If a company just threw away \$50000 to \$100000 - heads would roll. There should be an active discussion on management models because I'm not sure I could trust the city operating the courses. The city may do a good job controlling expenses, but it is completely inadequate for promoting and/or raising revenue.

Mark Brylski
6132 Dell Dr.

Madison 53718
608.347.3052

From: [Elaine Gundlach](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Save Monona Golf Course
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020 4:46:50 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My biggest fear in losing Monona Golf Course is that there is no other eastside golf course that is safely accessible for young golfers. Yahara and Bridges are not safe for young people to reach because of the highways, whereas kids can hop on their bikes and ride to Monona. My kids were able to bike to Monona for lessons and to play when I was at work. They still golf, and we need to encourage golf as a sport that you can enjoy your whole life. I'm still playing at 80, and I'm not the oldest person out there.

There are other reasons Monona should be saved- good drainage; a green space in the middle of a city; a manageable distance for golfers to walk; its closeness to Monona Grove and LaFollette High Schools for their golfers- but my biggest concern is having a safe golf course for young golfers.

Thanks,
Elaine Gundlach

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [George Campbell](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Keep our Golf
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020 5:16:39 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am aware that many of our local decision makers are not golfers. Madison supports and funds many of the parks and recreation activities that make the city an attractive place to live and work. I am puzzled that this support does not extend to the golf courses. It seems that we now must choose between options that all include cutting back on the golfing opportunities. If we want to save some of the cost of the indicated investments, please choose to upgrade the course conditions as opposed to upgrades to the clubhouses.

I am also wondering if Madison has explored joint cooperation with Dane County. Milwaukee Co. has some beautiful golf courses.

The long term gain in supporting our courses will be worth it.

George Campbell

From: [George Campbell](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf Options
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020 6:02:12 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My prior email did not address the options listed. Although I wonder why an option did not include closing Glenway and 9 Yahara holes, I would favor closing Monona and 9 Yahara holes as the least damaging to Madison golfers.
George Campbell

From: [Joseph Hart](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf courses
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 11:27:34 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I have never understood while city golf courses should not be supported by a tax-based subsidy, especially for the clubhouses, which are badly in need of an upgrade. Course revenue is dependent on weather, which no one can control. That said, Madison and Dane County have too many courses. My suggestion would be to close 18 holes at Yahara. I used to play there but Beltline traffic in the late afternoon is a deterrent for anyone on the west or southwest side, like me. Closing Monona or Glenway should be avoided. They are great for seniors and kids. As for Odana, fix up the clubhouse and the drainage issues on 12 and 15.

Joseph Hart
7125 Lindfield Rd
Madison 53719

Sent from my iPad

From: [Mary Braskamp](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Please save Monona
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 12:18:29 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

After taking my first golf lessons from MSCR, I joined a women's golf league in 1985. That league morphed into a co-ed group over the years, but was always a good way to socialize and continue regular play. That league, which was tied to Kraft/Oscar Mayer, disbanded so I joined another women's league (which was in existence before my former league was). It would be a shame to if leagues like this lost their home field, which has many advantages for those you choose to play there. Below are a few of those attributes:

-The east side of Madison deserves its own neighborhood golf course. The west side has two. Less drive time is important for many of us.

-Monona is a beautiful course that most people can walk and golfers of all skill levels and ages can play.

-Monona has a driving range, which is great for experienced and new golfers.

-Monona drains better than any other city course and is rarely closed during golf season.

-Monona Golf Course enhances the quality of life on Madison's east side.

Thanks for your consideration,
Mary Braskamp

From: [greg meyer](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: the 5/18/20 meeting for the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 1:50:32 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

When comparing Madison's population per 18 holes please employ sound analysis:

- Compare the population per PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 18 holes in Madison WI Metropolitona area - don't include country club holes.
- Compare the population per PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 18 holes in Madison WI to the National Average using only DESIRABLE metropolitan areas - i.e. the areas we want Madison to aspire to - there are plenty of poorly run metro areas with less desirable amenities such as inadequate public golf course accessibility, poorly run parks departments, etc. Let's not aspire to become these lesser equiped metro areas.

In fact, one shining example of well-run municipal golf facilities happens to be right next door in Middleton. If I were on the Task Force, I would ask the question "If Middleton can have public golf facilities that are state of the art, then why can't Madison?" I would also ask, "why was the previous form of Madison public course management (each course run by PGA Professionals under contract) so successful, and how is the current form of public course management producing results that are dramatically worse than before?"

- Greg

From: [greg meyer](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Do Not Close Any Courses!
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 2:15:55 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Can the City Parks Department up their game to properly manage all four courses? 20 years ago, when the pros were running things, Madison's public courses were one of the best bargains around. Great conditions, great pace of play, for a very decent price. Either ask the Parks staff do the job they are paid to do (by us taxpayers), or find a better way to keep all four courses in full play. A diverse array of facilities, amenities, and activities are currently subsidized in Madison, and public golf is one of these amenities that has helped make Madison such a desirable palce to live. Off season, these courses provide a secondary benefit for winter activites. Keep all four courses open as is.

From: [Patrick Blake](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Virtual Meeting Registration
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 2:16:54 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello.

I am in support of either scenario 3 or 4.

Yahara Hills golf course can be downsized and repurposed for disc golf and other park activities. My collaboration with Madison Parks in fall 2019 produced a temporary disc golf course on Yahara Hills golf course. The temporary 18-hole disc golf was set up on the back 9 of the West course. It was used for a professional disc golf tournament, the Glide Series Finale and for the Mad City Disc Golf Fall Picnic. It was a successful effort on an otherwise lost weekend for golf due to terrible weather and ground conditions.

Building off of this experience and my relationships with Parks Dept. there is a good foundation and direction at that location for a championship course.

Please reach out with questions and for more information.

Thank You!

Patrick Blake

Disc golf course designer

From: [City of Madison via City of Madison](#)

Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 1:56 PM

To: q_blake@hotmail.com

Subject: Virtual Meeting Registration

You have been registered for the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks meeting.

Date: 05/18/2020

Time: 6:00 pm

To join the meeting, please go to:

<https://zoom.us/j/92809493190?pwd=bXVvbTQwNFpZNU1QaWJWNkFuNGlVQT09>

Please enter your name and email exactly as you did when registering to speak.

Patrick Blake, q_blake@hotmail.com

We are hosting our virtual meetings on Zoom. You may need to download Zoom on a computer, or the Zoom mobile app on a phone. Please note that your device must be equipped with a microphone for you to speak.

During the meeting, all attendees are muted. The chairperson will call on attendees to speak as agenda items are discussed. When you are called on, staff will unmute your microphone. Click "OK" when Zoom asks you to confirm. At that time you will be able to speak on the agenda item.

To join the meeting via phone, please call:

(877) 853-5257

Webinar ID 928-0949-3190

If you plan to call in via phone, please call 30 minutes before the meeting starts so the meeting hosts can identify you as a speaker.

From: [John Lasky](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Madison Parks golf
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 2:19:54 PM
Attachments: [Coronavirus Watch Updates on active cases and how Wisconsin is responding to the pandemic: your daily coronavirus briefing.eml.msg](#)

Following are written comments on the above subject.

1. As long as city policy is to allocate fixed costs to city golf courses, and expect to make a profit, the courses will be perceived as money losing operations, and one or more of them will inevitably have to close. How much profit is made from bike trails, dog parks and city recreation programs? The courses are beneficial by providing green space, recreation opportunities (including x-c skiing) and habitat for wildlife.
2. Take a good look at selling Yahara Hills to the Ho-Chunk. There are two problems with the course: the design is not popular, and it is built on more wetland than we realized a few years ago. A different owner could redevelop the course into a high quality 18 hole venue much friendlier to the average golfer. The existing infrastructure allows a redesign project to be done faster, and at a fraction of the usual cost to build a course. They could design around the lowest areas and restore large amounts of wetlands. They could also upgrade the clubhouse into a quality food and banquet facility. The Ho-Chunk would welcome the opportunity to expand their casino operations to include gaming tables, and many native american tribes have developed successful casino-golf destinations.
3. In the meantime, Dane county should be asked to contribute to the Madison golf program, and users who live outside of Dane County should pay a little more.

John Lasky
Madison

From: [Rob Wixson](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: May 18th meeting
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 4:55:29 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I would like to register to support a position not currently an option before the committee. The recent pandemic has shown the need for golf as a social outlet. This weekend's rain probably exacerbate the conditions at Yahara.

I believe a practical first step is to reroute Yahara into an 18 hole course and nine hole course or three nine hole courses like Pleasant View. The nine hole eliminated should come from the problem portions of the course.

Removing the problem portions of the course from play allows for elimination of expensive repairs and maintenance. There is no need to close Monona or invest heavily in its infrastructure. People are content to simply play that delightful course.

Rob Wixson
3817 Council Crest
Madison, WI 53711

From: [Adam Clausen](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Comments
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 6:42:16 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To the City of Madison Task Force on Municipal Golf,

I am an east side resident (53718), person of color, pastor of a local church, avid golfer, even greater golf fan, and strong advocate and activist for youth and communities of color. I understand the quality of life reasons many residents offer in support of keeping Madison's golf course, especially east side ones. I'd like to offer my thoughts.

Yahara - I believe the Yahara Golf Course should be re-purposed and re-zoned. The condition of that course is not worth the investment, especially given the east side market. The Oaks and Door Creek, even The Bridges, are nicer courses and worth their price.

Odana - I think Odana should be kept and invested in to upgrade its design and condition.

Glenway - I think Glenway should also be kept and invested in to upgrade its design and condition.

Monona - This one we should get creative with because of the east side "quality of life", equitable access, and continued east side golf arguments. I do not think the Monona Golf Course should stay a 9-hole course, but INSTEAD, the city should turn the entire property into a high-tech driving range, similar to Top Golf sites around the country, or even what Vitense has done to their site. It can also offer mini golf. The driving range (including bunker greens and putting greens) should be accessible to Madison LaFollette and Madison East High School golf teams, with priority access. They share a football field, so they could share a golf training facility. This allows the First Tee programs or other access-oriented programs to continue AND be enhanced. This plan would also allow family-oriented recreation with features like a mini golf course. A golf professional could also staff the driving range for paid lessons. Keeping this site as a 9-hole golf course is really just appealing to the aging Madison/Monona residents, and NOT worth the long-term investment. This new idea I'm proposing would become a staple attraction on the east side, and allow Monona to build other restaurant businesses in the area.

I would be happy to talk with someone about these ideas but I believe this is the only fiscally reasonable decision for our city's golf courses.

Thanks for your work,
Adam Clausen

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Fwd: Golf Taskforce Meeting 5/18/20
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:02:11 AM

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This email came to me directly, so I am forwarding to the official task force to be included in the record.

Chandra

Chandra Miller Fienen
Executive Director



www.startingblockmadison.org

Need a meeting? Find a time that works for you [here](#).

Did you know StartingBlock is searching for its next Executive Director? Details [here](#).

[COVID RESOURCE LIST](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <scottst33@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, May 19, 2020 at 6:54 AM
Subject: Golf Taskforce Meeting 5/18/20
To: chandra@startingblockmadison.org <chandra@startingblockmadison.org>
<chandra@startingblockmadison.org>

Chandra,

I noticed you asked a question last night about the financials between City Parks and City Golf and didn't get anything definitive from Eric Knepp.

At 24.30 mins. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JdQnWO-kGE> Tim Kasper or Casper (unsure of spelling) has a very valid question. Why has City Golf not had any outside audits done since 2016? Eric Knepp answers later in the meeting that an outside audit would cost 3 times the amount of what they have been usually doing as far as audits. Is this a good enough reason not to know the real data and numbers or is the data being skewed and being misrepresented and or manipulated?

I believe Tim has sent some written information e-mails into the Taskforce and it's members and that could be looked at in more detail.

All the numbers are based on a MANAGERIAL analysis. Numbers should be based on AUDITED FINANCIALS.

Can these financial areas be developed and real audited data presented to the Golf Taskforce? So that good decisions are made by the Taskforce on real data.

I am a City of Madison resident.

Thanks much for serving us on these City issues.

Scott Starks

2534 Moland St. #2

Madison, WI. 53704

608-373-4438



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Mary Boyd](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Keeping Monona golf course open indefinitely
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:34:24 PM

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I am sure you get a lot of reasons to keep Monona golf course open. Because the club house is small and relatively basic, the long term cost for maintenance is small relative to larger club houses at Yahara and Odana. The design of the course in general lends itself to other uses as well. Access is relatively easy throughout the year. Style of course makes it ideal for both beginning golfers and older golfers who do not necessarily want a "more challenging venue.

From: [Eric Cabot](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Re: turn on stream on channel 994
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 5:03:56 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Liz,

Thanks for the follow up. I was able to watch the entire meeting via the YouTube streaming method. I first tried to watch on Spectrum channel 994, but the Planning Commission meeting ran a bit long.

Here is my version of a golf plan:

1) Sacrifice the wettest portion of Yahara Hills and make it into a wetlands/wildlife preserve. Maybe the Madison Parks, the County and the Arboretum can come up with a joint-management scheme.

2) Keep Glenway, Monona and Odana Hills, based both on their popularity. I personally am not concerned about Yahara, as it's just too far from the West side. I have never played at Monona so cannot comment on their amenities. But I don't see much use in doing much at Glenway. There is a nice bar across the street (assuming that it survives the pandemic) that serves a nice 10th hole. That leaves the club house at Odana Hills. This could conceivably be upgraded to be a venue for non-golf related activities (which has been mentioned more than once), in addition to being a community center. If skating were introduced, it would be an excellent warming house for winter sports enthusiasts, as well as cyclists year round.

3) There was some talk of the problem of having to pave trails for golf carts, versus banning carts. The latter option is not realistic given that your own surveys show the heaviest interest is from people age 60 and up. Might I suggest a compromise: rent self-propelled bag carts and reduce the number of carts that people can ride in.

Regards,
Eric Cabot
5318 Milward Drive
53711

On 5/19/2020 4:25 PM, Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks wrote:

> Hello Eric,

>

> I hope you were able to view the meeting last night -- you can see the

> recording here

> <<https://media.cityofmadison.com/MediaSite/Showcase/madison-city-channel1/Presentation/32046639f0d14d29a6935f69850cb6971d>>

>

> Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or comments.

>

> Thank you,

>

> **

>

> *Liz Levy*

>

> She/her/hers

>

> Madison Parks - City of Madison <<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks>>

>

> 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Rm 104

>

> Madison, WI 53703

>

> Phone: 608-266-4711

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> Fax: 608-267-1162

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Eric Cabot <ecabot@gmail.com>

> Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 6:08 PM

> To: Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks

> <golftaskforce@cityofmadison.com>

> Subject: turn on stream on channel 994

>

> Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown

> links and attachments.

>

From: [Parks](#)
To: [Levy, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: FW: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:23:28 AM

From: krrussell23@gmail.com <krrussell23@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:21 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Brinza, Ryan <RBrinza@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program

Contact Information:

=====
Name: ken russell
Street Address:
1134 glacier hill dr.
madison, WI 53704
Phone: 608-249-6035
Email: krrussell23@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

=====
Subject: Golf Program

Comments / Questions:

I think it's time to be completely blunt , This note is about saving Yahara Hills G.C. . If you want to increase play I strongly request that the boulders scattered around both courses be REMOVED. They can be placed along the banks of the ponds located between east 5 & 16 holes and placed along the shore line west 18 & east 18 . The muskrats are destroying the shore lines . This is the most important issue, MOW THE ROUGH down to NO more than an inch and half . The rough will not die manly because the irrigation system for the fairways water heads rotate 360 degrees. If the rough is cut down it would dry out quicker and pace of play would greatly improve . Lets keep in mind the average score for men is about 100 thus half are scoring above that. Really, how much fun do they have shooting in the fifty's , losing a couple of balls ,also. The former golf superintendent was a good player , Charlie R. ,Tygre E. ,Therran S. and you Ryan B. are also good golfers. But Yahara Hill's should NOT be maintained for low handicap players . For instance the waste area on east 13 is truly a joke, boulders and mounds of out of control grass. The challenge of Yahara from day one has been the size and undulation in the greens . Please put your regular golfers hats on and imagine playing golf in their shoes. Thank You !!

Levy, Elizabeth

From: Rob Wixson <rgwixson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:01 PM
To: Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks; Robert Stockton
Subject: Possible closure

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The committee has a very difficult decision to make given the economic realities that have been thrust upon all levels of government. However there are times when subjective benefits must be assessed in the face of objective economic conditions.

It is clear that opening the municipal courses was a welcome respite for many, not only in Madison but for the surrounding communities as well. Door Creek, The Oaks, The Bridges and Pleasant View, all saw a surge in golfers once they were able to open. This anecdotal evidence should suggest that reducing golfing opportunities is a bad idea.

Each course has it's own loyal followers. I play at Odana, but played many hours at Glenway as a youth. Glenway was the home course for the Cherokee golf team and the West Junior High golf team. It is a jewel in the system and should not be closed. It is a place where grandparents can play with their grandchildren. It also has the most challenging par four in the County: number 5.

Rob Wixson
3817 Council Crest
Madison, WI
231-3385

From: Robert Stockton
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Brinza, Ryan <RBrinza@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parks Contact Submission: Golf Program

Contact Information:

=====
Name: Bob Stockton
Street Address:
4506 Herrick
Ln, WI 53711
Phone: 608-695-6250
Email: bobhstockton@gmail.com

Comments / Questions:

=====
Subject: Golf Program
Comments / Questions:
To the Madison Golf Task Force,

I would just like to take a minute of your time to talk about a golf course that has been part of my life for the past 50 years...Glenway. This wonderful executive golf course was where I learned to play the game. It is a "neighborhood park" that serves all members of the community. I drove past the other day and the course was packed with women. Another day it was occupied with children and their parents. This golf course serves all the residents of this great city. It is a thing of beauty to walk this course and be amongst the beautiful oak trees that grow there. It is a sanctuary for wildlife, runners and golfers alike. It already serves all who want to enjoy the outdoors.

I do not understand it being considered for closure, when it serves so many and almost always breaks even financially every year. Soon Glenway will be 100 years old. Tell me why a golf course that has stood the test of time should be considered for closure. Nine hole golf courses fit well into our society, now that people have less time to play golf. It is easy to play the course in only an hour and half.

Many have said that if we close holes on the east side, we must close holes on the westside of Madison. I do not see this as valid reasoning. By closing any nine hole courses, you will shut out play for women, youth and high school players. Where will parents go when they want to play with their children? Where will husbands and wives play?

As you go forward with your discussion and deliberation. Please consider that each course serves a particular group of people. Glenway serves a diverse mixture of residents and it would be a travesty to see it closed. Please concentrate your efforts on closing courses that are not serving the majority of our residents. If you take away the ability of youth and new golfers to learn to play, golf will suffer long term. Glenway fills that niche

and should be saved.

Thank you for your work on this task force,

Bob Stockton
4506 Herrick Lane
Madison, WI

From: [Gary Steingraber](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Yahara Golf Course
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:46:48 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Have you asked Dane County if they would want to buy the Yahara course? If they can't make a go of it as a golf course, it would be a logical location for the next sanitary landfill. Yahara isn't in Madison, so it makes sense as a county property.

Gary Steingraber

From: [PATRICK E. MCBRIDE](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Support for Golf Task Force Idea
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:00:44 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a frequent and loyal golfer of the public courses in Madison - for over 35 years - I would like to suggest the following:

** Sell 18 holes at Yahara Golf course

Maintain Monona, Glenway, Odana, and 18 holes of Yahara

Many of us that golf have discussed this at length, and our priority is quality, reasonably priced golf. It is WISE to have a 9-hole golf course for beginners / kids / seniors on each side of town, and a quality 18-hole golf course on each side of town. We live in an isthmus, and it is very challenging to travel to the east from the west and vice-versa.

Many Madisonites cannot afford to join a country club. Golfers at public courses pay - those who use other city recreational amenities often do not directly. Support our recreation - golf courses are important green spaces for us! It is a great game for kids, adults, and seniors, and the courses make great cross-country courses in winter.

Thank you

Patrick McBride
5114 Lake Mendota Drive
Madison WI 53705
608-628-3150

From: [Ralph Stamler](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Cc: [Brinza, Ryan](#)
Subject: Golf Courses
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:16:58 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison GolfTask Force Members,

Thanks you for volunteering for such a difficult task.
It recently came to my attention that Glenway was being considered for closure.

I strongly encourage you to NOT cast a vote to close Glenway.

Glenway continues to serve as a special niche for what is available for golfers of all ability levels. Glenway is beautifully maintained and provides a recreational escape for a variety of golfers at an affordable price.

Glenway is an accessible golf course for those who rely on public transportation to get to a golf course. I also have witnessed young people going to and from Glenway with a set of clubs on their back along the bike path next to the course. Not every city public golf course can make these claims for accessibility.

Glenway Golf Course has such a long remarkable history that spans so many generations of golfers growing up in Madison. It is part of a collective memory for so many. It would be a shame to lose such a treasured asset to our quality of life in Madison.

I'm reminded of Bedford Falls in the movie "It's A Wonderful Life". In my view, losing Glenway would be a tragic short sighted step towards creating our own Pottersville.

Please keep Glenway. It is part of the fabric that makes Madison such a special place where people want to live and remain.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ralph Stamler
929 Waban Hill
Madison, WI

"Before enlightenment, chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment, chop wood, carry water."
An old Eastern adage.

From: [Thomas Kuchenbecker](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: June 29 task force meeting
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 6:46:43 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

It seems the task force recommendation will be to close all Yahara or 18 holes. My question is what will be done with the land and how much will it cost if it is repurposed?

Thomas Kuchenbecker
WATERCOLORS by TAK
<http://watercolorsbytak.pixels.com>

From: [Ed](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Yahara Hills Golf Course
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 4:20:25 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Committee Members:

After the economy recovers and next year's greatly improved highway access is constructed to both Yahara and the Ho Chunk complex; business for Yahara can be expected to significantly improve.

This will be particularly true if as expected the Ho Chunk pursues their objective of making their Madison complex a destination resort facility including a hotel. It will make very good business sense to not only retain Yahara's 36 holes for future Ho Chunk development, but also that can provide opportunity for lucrative outings on one 18 and keep the other 18 for public play.

Additionally, investing in Yahara's infrastructure on a multi-year approach, especially it's drainage system, will pay dividends in attracting more revenue.

Thank you for your service to Madison.

Sincerely,
Ed Garvoille
5575 Tancho Drive
Madison, WI 53718

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Chris Ogden](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: golfing in Madison, My only question is : why is golf alone,as a Madison taxpayer, being scrutinized.
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:39:29 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Why not look at all taxpayer uses of Madison property and their attendant costs. This would be fair.

We know the millions spent on bike trails for a small percentage of Madison users.

The empty tennis courts that dot our fair city.

Neither of these provide the city with user fees. Don't mention the tiny number of bike licenses.

By the way ,I am a golfer ,65 years total, and a lifetime city resident.

When you weigh our golf courses I would hope you'd do the same with these other non-producers.They cost us millions

From: [Leslee Hilleman](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Comments on Glenway golf course
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:09:46 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My husband and I are former Madison residents, currently living in Verona. I am writing to express our appreciation for Glenway golf course.

Verona has no courses for the casual golfer. We play our rounds at courses in surrounding cities - New Glarus, Middleton, Mount Horeb, and, about 10 times a year, Madison's Glenway.

Each of the courses we patronize has its own personality, and Glenway is our favorite. We love the park-like atmosphere with mature trees and quiet city streets. I'm still pretty new to golf and Glenway is the perfect place to learn - the other golfers are often families with children or couples of a variety of ages. Most people walk the course, so the pace of play is not slow, but not rushed either.

Aside from the course itself, we enjoy the area businesses like the Village Bar. Our favorite summer Saturday morning routine is to walk nine holes at Glenway and stop for lunch at the Village afterward.

If Glenway closed, we likely wouldn't golf at any Madison course - between the distance from Verona and the atmosphere of the course (we don't enjoy Odana), none of the other courses are a good match for us. We would just play more often at our other non-Madison courses. If Glenway was closed, we likely wouldn't visit the Village and other area businesses as often either.

If other courses close, and if golf needs to keep out of the red, we understand that Glenway may be busier and more expensive in the future, but we would gladly pay more to play there in order to keep it open.

Thank you for your time!

Leslee Hilleman

From: [Albrecht Karle](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Please, keep the Madison golf courses!
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:23:14 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I like to submit a comment on golf courses.

I am a private person, tax payer and an entirely a recreational golfer.

Like many others, I highly appreciate the value that the Municipal golf courses add to our community.

This year we have seen an enormous demand for golf, with all golf courses booked almost all the time. Most certainly the pandemic has contributed to that, even so it is an important fact.

In a time when in door socializing as well as vacation travel are disfavored, local golf courses are all the more important.

Given that, it appears not the right time to think about descoping the golf courses, in fact it is the worst time.

I most often play at Yahara recently because it is easier to get a tee time there.

I mention it because Yahara is especially being looked at.

Thus, I would like to make a plea to keep the golf courses in the current size.

Second, this is entirely a guess, but perhaps one could investigate the possibility of a public - private partnership to upgrade the club house and restaurant setting that could contribute to revenue and possibly make it a win win.

Thank you for your consideration,

Best wishes,

Albrecht Karle
Professor of Physics
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Physics and
Wisconsin IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center (WIPAC)
1150 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Office: +1-608-262-3945

Mobile: +1-608-770-3221

E-mail: karle@icecube.wisc.edu

From: [Noah Van Der Weide](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Meeting comments
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:11:40 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Golf Task Force Members,

I will be unable to attend the meeting, but I would like it to be known that I am in full support of Scenario 2b, closing Yahara and Glenway, removing the enterprise and reallocating the money into the Parks.

There are several public and private golf courses on both the West and East side. However, dog parks are few and far between on the West side. If you don't live near one, owning a car is your only option to work out your dog (leash walks don't provide a social outlet which is key for a well-behaved dog). Please consider that the land the golf courses (especially Glenway) could be used to offer more public dog parks for an ever-increasing demographic of dog owners.

Thanks
Noah Van Der Weide

From: [Dylan Mathieu](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Skiing/Sledding At Glenway Golf Course - Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:58:06 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am just writing to advocate for preserving Glenway as a place for the public to cross-country ski and sled in the winter (whether it is maintained as a golf course or not). It is so nice to have a wonderful place to ski (without grooming or having to pay fees) all winter, and the sledding hills are very popular for kids and families. I have been skiing and sledding at Glenway my entire life, and I hope that will continue in the future.

Thanks!

Dylan Mathieu
608-213-9213

From: [Sandra Wysock](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf courses
Date: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:39:13 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I will try to remember to watch on line although I do not plan to speak.

I am a Madison senior golfer. I golf twice a week but not always on the city courses. My husband and I golf Glenway and or Odana at least once per week. During the pandemic it seems courses have been busier. Frankly it has been our salvation. The courses provide exercise and they are virtually the only place that someone of higher risk for covid can go and be reasonable safe.

Unfortunately for years you allowed the courses to decline. In the prosperous years you raked off the money and failed to invest in the courses. The result is that all of the Madison courses need maintenance and some more than others.

My thoughts would be --

1. retain Glenway-- it is a popular course for seniors, parents with children and beginning golfers. Keep their club house as is.
 2. Retain Odana and upgrade the club house to include dining and alcohol.
 3. Retain Yahara but consider using portions of it for frisbee golf or other outdoor usage. I really like Yahara but frankly you can barely hear yourself think because of the noise from the highway. East 10 is a joy to play-- although it really does have drainage issues. Again, if you want people to come and stay, upgrade the club house, provide better food, provide drinks other than beer,
 4. I know that Monona is an emotional favorite but I would let it go. I am frankly biased in that I don't play the course very often
-
1. Frankly I like a glass of wine with friends after golf. Because you provide only beer, we go to a restaurant (when they are open). In the past we always stayed at the course but when you gave up the liquor license staying there was even less attractive.

From: [Scott Nolan](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: please
Date: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:01:25 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Keep courses open, if you want to improve income have pros available at course for lessons etc, improve food quality, sell logo items in pro shops, increase inventory of balls gloves etc. have outings and leagues. Please remember not all city owned things need to make a profit, Libraries do not the fire department does not. If nothing else view the courses as a park that people to pay to use, if is a great source of exercise and are enjoyed by many.

Thank you,
I am a Madison resident

From: [Williams, Earl](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Save YAHARA HILLS!
Date: Friday, July 10, 2020 6:13:24 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am shocked that there is talk of closing or reducing the number of holes at Yahara hills. This course is essential to so many high school team for practice, Corporate golf leagues and your average middle class golfer. Amenities like this are what makes Madison a great place to live.

The number of rounds played continues to go up year after year so that proves the demand is there for this course. The mismanagement of this course is the only explanation for it losing money. You can easily raise the fees a modest amount and this course would still be an excellent value. Reducing the number of holes would not save as much money as you think. Knowing that there is room to get on the course most times is what makes it such a great course. I encourage you to look at ways to increase the revenue to keep this course available to us for the foreseeable future.

What would the city do with 450 acres of land across from a smelly landfill ? This area is not suitable for housing.

I believe it makes much more sense to close Monona Golf course. It's only a 9 hole, short course. and is not suitable for outings, leagues etc. This land is much more valuable and is in the middle of a residential area already. Turning this land into housing would make more sense financially. That area is land locked and this land would be worth a lot.

I sincerely hope that you leave Yahara Hills alone.

From: [Dennis A Hill](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Proceeds from sales of golf real estate
Date: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:00:50 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Golf Task Force,

Perhaps I missed it, but I read nothing in the various scenarios indicating how the proceeds of the sale of the real estate of closed courses would impinge upon the golf program budget. The land at Monona or Glenway sold for residential development would be quite valuable and the proceeds could sustain golf at the remaining courses for some time, perhaps even serve as an endowment for municipal golf. I have of course no idea whether the proceeds of such sales could be directed to the function the land was taken from, but it does seem fair to me. Yes, I do play golf and for years played probably 100 rounds a year. Well, I am curious about the omission of mention of this.

Thank for your attention
Dennis Hill, Madison

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From: [Robert E. Miller](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Glenway GC
Date: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:49:51 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please do not close Glenway. It is the only course short enough to be walked and I need the exercise. I see quite a number of elderly golfers at Glenway, but not so many yet because it has been too hot so far this year. I haven't been able to play yet this year, but my physical therapy is almost finished and if it cools down a little for the latter half of July, I will be out there.

I am pretty sure that a lot of elderly golfers feel the same way. In spite of three kinds of arthritis and a couple of crushed discs (neck and lower back) I can still play Glenway and that is one of the best things about my retirement. I was born in Madison and still have fun playing golf at age 84. Last year Glenway was able to fit me in to make a threesome into a foursome and I discovered I was the youngest person in that foursome.

Pease, please don't close Glenway

Sincerely,

Bob Miller

From: attorneyamyscarr@gmail.com
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: 7-15-2020 Meeting, Agenda Item #5
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 1:20:37 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Task Force Members:

Regarding Agenda Item #5 for tonight's meeting, I have read the draft Report of the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks. Before you allow your names to be attached to the report, I hope that you will insist that the report be accurate and fair. The current draft gives short shrift to Monona Golf Course, makes misleading and incorrect statements about it, and also omits important information. Here are my key points:

1. Monona G. C. attracts more than just "a large number of senior golfers" (page 12). I golf there at least once a week. There are golfers of all generations, including lots of young people, who play there.
2. There are more leagues at Monona G. C. than "six morning senior golf leagues" (page 12). I am in a women's afternoon league that is not a "senior golf league"; the league has golfed at Monona G. C. for over 40 years.
3. The description of Monona G. C. (page 8) includes mention of adjacent Monona Park and makes the following misleading statement: "The park does take on storm water and a portion of the park is regularly wet during the spring months." This statement might suggest to some readers that Monona G. C. is regularly wet during the spring months. On the contrary, Monona G. C. drains better than any of the other municipal golf courses and, unlike the other courses is never closed due to rain or flooding.
4. Just like Glenway G. C., Monona G. C. is used for walking, nature viewing, sledding, skiing, and snowshoeing in the winter months (page 8).
5. Monona G. C. has a driving range and two practice greens (one for putting and one for chipping). No other municipal course has all of these amenities. (Glenway is the only municipal course with no driving range. Thus, there is nowhere at Glenway for beginners to take lessons, a necessity before venturing out to the course.)
6. The draft report places a great deal of emphasis on oak trees at Glenway G. C. However, much of what is highlighted is, as the report admits, part of Forest Hill Cemetery (page 7).
7. The draft report emphasizes that, though there are high quality trees on Monona G. C., "notably very few oaks and century old trees" (page 9). There are lots and lots of beautiful

trees on Monona G. C. in addition to wildlife (e.g., cranes, geese, other birds, and foxes).

8. The first item in the list of priorities for the Task Force is “equity” (page 17). Given all of the positive aspects of Monona G. C. and the fact that it is the only neighborhood golf course on the east side of Madison (compared to two such golf courses on the west side), the Task Force should recommend that Monona G. C. be preserved.

9. It is my understanding that the First Tee program is interested in leasing Monona G. C. from the City of Madison, building its headquarters and a learning center there, and keeping the golf course open to the public. (This information is not included in the draft report.) The Task Force should preserve Monona G. C. so that this possibility can come to fruition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Scarr

280 Division St., #305
Madison, WI 53704

From: [T.K.V](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Input for golf task force - sharing thoughts and ideas
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 11:11:09 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Folks on the Golf Task Force for the City O' Madison.

First, I have been a golfer in Madison since 1969. I have lived on the East side, South side and West sides of Madison over the years. I have played golf on all the city golf courses hundreds of times. It is my opinion the Madison/Dane County area, being one of the premier and top tier areas to live in all of the US of A, should have a top notch publicly owned golf facility. All kinds of athletic facilities in the area such as bike paths, hiking trails and water sports to name a few should all be first rate and I think most are.

Having said that the golfing facilities owned and operated by the city are not in that category yet.but with some prudent investment they could be. I think the Monona golf course should be maintained. It is a great 9 holes that is easily walkable for seniors and families. The club house needs refurbishing and the parking lot repaved. All of that can of course be done during the off season. Perhaps the same for Glenway. Odana needs the same club house refurbishing and parking lot improvements.

Yahara of course presents the greatest challenge. I think there are some good options for the course. First, I would sell some of the West side of the current grounds to either the Ho Chunk Nation, Dane County for a park or the U of W for an arboretum East.

That leaves the East side of the grounds for up grading the entire golf course and facility. I would hope this could be a combined city/county funded project I would suggest taking advantage of local folks to assist with this. I would contact Andy North and Steve Stricker for their consultation. A new club house could be built on hwy AB (minimizes traffic congestion at current intersection on HWY 18). A new 18 hole course layout could be done using the existing East course and perhaps part of the West course. Again, the goal should be to create a top notch golfing experience for all city of Madison and Dane county folks.

A plan B would be to sell part of the East side grounds and then offer the East side of the grounds to private golf course operators like the folks who run The Oaks golf course. Charge them \$1 a year to lease the grounds plus 20% of the net annual profits. This approach hopefully creates a profit center for the city.

I thank you for listening!

Sincerely,
Terry K. Voice

From: [Steven Weiss](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: thoughts for upcoming meeting
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:44:57 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Didn't the Parks Department used to take revenue from the golf enterprise when the enterprise had a surplus in the past? If so, how much over the years, and where would the enterprise be today, financially, if it had been allowed to keep and invest the all of the surplus when there were surpluses? Steve weiss

From: [PATRICK E MCBRIDE](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Madison Golf - save our courses!
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:44:53 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a long time (35 years!) Madison golfer and cross country skier, the golf courses are an essential part of life in Madison. Our whole family uses the courses!

My recommendation is to sell part of Yaraha - and save Glenway, Odana, 18 at Yahara and Monona if possible.

It is vital to have full 18 hole championship courses and 9 hole courses for kids, beginners, and seniors, on each side of the Isthmus. I play 3 of the 4 courses regularly, and talk to many regular golfers. We don't need fancy clubhouses - we need Courses! Use the \$\$ from selling prime Yahara land to the Ho Chunk casino and maintain the courses!

Golf courses and green spaces attract people to our community! Skiing and hiking. Dog walking.

We pay every time we play. We'd pay more. Not all users of recreational facilities pay - softball, tennis, bikers, etc get away without paying frequently. We do not - we pay every time we play.

Patrick McBride
5114 Lake Mendota Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

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From: [Sandra Wysock](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 3:30:40 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am sorry that I won't be able to attend the meeting for family reasons but here are my thoughts.

1. During the pandemic, golf has been a life saver for many of us. It has helped reduce depression and an even greater sense of isolation. We have also noticed that golf courses are much busier as families find there are fewer competing activities.
2. Our corporate league was forced to drop Yahara this year due to lack of participation but until now we have included yahara in our regular schedule. I love the holes away from the interstate but frankly you can't hear yourself think when golfing holes near the highway. Why not restructure into 27 great holes, avoid the highway where possible or create a buffer and eliminate holes with the poorest drainage. Fewer holes to maintain, hopefully less work to bring to a more playable standard.
3. As a West Side golfer who regularly uses Glenway, I would hate to see Glenway abandoned. Many new golfers and older golfers use this course. These golfers aren't expecting a fancy club house so I don't think that much would need to be done.
4. We don't use Monona so I am probably all too willing to do without Monona although I understand that those on the East Side use Monona much as we do Glenway.
5. Improving the club houses and adding liquor licenses would probably improve income at both Yahara and Odana where you have more leagues and events. Frankly, I used to stay at Yahara with my friends after a round and have have a glass of wine. With a restricted menu and nothing but beer and sodas as a beverage, fewer and fewer of us stay. We tended to go to another restaurant where there are other beverage options and a larger menu. When golfing at Bridges we all stayed around and the club house was often crowded with league members staying after to eat and have drinks. The profit margin on the alcohol would help support the course. Pleasant View offers fewer menu options for more drinks. It is also used for other events and small weddings.
6. It is also my understanding that the City Courses are at a disadvantage because the must make a payment in lieu of taxes for services and that this is not a requirement for other courses. At least this is what I have been told. You don't tax other city parks... why tax golf courses? Use the golfers fees to keep the courses maintained instead.

It seems to me that the city has taken money from golfers for years and failed to maintain the courses. Now that the delayed maintenance combined with fewer golfers is causing the courses to attract fewer people you want to punish the golfers for the city's poor

management. You need to be able to compete for the golfers and one way to do that is to have courses that are at reasonably well maintained and offer at least a competitive range of services...

Sandi Wysock

From: [Lori Bindl Zahorik](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Let's keep all golf courses open as part of the Madison Parks System
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 8:28:51 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm in favor of keeping open all of the Golf Courses in the Madison Parks Department, especially 36 holes at Yahara. Yahara is my home course and there has been a high number of rounds played at Yahara this season. Business is good. Ryan and Theran are doing a good job of running the courses, not to mention the Course Superintendents maintaining the courses/landscapes.

People from all over Dane County play at Yahara and I'd like to see Dane County include funds in their budget to support Yahara golf course expenses/upkeep. I also look forward to having the Mayor fund the golf courses in the city budget. Perhaps the First Tee of Southern WI can provide some revenue for using the courses for the children. It's an important part of our lives to enjoy the outdoor weather, exercise, be happy and enjoy nature at its best.

Thank you for listening.

Lori Bindl Zahorik, Yahara Hills Golfer,
Fitchburg WI

From: [colleen Pucillo](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Closing of the East side golf courses Monona and Yahara
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 2:09:55 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

If you close Monona AND Yahara there will be NO city courses on the East Side of Madison!

I have been going to these courses for years! Have golfed leagues at both courses and have totally enjoyed the curtesy of staff and beauty of the courses.

My grandson's took golf lessons at Monona, I've golfed both courses since H. S. in the 60's. Golf is a sport people of all ages can participate from an early age into the twilight years. It's a sport that builds character and comradely with your peers.

Why in the world would you want to put an end to this? To build another brick and mortar shopping center or apartment buildings?

Colleen Pucillo
Sent from my iPhone

From: [DENISE K DIPERT](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: written comment for upcoming meeting
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 2:12:51 PM
Attachments: [golf taskforce.docx](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Attached-above is my written comment concerning Agenda Item #5.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Denise Dipert

Just my thoughts as a long-time Glenway golfer. . .

It has seemed to me that this discussion has been premised on the idea that one or more courses must close and to achieve that goal has pitted loyal golfers of each course against one another, rather than trying to find a way to keep all the courses open. And, I suspect, the majority of those who weigh in will not include the large number of casual or young or new golfers, most of whom probably do not even know this task force exists.

I am a casual/social golfer (female, senior citizen) who has played a weekly game at Glenway for over 27 years with a former neighbor who is in her mid-80s. If Glenway were to close, we would not have the skill level to play at Odana nor feel welcome there because we're women. My friend would not drive cross-town to play at Monona, nor would I. When I told my husband that there was talk of closing Glenway, he said "there goes golf out of our lives." Monona may be similar in terms of difficulty, but anyone who has lived in Madison knows that because of the isthmus Madison is divided into two towns, and to drive crosstown during the day (particularly during morning and evening rush hour) via downtown or the Beltline is not easy.

While Glenway may be physically close to Odana, it is a world apart. Glenway is the Madison golf course that welcomes everyone and anyone—grade school kids, high schoolers, those attending the U, senior citizens, women, , people with physical limitations that prevent them from playing a more strenuous course, couples who vary in skill level, people just learning the game, and those living in the downtown or campus or west or south sides of Madison. Yahara has always seemed to me to be there for groups that include long-game golfers and those less skilled. Odana meets the needs of its clientele but has a well-deserved reputation for being unwelcoming to many of the groups I mentioned above. And that's just it. Golfers are very loyal to the course they play because each course serves a different clientele. Skill-level, atmosphere (i.e. whether or not one feels welcome), difficulty of the course, and proximity to where people live are, as you all know, extremely important.

Of course, as I've stated, I think Glenway should remain open because neither Monona nor Odana can replace it, but I am hoping that the task force will find a way to say that ALL courses will remain open.

From: [George Campbell](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf Recommendations
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 3:36:18 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, And thank you for serving on the task force. I listened to the recent meeting and would like to share a couple of thoughts. I am a frequent golfer at Yahara (I haven't played Odana at all this year). It appeared to me that the direction of the recommendations will be to close Yahara. Here is why I think this is very shortsighted:

1. There are only 5 or 6 holes at Yahara that get really wet in the rain. The course has matured into a beautiful and well maintain course. I don't see how you can recommend closing the entire course without looking at an option to reroute the problem holes. If that were done, we would play there all the time without avoiding it after rains. Yes, rerouting some of the holes might be challenging but it can be done. I am confident that play would increase substantially. Has the committee explored that?
2. Although the location is not within the urban area, I agree with Daniel's comments about the welcoming atmosphere at Yahara compared to Odana. I think most golfers would agree. You still need to drive to the other courses.
3. The committee seems to refuse to pursue options other than closing holes and I fear you will recommend closing the entire Yahara Hills course. Maybe other options are not in the charter. But to take the drastic action of closing a beautiful golf course without exploring other options is again, shortsighted. How can you come up with meaningful recommendations by limiting the possibility of future investments. At the least, PLEASE add something into your recommendations that these options haven't been explored and might save Madison golf.

I recognize that these are tough times for the city budget. At the least, let's consider a recommendation of continuing with the current plan without a subsidy through 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

George Campbell

From: attorneyamyscarr@gmail.com
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: revised draft report
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:25:52 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Golf Task Force Members:

I reviewed the 7-15-2020 revised draft Report of the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks. I am disappointed that, despite my written and oral presentations to the task force regarding numerous factual errors related to Monona Golf Course, there are only two corrections to the report. The following information has been omitted from the report:

--Monona G. C. attracts more than just "a large number of senior golfers" (page 12). There are golfers of all generations, including lots of young people, who play there.

--There are more leagues at Monona G. C. than "six morning senior golf leagues" (page 12). For example, I am in a women's afternoon league that is not a "senior golf league," and it is clearly not included in the count. There may be other excluded leagues as well.

--Monona G. C. has a driving range and two practice greens (one for putting and one for chipping). No other municipal course has all of these amenities. (Glenway is the only municipal course with no driving range. Thus, there is nowhere at Glenway for beginners to take lessons, a necessity before venturing out to the course.)

--The draft report emphasizes that, though there are high quality trees on Monona G. C., "notably very few oaks and century old trees" (page 9). There are lots and lots of beautiful trees on Monona G. C. in addition to wildlife (e.g., cranes, geese, other birds, and foxes).

Amy Scarr

280 Division St., #305
Madison, WI 53704

From: [Kyle Hanson](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Support Proposed Golf Course Reduction
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:28:53 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Golf Taskforce,
I support the proposal to dramatically reduce the number of golf holes offered through the Madison parks department. I learned to play golf as an adolescent, but I no longer play because it's expensive, not environmentally friendly and a poor use of urban space. As a father with 3 children, I spend a lot of time at Madison parks and I would love to see how these spaces could be reprogrammed to meet the needs of more Madisonians. I can imagine more trails for walking, biking and skiing, fields for team sports, playgrounds for children and picnic pavilions for events. Making a large capital investment in the courses should be weighed heavily against the benefits to the average madison citizen.

Thanks for your consideration,
Kyle Hanson
1833 Helena St.
Madison, WI 53704

From: attorneyamyscarr@gmail.com
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: follow-up to my 7-22-2020 email
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 12:54:17 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Task Force Members:

I wanted to follow up on my July 22, 2020 email to you with the following information:

--Earlier today I spoke with Therin Steindl, Golf Operations Supervisor-East, and he confirmed that there are more leagues at Monona Golf Course than the 6 senior leagues mentioned in the draft Report of the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks. He stated that there is a total of 10 leagues, i.e., 4 leagues in addition to the 6 senior leagues. This fact should be added to the report. The current draft is misleading.

--While the report waxes poetic on the oak trees on or near Glenway Golf Course and points out that there are no old oak trees on Monona Golf Course, it fails to mention that Monona G. C. has a driving range and two practice greens while Glenway G. C. has no driving range and only one practice green. It is odd that the report would focus more on oaks trees than on what the courses have to offer in the way of golf.

I stress these and other points I have previously made because the Parks Division should give the Task Force accurate and relevant information and, ultimately, the report should give the Mayor and the Common Council accurate and relevant information.

Thank you,
Amy Scarr

280 Division St., #305
Madison, WI 53704

From: [Sharyl Kato](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Keep the golf course!!!!
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:41:50 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please please keep the golf course going!!! There are fewer & fewer beautiful open spaces left that promotes physical & social health & activity for so wide a range of many ages, abilities, genders, cultures! Keep the development priorities at bay & do not sacrifice this site! Sharyl Kato

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S10.
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Steven Larsen](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Public golf courses
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:55:50 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hey folks:

No city parks pay for themselves. Certainly the city could make a lot of money by selling all of them to developers.

But they do serve a purpose. Few parks are used as much as the golf courses.

Secondly, the city is guilty of deferring maintenance for years and years. Is it time to throw up our hands and say the courses need too much? Would you do the same with roads? Bridges?

I ask you to preserve as much as you can. Get creative with fundraising. Ask the community for help. In the long run, selling some parks to pay for others will slowly eliminate them all.

Steve Larsen
10 Kings Mill Cir
Madison, WI. 53718

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dayle Haglund](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf Course Task Force
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:31:02 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I support any proposal to reduce or eliminate the city subsidy to the golf courses in Madison. There are higher and better uses to this open space than golfing for a few.

Dayle K. Haglund
2805 Sylvan Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

From: [Phil Kalscheur](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Golf course maintenance :
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:32:51 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The city should take bids on the maintenance of the golf course. This is done at most other course's.

From: [Owner](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: Re: 7.15 Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 3:00:22 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the unfortunate experience of listening in to the discussion on the future of municipal golf in Madison last night, July 30. The dialogue was hopelessly aimless, wandering and desperate about what to do to make the fewest voters displeased. I learned to play golf at Yahara Hills 42 years ago, I have since played there on a regular basis and I love the place. I am absolutely sick at the prospect of seeing all or part of it disappear. If you want to know the truth, you will only save pennies on the dollar if you partially close it because you will still need to maintain the clubhouse and the remaining course, involving all the expenses for mowing equipment, sand trap conditioning and staff. You have a great treasure there with that property. It is a fair test of golf at a number of levels, and avoids the detriment of having fairways adjoining anyone's backyard. It is green space to be enjoyed by many citizens in this area who are unwilling or unable to join a country club. If you close 9 or 18 holes, you will have to spend a small fortune in land management and/or golf course architecture to "get it right". Turning it into a wetland is not such a great idea because there are elevation changes on the property, meaning a lot of land would not flood and then would have to be prepared and maintained some other way. So, what I'm saying is, if you folks touch Yahara Hills and turn any holes into non-golf uses I will never spend one dime ever again on playing city golf in Madison.

Having said all that, Monona and Glenway are not such "hot" golf properties. I would applaud the effort to contract out the running of those two 9-hole tracks through an RFP. In that case, the East side and the West side of town would take any hit equally. It was stated by someone present at the meeting last night that Monona and Glenway are "neighborhood" courses and that players can walk to the course. This is totally ridiculous. Have you ever seen anyone pulling their golf cart through the streets on the way to play golf? Everyone drives to the golf course. It's just a question of how far. Yahara, while little further off the beaten track than the other three courses, is a simple straight drive down the Beltline for most golfers. It's not a problem!

Please accept my input in the well-meaning spirit in which it is given.

Yours truly,
Mitch Cohen
Verona, WI

On Jul 10, 2020, at 2:24 PM, Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks
<golftaskforce@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the [7/15/20 agenda](#) for the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks.

This upcoming meeting will be held virtually. Virtual meetings have a different process that needs to be followed in order to participate in the meeting or register your support or opposition. [Register on the website](#) by following the instructions. If you would like to be available to answer questions, use the “Register to Speak” option.

You must register separately for each agenda item.

If you have visuals you wish to present, they must be emailed to golftaskforce@cityofmadison.com by 12 PM the day of the meeting so that we can have them available for you to present.

The instructions on how to listen to the live audio are also on the website. Please note that you no longer must register to speak in order to watch the meeting live, but you must press the ‘[Watch Online](#)’ button and fill out your information ahead of time. A recording will also be available later.

Written comments can be emailed to golftaskforce@cityofmadison.com. If your message is related to an agenda item for an upcoming meeting, it will be shared with the Task Force. However, we cannot guarantee that messages will be shared with Task Force members if received after 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting due to time constraints in preparing for the meeting.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

City of Madison Parks Staff

From: [Robert E. Miller](#)
To: [Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks](#)
Subject: GLENWAY GC
Date: Sunday, August 02, 2020 11:29:18 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I sent this letter to WSJ, but it looks like they aren't going to print it:

July 31, 2020

"Dear Editor,

A letter in today's WSJ suggested upgrading Madison's Yahara Golf Course and closing Glenway Golf Course because Odana makes Glenway redundant, because Glenway is not well laid out and because Glenway uses up prime residential real estate. The letter totally misses how priceless the Glenway Golf Course is.

Glenway Golf Course is the perfect course for beginners, for elderly golfers and for golfers with handicapping issues such as arthritis, knee problems, back problems and hands, arms and leg problems. And for anyone with stamina difficulties or tight fixed financial circumstances, Glenway Golf course is the most economical course, the shortest course and the easiest course to walk on. My son became a pretty good golfer while learning on Glenway and even though I am 84, have three different kinds of arthritis and a very tiring form of cancer, I can still walk Glenway. Using the senior tees on Glenway, the course is about 2100 yards, the other Madison courses are all above 2900 yards. If I played any of the other courses in Madison I would have to pay for 9 holes but play only 5 or 6 holes before having to stop and go home to take a nap. I have met a pretty large number of elderly and/or handicapped golfers on the Glenway Golf Course who value the course as much as I do.

Since the population is growing older (except for some who refuse to wear a mask) Glenway Golf course has become the most valuable golf course the city owns.

Sincerely,

Bob Miller

Robert E. Miller
430 Glenway St.
Madison, WI 53711"

From: [Parks](#)
To: [Levy, Elizabeth](#)
Cc: [Brinza, Ryan](#)
Subject: FW: Golf Task Force Email List
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 8:33:57 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: box4389@charter.net <box4389@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 1:09 AM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf Task Force Email List

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

1st of all, I know this last 7 months has been a hard time for everyone, and sometimes hard decisions have to be made. I did not know there was a public hearing on any of this, and honestly I am not a public speaker type, so I doubt I would have helped. But this is my perspective...

I have lived 99.9 percent of my life on the east side of Madison. Lowell, Marquette, East HS, UW. The west side was always where the better off people lived. (Ok, except for Maple Bluff, who of course, have their own course).

I grew up knowing little about golf, other than it was what wealthy people did. That changed when, for whatever reason I still don't understand, my daughter wanted to take golf lessons. Eventually we found the First Tee program. She has learned so much and has so much fun at the Monona Course. Last year we went to every free Saturday lesson given at Monona and Yahara, and she loved it. There were plenty of people at each session, all clearly enjoying it as well. Thank you for those awesome instructors, who did their best to give each person a bit of personal coaching. They really were great.

We have not gone to the driving range as much as last year because of covid. But there are people there. Last year there were so many people. I am not sure how you are not making money on that tax free piece of property. Maybe hike fees a little bit, coupled with some auditing. There are people playing the golf course. We did not use the putting practice green on Wednesday because we didn't want to crowd it.

The main point I want to make is all the people I see at Monona and Yahara look like our family. Not rich. But having fun. Maybe the next Tiger Woods is living on the East Side of Madison. Maybe providing the easiest access and the best service to only the wealthiest parts of the community, goes against what most Madisonians stand for. It seems you are on a path of having the East side being treated like a lesser as compared to the West side. If west side parents make more/pay more taxes, do they get better schools with more competitively paid/better teachers? I personally don't think there should ever be a stigma of existing on the wrong side of the tracks.

Just one person's opinion. I'll get off my soapbox now.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Parks](#)
To: [Levy, Elizabeth](#)
Cc: [Brinza, Ryan](#)
Subject: FW: Golf Task Force Feedback
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 12:07:03 PM

From: Nathaniel DauSchmidt <nathan.dauschmidt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf Task Force Feedback

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I read through the recent report from the golf Task Force and have some feedback.

I have golfed this year at all of the public courses and try to get my friends from the suburbs to come play in the city to support the courses. I think they're a pretty good value considering the minimal travel times for residents.

I found the report findings to lack creativity or clearness of the task force thinking in a few areas:

A) recommendation 10 regarding not selling parkland to fund the golf courses sounds nice, but it is unclear why that option is dismissed. In my opinion especially Monona and Odana could accommodate 10-25 units of housing at the corners the property. Whether they are designed as senior friendly housing, subsidized housing, or just market rate this could accomplish city infill along transportation corridors, access to the park system, and financial resources for capital improvements without the loss of any meaningful park use. Borrow a page from private developers: they put condos on golf courses all the time. The city could sell land and provide access to that opportunity while being on bus lines. Very few other entities are in that position.

B) can one course be moved out of the GEF to experiment with your claims about cheaper prices being a driver of inclusivity, accessibility, and affordability? Further, the report claims that the move to the general park system operations would free these courses up for other uses and partnerships-- better to test that claim with one than 3-4 at a time. I understand that may make the accounting more difficult, but putting what's perceived as an expensive out of touch game in the general fund is going to constantly put scrutiny on why park funds are being used to regrade what many people see as an open field.

I hope these comments are helpful and I'll continue to support the public courses as much as I can, but let's not be blind about trying to largely keep the city in the business of golf without looking at all options to leverage the assets. With room taxes being severely hit by covid reduced travel, this is not a good year for the city to step up and spend more money on an expensive game.

Best,

Nathan DauSchmidt

From: [Parks](#)
To: [Levy, Elizabeth](#)
Cc: [Brinza, Ryan](#)
Subject: FW: plan for madison golf
Date: Friday, September 04, 2020 8:46:27 AM

Thank you,

Mark J Crosby
City of Madison Parks Division
(608) 266-4713

MADISON PARKS



Beautiful Madison, for all thou hast been to me, I love thee as I love no other place on earth. May you grow to be the greatest in all things as you have grown to be the greatest in many things! –Bascom B Clarke, 1902

From: Ken Walz <ken.walz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: plan for madison golf

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings,

I read the most recent plan for Madison Golf.

I support the decision of reducing the # of holes at Yahara golf course. I would be curious if the park service has identified a use for the land that will be freed up as a result?

I am not certain that I understand the logic of outsourcing the operation of the Monona course to a private party. Is there reason to believe that a private business can do this for less money, or more profitably than a municipal run course?

Also, if the Monona golf course is outsourced, what will become of other non-golf uses of that property? In the winter, this serves as a popular XC ski destination on the east side of Madison, and there are not nearly as many ski destinations on that side of town as there are on the west. It would be a shame to lose access to the ski trails because the city decided to lease

the property to a private business. Perhaps this and other non-golf uses could be incorporated into the lease agreement?

Thanks for your consideration,
Ken Walz

From: [Parks](#)
To: [Levy, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback - Golf Task Force Recommendations
Date: Friday, September 04, 2020 8:49:22 AM

From: Lori Bindl Zahorik <l bz4golf@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:26 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Feedback - Golf Task Force Recommendations

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm disappointed to read the recommendations to the City Council. I do not want Yahara shut down to 18 holes. I'd rather have Yahara set at 27 holes.

I'm really enjoying all 36 holes this Summer. The rounds of golf must have doubled this year at Yahara and perhaps turned some kind of profit.

If the southeast portion of the course is sold for development, will the maintenance buildings be moved to another part of the course property?

I can't go on enough about the upkeep at Yahara. Leaking toilets, leaking sprinkler heads and need to improve drainage and bunkers. Service road along the highway needs gravel grading. Forestry will have a lot of dead trees to remove as well.

These improvements need a capital fund set up in the Mayor's budget rather than waiting for the course to turn a profit. I've seen the course and clubhouse initially go down hill due to poor budgeting. Yet Trygve and grounds staff do the best they can with limited budget. I support their work and Yahara should receive the same upkeep as Odana.

Thank you for listening.

PS. It was not easy to Zoom into the Task Force meetings. Very complicated sign in for each agenda item. Felt like the public and golfers were being kept at bay.

From: [Parks](#)
To: [Levy, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: FW: Golf Task Force Email List
Date: Friday, September 04, 2020 1:38:44 PM

From: Ritchie Wall <wall.ritchie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Golf Task Force Email List

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello

I just read an article regarding the closing of the golf courses.

Frankly, in my opinion with the courses losing money since 2001, why are we even subsidizing these? If they were designed to be self-sustaining, then allow them to be. And if they fail due to lack of tee times, then surely that's your answer there.

Golf is on a massive decline worldwide and you are propping up a declining sport. With fewer courses, this would allow the others to flourish. Typically, someone who golfs has money and transport and therefore can go to other courses to play.

In the interest of cost and environmental concerns, please close some of the courses, build further housing and create beautiful biking and hiking trails for all of the community to enjoy.

Regards

Ritchie Wall

From: [Parks](#)
To: [Levy, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback - Recommendation for Golf
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 8:27:01 AM

From: Scott Krause <krause.scott@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2020 8:18 PM
To: Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Feedback - Recommendation for Golf

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Evening,

I would like to express my opinion on the recommendations from the Task Force on Municipal Golf in Madison Parks.

I am in favor of all the recommendations made by the Task Force. I would like to make specific points about the following:

1. *The City should remove the enterprise fund designation from its golf courses.* I would be in favor of any step that would open up golf courses for other uses than only golf. I feel that golf uses too much land and other resources for a relatively small group of people, and trying to engage other uses would be a step toward better use for the public lands.
2. *The City should issue a Request for Proposals to evaluate the option of a private or non-profit operator for Monona and establish a plan and timeline to eliminate eighteen holes at Yahara Hills.* Based on the information in the task force's report, the Yahara hills course is the best one to choose for reducing the number of holes and (hopefully) the financial volatility that has led to the fiscal shortfalls.
3. *The City should not sell park land to fund capital improvements of the golf courses.* There is more value in the entire park system than in just the golf courses. And it becomes a slippery slope - if you sell some land this year, it becomes a possibility in the future that could lead to the park system having too little land for its mission.

Thank you for your time reading this correspondence. I appreciate the work that the Task Force did over the past several months and the Board of Park Commissioners does regularly to help keep the park system top notch in Madison.

Thank you,

--

-Scott Krause
Madison Resident, West Side
krause.scott@gmail.com
Cell: 262-308-5782