

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Rose & Lewis Arnold [rarnold2000@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 03, 2009 2:37 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Cc: Rose Arnold
Subject: Sligo Golf Course

Hello,

Unfortunately, my husband and I just learned that the Sligo Creek golf facility will be closed to golf this coming fall. I have had two major knee surgeries over the past two years and so, have been out of the golf loop for some time. Now that I am just starting back, the first thing I did was google "Sligo Creek Golf" for updated fees and other information. I was shocked and so sad to hear of the upcoming closing.

I am not sure how to say this, but it seems that the county government in its various forms is making life harder and just less kind for east county residents, seniors, and all those who don't live in Bethesda or Rockville or outlying suburbs. Sligo brings so much pleasure to the residents of Silver Spring and nearby areas, especially senior, beginner, and casual golfers who are not wealthy. It is slow paced, friendly, lovely to look at, right in the middle of Silver Spring, and draws a marvelously diverse crowd of golfers. It is the only course in the county that offers this kind of experience. Sligo has charm and it is on a truly human level. Those of us who enjoy Sligo will not be playing "frisbee golf" or soccer. So, I guess it is to hell with us.

As far as I am concerned, you can put a well placed driving range in Sligo and I am sorry the immediate neighborhoods initially rejected this.

Since, in our society, money trumps the neighborhood's wishes, tradition, charm, humanity and true service to the people, I guess there is little chance of saving the golf course. It is heartbreaking, but that doesn't seem to matter much.

Rose Arnold

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Ed Freestone [efreestone@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 3:39 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Ms. Newhouse,

Please count me as another Silver Spring resident who is outraged at the prospect that this fine local amenity will be discarded. The County subsidizes many worthy services and activities for its citizens, including golf courses.

This one is close to home and affordable for down-county residents, who so often get short-changed in services. It's perfect for beginners (who will graduate to the other county courses), seniors and parents introducing their kids to the game.

Not everything has to make a profit. If it did there would be no parks, no HOC, no Ride-on buses. If Montgomery County can lavish funds on Strathmore and the Germantown soccer complex then surely it can keep little Sligo Creek alive.

Change the decision! Change the agreement! Save Sligo Creek Golf Course!

Edward E. Freestone
Garwood St.
Silver Spring.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Tomassini, Jason [jtomassini@gazette.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 10:35 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf

Hi Rachel, this is Jason Tomassini from the Silver Spring Gazette. I was on vacation Tuesday and unable to cover the Sligo Creek golf hearing but I have covered the issue extensively in the past. Usually there are archived recordings of the hearings but I have not been able to find one online for this. Do you have any idea how I could obtain a recording of the hearing either online or a physical copy?

Jason Tomassini
The Gazette - Montgomery County
Silver Spring Reporter
Work: 240 473 7559
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jtomassini@gazette.net
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Newhouse, Rachel

From: Jeff Russell [jeffruss@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 9:34 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Cc: jeffruss20910@yahoo.com
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Thank you for your offer of assistance extended at the recent Planning Board Staff meeting. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating the documents prepared by the Planning Board and/or Staff in and around March, April and May 1994, when the Board was asked to comment upon building the new Blair High School on the Golf Course property. I know that a report was issued around the first week of April 1994; I also believe that report was supplemented. In one of these reports (or in some other issued around that time) information on the revenue generated and the costs incurred in operating the golf course was included, and as I recall the information indicated that the course operated in the black.

Pleas let me know how to obtain copies of these reports.

Jeffrey Russell

9516 Crosby Road

Silver Spring, MD 20910

(301) 448-2167

Newhouse, Rachel

From: woodybroshnan [woodybroshnan@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 8:44 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: soccer and sligo creek

Is it true that parks department staff is meeting privately with Maryland Soccer officials this week to receive a pitch for converting sligo creek golf course to soccer fields? I thought that was what the community event was supposed to be for. i would like to sit in on this meeting as a member of the public interested in maintaining golf at sligo.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: heathbleau@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 1:27 AM
To: Councilmember"Leventhal's Office; 'Karen & Rebecca Howland'; 'Woodside Forest ListServ'; Karen Howland
Cc: jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us; Newhouse, Rachel; Hench, John; Tritle, Tina; Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov; Councilmember"Andrews' Office; Councilmember"Berliner's Office; Councilmember"Elrich's Office; Councilmember"Ervin's Office; Councilmember"Floreen's Office; Councilmember"Knapp's Office; Councilmember"Trachtenberg's Office; Adam"Pagnucco; welshmj@yahoo.com; lauramol@gmail.com; donanddonna1981@yahoo.com; basidwell@msn.com; cbarth@mindspring.com; arandall26@comcast.net; anneambler@verizon.net; dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org; northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com; friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com; neighborsnw@yahoogroups.com; rebecca.howland@gmail.com; jhannaruiz@yahoo.com; Rpavis@worldbank.org; rexfordson@verizon.net; Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org; brad@bethesdabungalows.com; peter@bethesdabungalows.com
Subject: Future of Sligo Creek Golf Course

Dear Councilmember Leventhal,

For the record, I strongly disagree with Ms. Howland's summation that there are no other viable options for the land at Sligo Creek Golf Course that are environmentally-friendly and economically sustainable. I would like to provide my viewpoints on a proposal being put forth by Peter Guida and Brad Beeson of Bethesda Bungalows to turn Sligo Creek Golf Course into Sligo Creek Disc Golf Course. This proposal is not only compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods but also environmentally sound and fiscally responsible. I am fully endorsing this proposal for the future use of the Sligo Creek Golf Course (or at least for the interim use) for the following reasons:

1. Environmentally Sound Choice for Sligo Creek:

First and foremost this plan is a much more environmentally-friendly use of this ecologically sensitive site than its current use. If the site is converted to a Disc Golf Course there will be much less mowing, no irrigation, and no application of fertilizers or pesticides. There would be no removal of mature trees, new trees would actually be planted, compaction of soil would not occur, and stormwater runoff from the site into Sligo Creek would be reduced. The overall health of the existing green space would be dramatically improved thus the health of Sligo Creek would be better protected as well as the health of our families!

2. Popularity of Disc Golf and Longevity of the Sport:

The game of Disc Golf is an up and coming sport and gaining popularity with both men and women and attracting all age ranges. The sport is very budget-friendly (it only takes a \$10 disc to play it) and people of all skill levels can enjoy it. In addition if you have doubts about the longevity of the sport then I highly recommend that everyone on this distribution list please go visit the two closest disc golf courses to the Silver Spring area:

1. Calvert Road Park houses the Paint Branch Disc Golf Course in PG County:

<http://www.pdga.com/course-details?id=390>

This course has been around since 1980 (almost 30 years!) and it is a mixed use site with tennis courts, picnic areas, and a children's playground

2. Seneca Creek State Park houses the Seneca Disc Golf Course in Gaithersburg (this is the only Montgomery County course):

<http://www.pdga.com/course-details?id=392>

It was established in 1990 (almost 20 years) and it is also a mixed use site.

Both of these courses are well-maintained, have small parking lots, are very quiet and very clean (I've never seen any trash at either course).

3. Economical Choice for Montgomery County Tax Payers:

The overall cost of converting the site to a Disc Golf Course will cost about \$30K. Compare that to the \$5.5M proposal put forth by MCRA to create a driving range and mini golf courses or compare it to the outrageous cost it will take to convert the site to soccer fields (Montgomery Soccer estimates to install just one field it could cost as much as \$1.1M!) and I think you would agree that Disc Golf is the more economical option for the site.

The actual proposal is included below. I look forward to hearing from you, other Councilmembers, M-NCPPC, and the Planning Board on this matter.

Thank you,
Heather Phipps
North Hills of Sligo Creek
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch
9613 Dallas Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20901

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Peter Guida
President
Bethesda Bungalows
5126 Fairglens Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
www.bethesdabungalows.com
peter@bethesdabungalows.com

A Bold Green Vision for the Future of Sligo Creek Golf Course

A championship-level 18 hole disc golf course is being proposed to replace Sligo Creek Golf Course. Tentatively named Sligo Creek Disc Golf Course, the facility would be the first of its kind developed by Montgomery County Department of Parks. Disc golf, also known as "Frisbee golf", is similar to ball golf, with baskets as targets. Disc golf appeals to all ages, men and women, regardless of economic status.

The proposal seeks to address all of the local community's environmental concerns, while providing the county an inexpensive alternative to other competing proposals. The sport is naturally low-impact, with a dramatically reduced mowing schedule, no irrigation, and no application of fertilizers or pesticides. There would be no removal of mature trees, no compaction of soil and reduced stormwater runoff into Sligo Creek. The overall health of the existing green space would be improved, while allowing up to 75 players to compete at one time.

Disc golf is perhaps the fastest growing sport in America. The number of courses nationwide has doubled in the past eight years to over 2500. Membership in the professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) has grown from just over 6000 in 2000 to over 13,000 in 2008.

The course would provide passive recreation for the whole family, drawing participants from around the region. The facility could also be actively programmed through leagues, casual weekly tournaments, and PDGA-sanctioned tournaments. Disc golf is played year round in all weather conditions.

Revenue would be generated by sales of discs, disc golf accessories such as carrying bags, and clothing. Tournament and league fees will also generate revenue. A dozen manufacturers offer a choice of discs and accessory equipment, including Gateway, Innova and Discraft.

Bethesda Bungalows, a local custom home builder specializing in green building, has pledged support of the effort, offering to sponsor installation of at least two of the eighteen holes. Bethesda Bungalows will also donate 20 saplings to be planted on the property. Brad Beeson, Vice President of Bethesda Bungalows says, "It's a perfect fit. Disc golf is a super green sport undergoing a dramatic increase in popularity. The county needs to get on the bandwagon. The foundation is already in place to make Sligo Creek Disc Golf course a championship-level facility. The rolling hills and mature trees are an ideal backdrop. It would draw professionals and amateurs from across the country, while giving the local community a great low-cost recreation alternative. As a disc golf enthusiast, it's an exciting proposal."

The change-over from the existing course to the disc golf course could be completed in as little as two weeks, with no heavy construction period. The development period consists of installing tee pads (possibly pervious concrete), baskets and signage. Development would be so unobtrusive that county building permits or sediment control permits would likely not be necessary. Total cost for developing the eighteen-hole course, including course design, is expected to be under \$30,000.

Maintenance of a disc course is greatly reduced compared to a traditional golf course. Generally, mowing is reduced to approximately 15 times a year, with no requirement for manicured turf. Nationwide, disc golf is supported by enthusiastic volunteers who dramatically reduce maintenance costs on their courses. A local club, tentatively named Sligo Creek Disc Golf Club, will be established as the volunteer organization charged with upkeep and monitoring of the facility, alongside Montgomery County and other community organizations such as Friends of Sligo Creek.

A major reason for the growth of the sport is the low upfront costs to the beginning player. A single disc costing \$10 can be used to play an entire course. A professional may carry dozens of various discs, each with slightly different flight characteristics.

Other amenities proposed are a disc golf putting range, and a SkillShot course, based on design parameters from EDGE Disc Golf, an educational non-profit developed to provide schools and other youth programs with a sound program of teaching disc golf fundamentals and allied skills. Other lawn sports such as croquet, horseshoes, and quoits could also be considered for the existing manicured areas near the pro shop, and add to revenue thru equipment rental.

A community meeting to discuss the future of the property is schedule for Tuesday May 26th at 7pm at the Montgomery Regional Office Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

The public has an opportunity to witness a PDGA-sanctioned professional disc golf tournament June 6th and 7th at the 18th Annual Seneca Soiree, Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, MD. Play starts at 9am, but feel free to stop by anytime. Park entrance fee is \$2 per person. Several renowned disc golf professionals will participate including local favorites, Craig Gangloff and John Gregory.

Contact:

peter@bethesdabungalows.com

Office: 301-652-7299

Related Links:

www.pdga.com

www.edgediscgolf.org

<http://www.discgolfassoc.com/discgolf-course-design/course-development.html>

www.innovadiscs.com

--- On Tue, 5/26/09, Karen Howland <howlandk@gmail.com> wrote:

From: Karen Howland <howlandk@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Reminder: Sligo Creek Golf Course Meeting Tonight (Tues.) at 7 pm

To: "'Leventhal's Office, Councilmember'" <Councilmember.Leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov>,

"'Karen & Rebecca Howland'" <howl_rehoboth@yahoo.com>, "'Woodside Forest ListServ'"

<woodsideforest@yahoogroups.com>

Cc: jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us, Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org,

John.Hench@montgomeryparks.org, Tina.Trittle@montgomeryparks.org,

Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov, "'Andrews' Office, Councilmember'"

<Councilmember.Andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "'Berliner's Office, Councilmember'"

<Councilmember.Berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "'Elrich's Office, Councilmember'"

<Councilmember.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "'Ervin's Office, Councilmember'"

<Councilmember.Ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "'Floreen's Office, Councilmember'"

<Councilmember.Floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "'Knapp's Office, Councilmember'"

<Councilmember.Knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "'Trachtenberg's Office, Councilmember'"

<Councilmember.Trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov>, heathbleau@yahoo.com, "'Pagnucco,

Adam'" <Acp1629@hotmail.com>, welshmj@yahoo.com, lauramol@gmail.com,

donanddonna1981@yahoo.com, basidwell@msn.com, cbarth@mindspring.com,

arandall26@comcast.net, anneambler@verizon.net, dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org,

northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com, friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com,

neighborsnwb@yahoogroups.com, rebecca.howland@gmail.com, jhannaruiz@yahoo.com,

Rpavis@worldbank.org, rexhudson@verizon.net, Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 4:58 PM

Mr. Leventhal -

We appreciate that there are no immediate proposals to develop the land for residential purposes. That said, there is concern that if a financially and environmentally friendly/feasible recreational use of the land is not pursued that there will be future consideration of those types of proposals.

As a taxpayer, I can say I would rather subsidize the relatively small "loss" that SCGC is showing than to subsidize the millions of dollars it would take to create soccer fields or some of the other proposed uses of the land. The least costly solution is to maintain it as a golf course. We continue to be skeptical of the book keeping and unavoidable big ticket maintenance costs that have been suggested are needed for SCGC. The golf

system as a whole is self-sustaining and I have no problem with the bigger courses (e.g., Northwest, Falls Road) subsidizing our only senior and beginner course inside the beltway. After all, Little Bennett is the biggest money loser and it is being subsidized by the golf system as a whole. The financial burden argument does not pass the red face test. Taxpayers subsidize lots of amenities, why single out golf courses as one amenity that shouldn't be subsidized?

If concerned community members could so easily see the flaws in the MCRA's arguments and ask for more scrutiny and careful consideration, why did the council accept the disbandment of the course without question? It seems that the most fiscally responsible and environmentally sound action for the taxpayers is to not pursue other options. We will work to ensure that an acceptable solution is reached if it is not maintained as a golf course. Obviously, the devil is in the details and we await the details.

Karen Howland
9500 Crosby - 20910

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

From: Leventhal's Office, Councilmember
[mailto:Councilmember.Leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 3:04 PM
To: Karen & Rebecca Howland; Woodside Forest ListServ
Cc: jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us;
Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org; John.Hench@montgomeryparks.org;
Tina.Trittle@montgomeryparks.org; Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov; Andrews' Office, Councilmember; Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Elrich's Office, Councilmember; Ervin's Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office, Councilmember; Knapp's Office, Councilmember; Trachtenberg's Office, Councilmember; heathbleau@yahoo.com; Pagnucco, Adam; welshmj@yahoo.com; lauramol@gmail.com; donanddonna1981@yahoo.com; basidwell@msn.com; cbarth@mindspring.com; howlandk@gmail.com; arandall26@comcast.net; anneambler@verizon.net; dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org; northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com; friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com; neighborsnwb@yahoogroups.com; rebecca.howland@gmail.com; jhannaruiz@yahoo.com; Rpavis@worldbank.org; rexhudson@verizon.net; Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org
Subject: RE: Reminder: Sligo Creek Golf Course Meeting Tonight (Tues.) at 7 pm

Dear friends,

Let me put to rest the rumor that the Sligo Creek Golf Course may be developed for residential purposes. As you know, the county faces a dilemma in that taxpayers should not subsidize golf operations and this golf course has not been financially self-supporting. Other options for recreational use of the land may be considered. However, I don't believe any elected officials in the county would support selling or subdividing this parkland

for townhouse or any other residential development, and no such proposal is pending before either the Park & Planning Commission or the County Council.

Best regards,
George Leventhal
Montgomery County Councilmember

From: Karen & Rebecca Howland [mailto:howl_rehoboth@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tue 5/26/2009 11:12 AM
To: Woodside Forest ListServ
Cc: jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us;
Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org; John.Hench@montgomeryparks.org;
Tina.Trittle@montgomeryparks.org; Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov; Andrews' Office, Councilmember; Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Elrich's Office, Councilmember; Ervin's Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office, Councilmember; Knapp's Office, Councilmember; Leventhal's Office, Councilmember; Trachtenberg's Office, Councilmember; heathbleau@yahoo.com; Pagnucco, Adam; welshmj@yahoo.com; lauramol@gmail.com; donanddonna1981@yahoo.com; basidwell@msn.com; cbarth@mindspring.com; howlandk@gmail.com; arandall26@comcast.net; anneambler@verizon.net; dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org; northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com; friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com; neighborsnwb@yahoogroups.com; rebecca.howland@gmail.com; jhannaruiz@yahoo.com; Rpavis@worldbank.org; rexhudson@verizon.net; Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org
Subject: Reminder: Sligo Creek Golf Course Meeting Tonight (Tues.) at 7 pm

Dear Woodside Forest Residents,

Please attend the community meeting tonight at 7 pm at the MRO Auditorium at 8787 Georgia Ave.

It is critical that the community shows its concern for the fate of the SCGC land. We need to work to find a solution that will preserve the land for recreational use / open space rather than having it sold off to developers for housing development and/or used to store county maintenance vehicles.

The county has deliberately scheduled many of the milestone meetings for the fate of the course around holiday weekends (Memorial, Labor, etc.) to minimize community involvement. We must come out and show that we will not be steamrolled and that we as a community have a voice.

The master plan for the development of the land is on an accelerated time line (see file uploaded to our yahoo group section) so we will have limited opportunities to be heard as a community and interact with Parks & Planning.

Please come tonight to hear Park & Planning's proposals for the land. Also, there will be a presentation from Montgomery Soccer, Inc. who are interested in the development of some (or all) of the land into soccer fields and supporting amenities (e.g., additional bathroom facilities, expanded parking, etc.).

Another presentation will be from a group that would like to change the existing course from a "ball" golf course to a "disc" (aka frisbee) golf course.

Again, it is critical that the community comes out tonight in large numbers to show that we are a force, we have a voice, and to remind our government officials that they work for us (because we pay their salaries with our tax dollars and we put them in office with our votes). These are the same government officials who deem to know what's best for us and have completely ignored our pleas for how we would like to see our neighborhoods used and developed. I speak particularly of the complete and utter abandonment of the communities surrounding SCGC by our representative Valerie Ervin and the rest of the County Council.

We are dealing with a new set of players now with Parks & Planning and we are very hopeful that we can work together to find a solution that serves the immediate community, the rest of the county, and preserves the environmental integrity of the parkland.

With thanks,

The Howlands
Crosby Road - 20910

Please see below the note I received announcing the community meeting to discuss the fate of Sligo Creek Golf Course. It is critical that we work to ensure that the land is used appropriately (e.g., not sold off to developers or used to park maintenance vehicles).

Please plan to attend - May 26 7:00 p.m.

Karen Howland, Crosby Rd.

Hello,

Attached is an invitation to a Community Meeting for the Interim and Future Use Plans for the Sligo Creek Golf Course on May 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the MRO Auditorium located at

8787 Georgia, Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. This meeting is being hosted by the M-NCPPC Department of Parks. Please join us!

For questions or comments about the project, contact Rachel Newhouse at Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Karen & Rebecca Howland [howl_rehoboth@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 3:18 PM
To: Jeff Russell
Cc: woodsideforest@yahoogroups.com; jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us; Newhouse, Rachel; Hench, John; Tritle, Tina; Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov; heathbleau@yahoo.com; acp1629@hotmail.com; welshmj@yahoo.com; lauramol@gmail.com; donanddonna1981@yahoo.com; basidwell@msn.com; cbarth@mindspring.com; howlandk@gmail.com; arandall26@comcast.net; anneambler@verizon.net; dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org; northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com; friendsosligocreek@yahoogroups.com; neighborsnwb@yahoogroups.com; rebecca.howland@gmail.com; jhannarui@yaho.com; Rpavis@worldbank.org; rexhudson@verizon.net; Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org
Subject: Re: The PArk and Planning Staff Meeting on the Golf Course

I'll chime in as Jeff suggested in his note about last night's meeting, so this can be part of the public record (thanks Rachel Newhouse). Park and Planning staff were not prepared for the outrage and anger we citizens leveled at them. In their defense, the anger is more properly directed at our County Council - which has failed to take this issue seriously and underestimates the community's passion for this course. Their lack of presence last night (with the notable exception of our State Representative Jeff Waldsteicher) is another indicator that they aren't listening to us.

We are establishing a website (perhaps a Facebook group page) to provide a better forum for bringing the groups from all neighborhoods (down county, mid and up) together to fight the Council's decisions and the crazy contract that gives a quasi-governmental group (MCRA) a monopoly and the right to prevent SCGC from being a golf course. We will communicate specifics soon.

Key points that they must address and answer to us on:

1) Revisit the classification of golf courses as an "Enterprise" operation, which therefore can not be subsidized by taxpayer dollars.

We learned last night that this is a big roadblock for P&P operating them. It is also why their mission and plans don't include down-county golf facilities as a "need" for citizens like soccer and softball fields. We also learned that PG, Annarundel, and other Maryland counties classify golf as a Recreational Amenity (as they should be) rather than an Enterprise.

2) Dig into the financial information about the golf operation.

Get a true independent group to assess what it is costing and/or what it SHOULD cost to operate the course. Make sure that the decision wasn't rushed and based on questionable data. The Deputy Director of P&P committed last night that they would have to do a financial analysis so they are able to consider proposing keeping it as a golf course. We citizens need to ensure that there is transparency in the numbers and allow citizen participation in

the review. They need to make sense. We also should insist that they not be based on MCRA's proposed or projected costs.

3) Renegotiate the contract with MCRA.

First, read it closely. The community members read it to mean that the golf system as a WHOLE needs to be self-sustaining not every individual course. If that's the case, MCRA should be subsidizing this valued niche course with revenue from the others. I'm told this happens with the indoor tennis facilities. Second, as stated in item 2 above, it needs to be a truly independent analysis. Third, ELIMINATE the language that prevents SCGC from being operated by any other party as a golf course. MCRA claims it is a competitive threat to the other larger courses. That's ludicrous. On the one hand poor SCGC is a big time loser, on the other it will take away players from the other big courses. As was made VERY clear last night, the predominant players of SCGC don't want to or won't play the big courses. SCGC targets beginners, youth, women, and seniors. These players are intimidated by or slow down play on larger courses.

For those who may not have been following this 2+ year saga, I have also copied the earlier letter I sent to the council to remind people that the concerns that Park and Planning were hammered with last night have been voiced directly to the council. Also, many of the marketing ideas that were suggested last night were part of our committee's recommendation to the MCRA. I see no evidence of them having pursued any measures to increase course revenue. And we were told last night that they operate it less hours than the course used to be operated. That too would lessen revenue.

The Council has been asked to retract their decision and spend the time to do due diligence reviewing the financial arguments. At the very least renegotiate the "non-compete" clause. I can say other than a very perfunctory email from Phil Andrews saying the decision was made and a similar note from Duchy Trachtenberg the Council members have been silent. Perhaps they know they didn't take the time to make sure this was the correct decision and they can't respond to specific concerns. Whatever the reason, they owe us more.

We were told last night by the lawyer and Deputy Director that "where there is the will, there is a way."

Even if you aren't a golfer, keeping it a golf course is the most fiscally responsible use of taxpayer dollars versus millions of dollars to develop alternatives. It is also the most environmentally friendly course of action.

Write and call the council members - make them accountable. Info provided below.

Dear WF Residents,

Below is a copy of the letter I sent to all of the Montgomery County Council Members. As stated in a separate e-mail, please contact the council if you would like to preserve the green space that is SCGC.

Phil Andrews, President (240-777-7906)
councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov

Roger Berliner, Vice president (240-777-7828) councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov

Marc Elrich (240-777-7966)
councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov

Valerie Ervin (240-777-7960)
councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov

Nancy Floreen (240-777-7959)
councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Mike Knapp (240-777-7955)
councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov

George Leventhal (240-777-7811)
councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov

Duchy Trachtenberg (240-777-7964)
councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov

Reconsider the decision to let MCRA drop Sligo Creek Golf Course

Council Members -

I'm writing on behalf of many neighbors in the Woodside Forest community who have been shocked to learn that you approved the MCRA's request to turn Sligo Creek Golf Course back to Park and Planning. I represented the Woodside Forest Civic association on the committee that worked with the MCRA this past year to address Keith Miller's concerns about profitability. I can attest to the frustration other committee members have shared about not being given access to the "numbers" that would shed true light on the financial situation. I'll highlight a couple of items that I believe merit further assessment before you give in to the MCRA's request.

* The contract identifies Sligo Creek Golf Course as desirable to support providing access to golf for lower income families and youth. Why has MCRA strayed from that mission for the course? Do we drop a facility that meets that overall purpose for the public golf system?

* The MCRA decision to assess a management fee for a 9 hole course equal to that of the 27 hole courses is arbitrary. This higher management fee has only existed the last couple of years under Keith Miller. It conveniently makes the numbers not work for Sligo Creek Golf Course and should be challenged.

* The contract only demands that the golf system as a whole (i.e., the combined revenue of all courses) break even or make a profit. The system as a whole is profitable. Although I challenge whether SCGC is really losing money, even if it is - the other courses can subsidize Sligo Creek golf course in order for the public to continue to have access to this facility targeted to beginners, seniors, and lower income families.

* Keith Miller claims there is millions of dollars worth of maintenance needed for SCGC. Seriously - that's hogwash - don't buy it. For example, there is no need to put golf paths in on Sligo. The majority of people walk the course and the existing paths are fine. The course has fared quite well even without the irrigation system working. Any of the items he lists are ones that we can choose to not do or, at the very least, defer for a long time until financial situation allows it.

* The report given to justify dropping SCGC did not include the revenue that the course gets from Holy Cross Hospital for parking spaces. How much does that offset the purported losses?

* The contract requires an objective third party to assess whether a course is a detriment to the overall golf system. I wouldn't call a consultant paid for by the MCRA an objective third party. To the contrary, the report looked like a rehash of Keith Miller's

arguments for putting in the lighted driving range. The council should appoint an objective third party to scrutinize the practices and numbers.

There are probably more things that should be investigated, but the above by themselves should be enough to revisit your decision to accept the MCRA's ejection of SCGC from the public golf system. Sligo Creek Golf Course has for over 60 years provided exactly what the contract outlined - a facility that supports beginners, seniors, lower income families and youth who wouldn't normally have access to golf. Entering into this long lasting contract with the MCRA - giving them a monopoly on public courses with a non-compete clause - was a seriously flawed decision. Letting them dictate which courses should be supported for the tax payers use is also a seriously flawed decision and adds insult to injury. This is not a "for-profit" endeavor. The MCRA should be working for the overall good of the tax payers and communities these courses service. Unfortunately, Keith Miller wants to run the system as if it were a private entity.

I ask that you reconsider your decision and demand that the MCRA do what it was contracted to do - operate the public golf system as a whole to break even. The public golf courses are amenities for the community not profit centers.

I would appreciate your response. Thank you in advance for your action on this matter.

Karen Howland
9500 Crosby Rd.
Silver Spring, MD
Woodside Forest

--- On Wed, 5/27/09, Jeff Russell <jeffruss@verizon.net> wrote:

> From: Jeff Russell <jeffruss@verizon.net>
> Subject: The PArk and Planning Staff Meeting on the Golf Course
> To: jeffruss@verizon.net
> Cc: howl_rehoboth@yahoo.com, woodsideforest@yahoogroups.com,
> jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us,
> Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org, John.Hench@montgomeryparks.org,
> Tina.Trittle@montgomeryparks.org, Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov,
> heathbleau@yahoo.com, acp1629@hotmail.com, welshmj@yahoo.com,
> lauramol@gmail.com, donanddonna1981@yahoo.com, basidwell@msn.com,
> cbarth@mindspring.com, howlandk@gmail.com, arandall26@comcast.net,
> anneambler@verizon.net, dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org,
> northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com,
> friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com, neighborsnwb@yahoogroups.com,
> rebecca.howland@gmail.com, jhannaruiz@yahoo.com, Rpavis@worldbank.org,
> rexhudson@verizon.net, Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org
> Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 10:55 AM
> Hello
> Folks:
>

> I and over a hundred other citizens
 > attended the Park and Planning staff presentation last night (May 26,
 > 2009) regarding the Sligo Creek Golf Course.
 > I will leave to others the task of detailing all the events, and
 > invite someone to do so, as well as invite anyone else to weigh in on
 > their impressions, as I am about to do now. With the exception of
 > one or two speakers, virtually everyone in attendance had one and only
 > one
 > concern: keep the golf course in its current status as a 9-hole golf
 > course. There was discussion about how we got to this point, with some
 > expressions of a feeling that there is nothing left to be done, and we
 > need to move on. That was not the sentiment of 90% plus of the room.
 > More importantly, the size and unity of the group resulted in what I
 > view to be a major step forward: while the Planning Board Staff
 > entered the meeting with "continuing to operate the golf course" being
 > (in their words) "off the table", it is now (their words again) back
 > "on the table", and will be one of the specific options that they
 > consider and address in their report to the Planning Board itself,
 > which will ultimately make its recommendations to the Council. The
 > Staff spokesperson answered the direct question "If legalities were
 > not an issue, would the Park be willing to continue to operate the
 > golf course as a golf course?", with this:
 > "Not if it is losing money for the Park", which means several things.
 > First, it means that if the operation can bring in more than it costs,
 > the Park IS willing to continue running the golf course, and
 > alternatively, it means that if the Council is willing to make up any
 > losses (i.e.,
 > subsidize) the course operation, the Park is willing to continue to
 > operate the course, assuming of course the Revenue Authority lease can
 > be dealt with. While seemingly minor concessions, these are really
 > quite significant. This is because in every category except day-to-day
 > operational costs, keeping the course a golf course will win in
 > comparison to ANY other option. That is, anything else being seriously
 > considered will require up-front and significant capital costs (such
 > as leveling the area for ball or soccer fields) and will have
 > significant environmental impacts (ditto, which involves dealing with
 > a large area considered very environmentally sensitive and resultant
 > water quality degradation and runoff). If, as many people
 > knowledgeable about the course believe, the course can operate at a
 > small profit, at a break-even point, or at a rather minor deficit, the
 > only remaining obstacle is the Revenue Authority and its supposed
 > contractual monopoly
 > rights. Which leads to the discussion from the
 > Planning Boards attorney. She stated initially that the contract is
 > the result of a long and hard negotiation, where a lot of give and
 > take occurred. In this portion of her discussion, her language was
 > couched in terms we lawyers refer to as "arms length" dealings.
 > However, when it was suggested that the Park could continue to operate
 > the course after it is turned over to them as of October 1, 2009, at
 > least until the Revenue Authority asked the Park to stop, (the
 > contract language gives the Revenue Authority the ability to request
 > discontinuing the operation of the course if it determines the course
 > is in competition with the rest of the courses in the system) she
 > turned to language completely at odds with the "arms length"
 > schematic. She suggested that it would be unseemly for one government
 > entity to be fighting with another government agency over contract
 > terms. By not continuing to operate the golf course after October 1,

> 2009, the Park is essentially relieving the Revenue Authority of
> asking that the operation stop. The attorney said that they have
> already asked, but to me it is premature (and a cave in by the
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> REALLY result in any significant losses to other courses in the
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> at least wait and see, and (2) make a case based upon the
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> astounding to me on many levels, but I won't get into it now. Suffice
> it to say that our next goals are to have the real numbers regarding
> course operations provided to us and analyzed so that we can make the
> case that the course is not a financial drain, or is at least a minor
> financial drain and much less than any realistic option, AND to
> convince the Council that this is an issue that needs to be revisited,
> included renegotiation of the Revenue Authority contract. Some
> folks at the meeting indicated that they are going to quickly form a
> web-based "Save Sligo Creek Golf Course" movement. I hope they do and
> I ask that they contact us through this listserv when they do. For
> now, I urge everyone to contact Valerie Ervin and the entire Council
> about this again. Councilperson Ervin sent a staff member to the
> meeting, and she indicated that the Councilwoman was "interested" and
> "open" to our concerns. She did get a bit defensive when a number of
> people advised her that Ms. Ervin's help has been solicited on this
> issue in the past and that her responses have been tepid at best,
> unhelpful or non-supportive at worst. However, I am willing to take
> her at her word that regardless of the past, she now is willing to
> help. So let's give her a chance. I suggest we all contact the
> Council with some form of this message:
> We are glad that Park and Planning has decided that exploration of
> keeping the course open is warranted and that that possibility is back
> on the table. We want a full and fair evaluation of the costs and
> benefits of keeping the course open as opposed to any other uses,
> including capital costs, environmental costs, and community costs. We
> want the cost analysis to be based upon real numbers, not Revenue
> Authority figures or figures that include arbitrary or inflated
> "management" fees. We want exploration of steps that could be taken to
> improve the cash balance sheet of the course, such as signage at the
> entrances of Sligo Creek Park at Colesville Road and University
> Boulevard, as well as on the Beltway, alerting people to the existence
> of a beginner friendly, senior friendly and family friendly 9-hole
> golf course. We want revenue generated by permitting Holy Cross
> Hospital to use the parking lot as a satellite lot included in the
> operating revenue of the course. If the parking is now being provided
> free of charge, we want exploration of changing the arrangement to a
> pay-for-parking at market rate structure. And anything else you can
> think of. Apparently, if we keep at it, it's not too late.

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> status as a 9-hole golf course. There was discussion about how we got

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> too late. __, __, __
>

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Art Rose [arose@wtop.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 11:01 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Cc: Dave Garner; Dave Kolesar; Joel Oxley; 'rcassidy@wamu.org'

Dear Ms Newhouse,

Thank you so much for speaking with me about the radio tower located on the grounds of Sligo Park Golf Course. As I mentioned on the phone, the tower is used by

two commercial AM radio stations as well as the Department of Public Works and the Park Police.

The commercial radio stations transmit at this location as licensed by the FCC and have long lease agreements with the county.

The county needs to be aware that this particular transmitting site for the commercial stations is determined by engineering requirements established by the

FCC.

If for any reason use of the tower was denied because of a re-use plan for the Golf Course, it would be very expensive if not impossible for these stations to find

a new transmitting tower facility.

Art Rose

Assistant Chief Engineer
Bonneville International Corporation
WTOP Radio

Office: 202 895 5055

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Michael Dandenault [michael.dandenault@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 7:19 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Meeting

Good Morning Rachel,

I was unable to attend last night's meeting, but I am very eager to hear how it went. Will you be releasing a statement or minutes from the meeting? I appreciate any feedback that you can provide.

Sincerely,

Michael

--

My mind is a raging torrent, flooded with rivulets of thought cascading into a waterfall of creative alternatives.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Susan Bender [susanbender@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 4:47 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Golf Course

Dear Ms. Newhouse,

I am writing about the future use of the Sligo Golf Course, where my husband and I played a round yesterday. It sounds like the decision has already been made to close the course. First, I am urging you to reconsider this decision, and secondly, I have some suggestions for its future use if the course will indeed be closing.

First, has everything possible been done to consider keeping the course open for play? I value having a 9-hole public course near to my home. My husband and I have played at Sligo probably about 4 times a summer for the past few years, sometimes w/ friends. We enjoy walking rather than riding – it's far better exercise, and at many public courses, I feel less than welcome if I want to walk for 9 holes, rather than get an electric cart and play 18, like most of the "gung-ho" golfers. I feel that Sligo has been (and I would hope continues to be) an excellent place to introduce new golfers to the game, whether our children, or non-playing friends. It's easier to get a tee-time, and the green fees are cheaper than the other courses, which are often a long drive outside the Beltway.

I have been following the financial difficulties of the course in the press, and am aware the neighbors voted down the proposed driving range facility. It seems a shame to close the course, when 5 or 10 years from now, the newly revived Silver Spring area may be crying out for public golf facilities, which would be far more expensive to build from scratch—perhaps there is a way the old course can lie dormant, with the idea that in the future it could be reopened (ie, no paving, no cutting down beautiful old oak trees, keep the basic lie of the fairways as open space.

If there is absolutely no way that the course can remain open, I have the following suggestions for the valuable green space inside the beltway. I would recommend two or three holes be reconfigured to a par-3/pitch and putt type course, even if just a few holes, so kids and novices could come get a taste of golf – maybe even for free. Just bring your own clubs. The rest of the course could be retained as wooded open space for a dog park and or jogging route. This would preserve the green space (we saw a deer on hole 9 at midday yesterday), while allowing for the course to possibly reopen in some form in a few years when the financial situation may be more favorable.

Please relay these comments at tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Bender
5828 Magic Mountain Dr.
Rockville, MD 20852
301 230-2018

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Leventhal's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 3:04 PM
To: Karen & Rebecca Howland; Woodside Forest ListServ
Cc: jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us; Newhouse, Rachel; Hench, John; Tritle, Tina; Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov; Andrews' Office, Councilmember; Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Elrich's Office, Councilmember; Ervin's Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office, Councilmember; Knapp's Office, Councilmember; Trachtenberg's Office, Councilmember; heathbleau@yahoo.com; Pagnucco, Adam; welshmj@yahoo.com; lauramol@gmail.com; donanddonna1981@yahoo.com; basidwell@msn.com; cbarth@mindspring.com; howlandk@gmail.com; arandall26@comcast.net; anneambler@verizon.net; dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org; northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com; friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com; neighborsnw@yahoogroups.com; rebecca.howland@gmail.com; jhannaruiz@yahoo.com; Rpavis@worldbank.org; rexfordson@verizon.net; Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org
Subject: RE: Reminder: Sligo Creek Golf Course Meeting Tonight (Tues.) at 7 pm

Dear friends,

Let me put to rest the rumor that the Sligo Creek Golf Course may be developed for residential purposes. As you know, the county faces a dilemma in that taxpayers should not subsidize golf operations and this golf course has not been financially self-supporting. Other options for recreational use of the land may be considered. However, I don't believe any elected officials in the county would support selling or subdividing this parkland for townhouse or any other residential development, and no such proposal is pending before either the Park & Planning Commission or the County Council.

Best regards,
George Leventhal
Montgomery County Councilmember

From: Karen & Rebecca Howland [mailto:howl_rehoboth@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tue 5/26/2009 11:12 AM
To: Woodside Forest ListServ
Cc: jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us; Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org; John.Hench@montgomeryparks.org; Tina.Tritle@montgomeryparks.org; Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov; Andrews' Office, Councilmember; Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Elrich's Office, Councilmember; Ervin's Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office, Councilmember; Knapp's Office, Councilmember; Leventhal's Office, Councilmember; Trachtenberg's Office, Councilmember; heathbleau@yahoo.com; Pagnucco, Adam; welshmj@yahoo.com; lauramol@gmail.com; donanddonna1981@yahoo.com; basidwell@msn.com; cbarth@mindspring.com; howlandk@gmail.com; arandall26@comcast.net; anneambler@verizon.net; dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org; northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com; friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com; neighborsnw@yahoogroups.com; rebecca.howland@gmail.com; jhannaruiz@yahoo.com; Rpavis@worldbank.org; rexfordson@verizon.net; Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org
Subject: Reminder: Sligo Creek Golf Course Meeting Tonight (Tues.) at 7 pm

Dear Woodside Forest Residents,

Please attend the community meeting tonight at 7 pm at the MRO Auditorium at 8787 Georgia Ave.

It is critical that the community shows its concern for the fate of the SCGC land. We need to work to find a solution that will preserve the land for recreational use / open space rather than having it sold off to developers for housing development and/or used to store county maintenance vehicles.

The county has deliberately scheduled many of the milestone meetings for the fate of the course around holiday weekends (Memorial, Labor, etc.) to minimize community involvement. We must come out and show that we will not be steamrolled and that we as a community have a voice.

The master plan for the development of the land is on an accelerated time line (see file uploaded to our yahoo group section) so we will have limited opportunities to be heard as a community and interact with Parks & Planning.

Please come tonight to hear Park & Planning's proposals for the land. Also, there will be a presentation from Montgomery Soccer, Inc. who are interested in the development of some (or all) of the land into soccer fields and supporting amenities (e.g., additional bathroom facilities, expanded parking, etc.).

Another presentation will be from a group that would like to change the existing course from a "ball" golf course to a "disc" (aka frisbee) golf course.

Again, it is critical that the community comes out tonight in large numbers to show that we are a force, we have a voice, and to remind our government officials that they work for us (because we pay their salaries with our tax dollars and we put them in office with our votes). These are the same government officials who deem to know what's best for us and have completely ignored our pleas for how we would like to see our neighborhoods used and developed. I speak particularly of the complete and utter abandonment of the communities surrounding SCGC by our representative Valerie Ervin and the rest of the County Council.

We are dealing with a new set of players now with Parks & Planning and we are very hopeful that we can work together to find a solution that serves the immediate community, the rest of the county, and preserves the environmental integrity of the parkland.

With thanks,

The Howlands
Crosby Road - 20910

Please see below the note I received announcing the community meeting to discuss the fate of Sligo Creek Golf Course. It is critical that we work to ensure that the land is used appropriately (e.g., not sold off to developers or used to park maintenance vehicles).

Please plan to attend - May 26 7:00 p.m.

Karen Howland, Crosby Rd.

Hello,

Attached is an invitation to a Community Meeting for the Interim and Future Use Plans for the Sligo Creek Golf Course on May 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the MRO Auditorium located at

8787 Georgia, Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. This meeting is being hosted by the M-NCPPC Department of Parks. Please join us!

For questions or comments about the project, contact Rachel Newhouse at Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: popovijm [popovijm@georgetown.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 1:21 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Disc Golf Course

Hello Ms Newhouse,

I write in support of the proposal to build a disc golf course on the land of the current Sligo Creek Public Golf Course in Silver Spring. I know there is a hearing tonight (5/26/09) on the proposal, and though I cannot attend I want to express my keen hope that a course can be installed on the property.

I've been discing since 1998 and play every weekend weather and schedule permitting. Of the local courses, I play Seneca State Park by far the most often, but would love another course, especially one so close to my house in Kensington.

I urge you to talk with the rangers at Seneca, especially Ranger Powell, to get a sense of the community of golfers, their respect for the land, willingness to work to improve and maintain the course, and their enthusiasm for the sport.

Thank you for you time.

All best,

Jeff Popovich
4711 Saul Road
Kensington MD 20895

--

Jeffrey Popovich
Circ/Reserve Coordinator - Access Services Department Lauinger Library - Georgetown
University
202 687-7403

Newhouse, Rachel

From: David Schmeltz [schmeltdav@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 1:17 PM
To: howl_rehoboth@yahoo.com
Cc: councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov;
jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us; Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: RE: [woodsideforest] Reminder: Sligo Creek Golf Course Meeting Tonight (Tues.) at 7 pm

We will not be able to attend the meeting tonight but would like to express my deep concern for the county proposal to develop the land for new housing, vehicle storage or any proposal that would potentially "disneyfy" the area. We strongly support preserving the environmental integrity of the parkland and believe this is in the best interest of our immediate community and the broader county. I question whether the ecological impacts of the county's proposal were adequately assessed and considered (e.g., local/regional air quality). If they were seriously considered, there is no way these proposals should even be on the table. We are outraged that the county would consider eliminating public open, green space and park land in favor of bad ideas. We moved to Montgomery County several years ago thinking it was progressive on environment and smart growth matters. These proposals are showing that the priorities of the county are misguided and not at all what we (and others) thought.

David & Rachel Schmeltz
Red Oak Drive 20910

To: woodsideforest@yahoogroups.com
CC: jeff.waldstreicher@house.state.md.us; Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org;
John.Hench@montgomeryparks.org; Tina.Trittle@montgomeryparks.org;
Joypeters@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov; heathbleau@yahoo.com;
acp1629@hotmail.com; welshmj@yahoo.com; lauramol@gmail.com; donanddonna1981@yahoo.com;
basidwell@msn.com; cbarth@mindspring.com; howlandk@gmail.com; arandall26@comcast.net;
anneambler@verizon.net; dcameron@audubonnaturalist.org; northhillsneighbors@yahoogroups.com;
friendsofsligocreek@yahoogroups.com; neighborsnwb@yahoogroups.com; rebecca.howland@gmail.com;
jhannaruiz@yahoo.com; Rpavis@worldbank.org; rexhudson@verizon.net; Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org
From: howl_rehoboth@yahoo.com
Date: Tue, 26 May 2009 08:12:46 -0700
Subject: [woodsideforest] Reminder: Sligo Creek Golf Course Meeting Tonight (Tues.) at 7 pm

Dear Woodside Forest Residents,

Please attend the community meeting tonight at 7 pm at the MRO Auditorium at 8787 Georgia Ave.

It is critical that the community shows its concern for the fate of the SCGC land. We need to work to find a solution that will preserve the land for recreational use / open space rather than having it sold off to developers for housing development and/or used to store county maintenance vehicles.

The county has deliberately scheduled many of the milestone meetings for the fate of the course around holiday weekends (Memorial, Labor, etc.) to minimize community involvement. We must come out and show that we will not be steamrolled and that we as a community have a voice.

The master plan for the development of the land is on an accelerated time line (see file uploaded to our yahoo group section) so we will have limited opportunities to be heard as a community and interact with Parks & Planning.

Please come tonight to hear Park & Planning's proposals for the land. Also, there will be a presentation from Montgomery Soccer, Inc. who are interested in the development of some (or all) of the land into soccer fields and supporting amenities (e.g., additional bathroom facilities, expanded parking, etc.).

Another presentation will be from a group that would like to change the existing course from a "ball" golf course to a "disc" (aka frisbee) golf course.

Again, it is critical that the community comes out tonight in large numbers to show that we are a force, we have a voice, and to remind our government officials that they work for us (because we pay their salaries with our tax dollars and we put them in office with our votes). These are the same government officials who deem to know what's best for us and have completely ignored our pleas for how we would like to see our neighborhoods used and developed. I speak particularly of the complete and utter abandonment of the communities surrounding SCGC by our representative Valerie Ervin and the rest of the County Council.

We are dealing with a new set of players now with Parks & Planning and we are very hopeful that we can work together to find a solution that serves the immediate community, the rest of the county, and preserves the environmental integrity of the parkland.

With thanks,

The Howlands
Crosby Road - 20910

Please see below the note I received announcing the community meeting to discuss the fate of Sligo Creek Golf Course. It is critical that we work to ensure that the land is used appropriately (e.g., not sold off to developers or used to park maintenance vehicles).

Please plan to attend - May 26 7:00 p.m.

Karen Howland, Crosby Rd.

Hello,

Attached is an invitation to a Community Meeting for the Interim and Future Use Plans for the Sligo Creek Golf Course on May 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the MRO Auditorium located at

8787 Georgia, Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. This meeting is being hosted by the M-NCPPC Department of Parks. Please join us!

For questions or comments about the project, contact Rachel Newhouse at Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Andrew Dicello [andrewdicello@global.t-bird.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 1:13 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Community Meeting: Sligo Golf Course Re-Use Plan

Dear Ms. Newhouse,

I am a resident of Silver Spring and live close to the Sligo Creek Golf Course. I'm interested in attending this evenings meeting on the future of the course. Has it been made official that the land must be converted into something other than a golf course? Is this meeting to discuss what else it could be or is there still a chance it can be saved?

Thanks

Andrew

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Abraham, Elaine G [Elaine.Abraham@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 12:16 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek golf course

I just heard there is a meeting tonight which I am unable to attend to discuss the fate of the Sligo Creek golf course. This is a nice executive course that would be a shame to lose to development or whatever other purpose people have in mind. I vote to save Sligo Creek golf course!

Elaine Abraham

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Simons, Mark [msimons@mitre.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 11:38 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Cc: Simons Family
Subject: Sligo Creek

Rachel.

I plan on attending the public meeting this evening on the future use of Sligo Creek Golf Course. Do you know when and where the decision was made to transfer the golf course to the county parks department ? I thought this had been worked out in favor of the golf course last year. I think this is a surprise to many golfers. Its too bad, because I've seen the popularity of Sligo Creek grow this season.

Thanks,

Mark Simons

Newhouse, Rachel

From: russlou@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 10:21 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Cc: scottjill@comcast.net; marksuffanti@msn.com
Subject: Sligo 5/26 meeting info re golf course lease

Ms Newhouse;

The two sections of the MNCPPC/ MCRA golf course lease which, I assume ,were used by MCRA to extract and return Sligo Creek course are Section 12.2 and Section 2.1. The lease ,as you know, is on your website. I believe Section 2.1 could be used to allow the county to continue to use Sligo as a golf course. Anecdotaly , there are no nine hole courses run by MCRA near Sligo and the closest one, Northwest inside nine, is generally crowded.

The expense a the study required by Section 2.1 should be small compared to the costs of using the land for other purposes and compared to the loss of the only golf course located in the area where most of the counties population resides, where most of the counties minority populations reside and where many of the counties senior citizens play.

Most studies of golfer behavior show that proximity, cost, and companions to play with dictate the golfer's choice of course. Seniors will be particularly hard hit by the loss of Sligo for the following reasons: nine holes are cheaper than 18 holes and driving distance from downtown sliver spring to sligo is shorter than to Northwest

Finally, I have played at most of the MCRA courses, and it is my experience that Sligo is the most multiracial and multiethnic course and also attracts golfers of every age. The closure of Sligo will Have a disparate effect on the counties minority populations. Many more minorities live near Sligo than Falls Road, Little Bennett, Red Gate, etc.

Please let me know if such a study is planned ASAP. Time is of the essence in this matter since we are only a few months away from the possible closure of the course.

Louse Hall

An Excellent Credit Score is 750. See Yours in Just 2 Easy Steps!

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Winbourne, Pamela G [Pamela.Winbourne@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 9:08 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: The Fate of Sligo Creek Golf Course!

Don't close the Sligo Creek Golf course! I played my first golf game with my father on that course.

It is truly part of what makes Montgomery County a great place to live.

Raise the fees, if necessary. I would pay a higher fee if that would save the course.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: cblimline@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2009 7:33 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Future of Sligo Golf Course

Rachel,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Tuesday night meeting about plans for the course. I have written to you before about my concerns for the future of this beautiful green space and I just wanted to make a few other observations.

In your deliberations please recognize that close in Silver Spring has both an aging demographic and a highly diverse demographic. Planning for the changes at Sligo should take into consideration the needs of all the citizens down county and not just the young and fit. If the course as is cannot be maintained then consider a smaller executive size course like that at Needwood which could keep golf available for players of all ages and abilities. Such a course would also make room for nature trails and gardens and would provide a place for quiet reflection and a place to appreciate the beauty of the hills and trees throughout that section of the park.

My fear is that a wrong solution to a short term economic situation can have unfortunate long term effects when the county budget improves.

Thanks for all your hard work on this complex issue.

Carol Blimline

Wanna slim down for summer? Go to [America Takes it Off](#) to learn how.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Abrams, Thomas W [Thomas.Abrams@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2009 1:05 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Cc: Abrams, Thomas W
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course
Attachments: Sligo.doc

Dear Ms. Newhouse:

Attached is my letter opposing the proposal to close Sligo Creek Golf Course. I have also printed it below this email for your easy reference. I strongly support the continuation of operations of Sligo. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Thomas Abrams

<<Sligo.doc>>

2703 Thistledown Terrace
Olney, MD 20832

May 25, 2009

Dear Ms. Newhouse:

I am writing this correspondence to express my strong opposition to the proposal to close Sligo Creek Golf Course (Sligo). I strongly support the continuation of operations of Sligo for many reasons. The following are a few of the benefits that Sligo offers the Montgomery County community:

- Sligo provides a golf course in an area where there are not many golf courses.
- Sligo offers a family friendly and beginning friendly course that is not available in the area. I have two children, ages 13 and 15, whom I bring to Sligo. The short course with mostly a simple layout is great for these beginners. The course also offers enough challenges to keep the more advanced golfers interested. I really enjoy the mix of easy and difficult layouts of the various holes.
- Sligo offers a green area in an area that is developing quickly. It is important to protect the green area left in the Silver Spring area and it is quite beneficial to have a facility that can be used for the community enjoyment at the same time.

- Sligo offers the community a golf course that one can play in a relatively short amount of time. With people's schedules getting busier and busier, it is a great benefit to have a golf course that one can play in a reasonable amount of time. I tend to play more often at Sligo for this reason.

In closing, I urge you to consider the benefits of Sligo and urge you to keep it open. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas Abrams

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Susan Easton [easton.susan@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 7:35 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Is this a new plan for Sligo Creek Golf?

Hello,

I've been to two of the many meetings held in the past two years to protest turning the SCGC into a driving range and golf education center. Has that plan been abandoned? Or is this one more meeting about the same plan?

SE

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Ann Daly [ann8502@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 1:51 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Rachel,

You can ignore my phone call. Please put me on the email list for Sligo Creek GC updates.

I plan to attend Tuesday the 26th meeting. Will there be handouts and/or background that I could pick up earlier on Tuesday? I like to have time to ponder....

I also want to know why "under current law" that Sligo Creek GC cannot continue to operate as a golf course.

By return email, if that's easier, you can maybe point me in the right direction to find more information.

Any help is appreciated.

Ann Daly,
A neighbor on Sligo Creek Parkway between Wayne and Piney Branch.
email: ann8502@verizon.net
Cell: 240.676.7582

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Heather Phipps [heathbleau@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 8:46 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: RE: Sligo Creek Disc Golf Course proposal

Great - see you next week!

Thanks again,
Heather Phipps

--- On Wed, 5/20/09, Newhouse, Rachel <Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

From: Newhouse, Rachel <Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: RE: Sligo Creek Disc Golf Course proposal
To: "Heather Phipps" <heathbleau@yahoo.com>
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 9:54 AM

We have not asked for a presentation but welcome any information that is available to share with us. This suggestion will be studied, as will other suggested activities for the park.

Thank you,

Rachel Newhouse

From: Heather Phipps [mailto:heathbleau@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 4:28 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Disc Golf Course proposal

Hi Rachel,

A friend of mine who is a big disc golf enthusiast just sent me a link to this site:

<http://md-discgolf.com/phpbb3/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=2384>

Is it true that you all have asked MD Disc Golf and Bethesda Bungalows to present their proposal at the May 26th meeting? If so, I am really thrilled to read this news. I think disc golf is the perfect environmentally-friendly, low impact land use solution for the golf course!

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Reid, Lynnda L [Lynnda.Reid@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 3:46 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Fate of Sligo Creek Golf Course

I will not be able to attend the public hearing on the potential closure of Sligo Creek Golf Course, however, I wanted to express my strong objection to the proposed closure. Sligo GC is a great place to play. Public parks should when ever possible support multiple activities and interest groups. Closure of public courses is in no ones best interest.

Lynnda Reid

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Charles T. Hathway [chathway@bernsteinmgmt.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 3:15 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: RE: Interim and Future Use of Sligo golf Course
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks. So the Revenue Authority owns the ground and they leased it to the Dept of Parks?

When was the law passed, and where can I find a copy of it, that prohibits its use as a golf course?

Thanks again Rachel.

Charles T. Hathway
Bernstein Management Corporation
5301 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20015
202 363-6301 (ext 315)
202 363-6341 (fax)
chathway@bernsteinmgmt.com

From: Newhouse, Rachel [mailto:Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 2:57 PM
To: Charles T. Hathway
Subject: RE: Interim and Future Use of Sligo golf Course

The lease agreement with the Revenue Authority does not allow the Department of Parks to operate the property for golf, so there is not a driving range being considered. Please visit our website for the project at www.SligoCreekGolf.org for additional information about proposed future uses.

Thank you,

Rachel Davis Newhouse, RLA
Planner Coordinator

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Park Planning and Stewardship Division
1109 Spring Street, Suite 802
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

301 650-4368 direct
301 650-4370 division
Rachel.Newhouse@MontgomeryParks.org

www.MontgomeryParks.org



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From: Charles T. Hathway [mailto:chathway@bernsteinmgmt.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 11:01 AM

To: Newhouse, Rachel

Subject: Interim and Future Use of Sligo golf Course

Rachel, I am interested in whether a driving range is being considered. Thanks

Charles T. Hathway
Bernstein Management Corporation
5301 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20015
202 363-6301 (ext 315)
202 363-6341 (fax)
chathway@bernsteinmgmt.com

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Newhouse, Rachel

From: Prange, Eric R. [Eric_R_Prange@mcpsmd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 10:25 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: RE: Sligo Creek Golf Re-Use Study Public Meeting -COMMUNITY BROADCAST
Attachments: image001.png

Either myself or the other coach will be coming to the meeting.

Home meets for the XC regular season typically involve 2-3 schools, but occasionally as many as 4. It is possible to make a special request to have a specific number for the meet, especially if the course can only really handle 2 teams. A smaller meet with only two teams would involve typically up to 100 runners who would be broken up into two races (boys and girls). A 2-3 hour block of time would be needed (say 2:30-5:00) A meet with four teams can be significantly larger and is usually broken up into four races and would need a bit more time (say 2:30-5:30 or 6:00).

As for improvements, they would be minor, if any. There is plenty of parking in the area and I assume there are already bathroom facilities and potable water as well. IF there were any improvements to be requested, it would likely be something like creating a short path through a wooded area to make it safe to run on (something we could even do for free with permission). Even this is not necessarily required, but it could be helpful to make a better course and one that stays further away from the actual greens on the course.

While I am confident there is enough space to run a meet, I have not previously scouted out the golf course to develop a specific course, especially since I was told it was not a possibility. Would it be alright if I came by one day simply to walk around the golf course, take some measurements and come up with a proposed course? It would also be helpful to know which areas are off limits. I assume the putting greens are off limits, but I am not as sure about the driving greens. Another important detail would be developing a rain policy for the meet. We only cancel because of lightening, not because of heavy rain. But in heavy rain, there does tend to be some wear and tear. Considering the small size of the meet, the wear and tear would be minimal, even in heavy rain – but I do know that golf courses are sensitive to that. I would certainly do my best to keep the XC course away from the more pristine areas that are more difficult to upkeep – I simply need some guidance as to where those areas are.

From: Newhouse, Rachel [mailto:Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 2:00 PM
To: Prange, Eric R.
Subject: RE: Sligo Creek Golf Re-Use Study Public Meeting -COMMUNITY BROADCAST

Thank you for this idea. The Department of Parks will take back the operation and management of the course on October 1, 2009. An interim plan is being developed as to the uses of the property before money and future development is approved. Your idea will be included in the evaluation of all suggested interim and future uses for the park. It would be helpful to know how many people are part a cross country course and if any improvements are needed to accommodate this.

Also, please attend the community meeting for this project and share your idea! See attached invitation.

Rachel Davis Newhouse, RLA
Planner Coordinator

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Park Planning and Stewardship Division
1109 Spring Street, Suite 802
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

301 650-4368 direct
301 650-4370 division
Rachel.Newhouse@MontgomeryParks.org

www.MontgomeryParks.org



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From: Prange, Eric R. [mailto:Eric_R_Prange@mcpsmd.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 8:37 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: FW: Sligo Creek Golf Re-Use Study Public Meeting -COMMUNITY BROADCAST

Rachel,

I am the Cross Country Coach at Montgomery Blair HS, which considering our school is bordered by 495, 193 and 29 is a rather difficult proposition. We often joke that we run XC in a concrete jungle and that statement is probably not far off the mark.

We are currently the only school in the entire county that does not have a home course. This is basically due to the fact that not only does our campus have virtually no green space, there are no large areas nearby that also have green space. The Sligo Golf Course is essentially the best nearby option for us to have a home course for one meet in the fall once a year.

I had made one phone call inquiring about this, although I do not remember who I talked too. I was basically told that this was not a possibility. It's a shame because golf courses are used on a regular basis for cross country courses and are often very good courses to run on. And for us it is not only the best option, but one of the very few even remotely viable options in the area. Our next best option is Wheaton Regional which is already used by most of the down county consortium schools and therefore not truly a home course if we use that park and not as close to us as the Sligo Golf course either.

Is there any chance to discuss the possibility of allowing Montgomery Blair to host one small meet at the golf course in September or October during the weekday around 3-5:30pm? We are likely flexible with dates and I also understand the concerns of maintaining the golf course. We would certainly do our best to avoid the more pristine greens from any serious wear and tear.

If this is even an option, I could certainly come out to the golf course and propose an actual course for the XC meet.

I am very open to any questions, concerns, etc. as I am very interested in finding a way to make this work.

Thanks in advance,

Eric Prange
XC Coach
AP Chemistry Teacher
Montgomery Blair HS

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

From: Lockerman, Vicki <Vicki.Lockerman@montgomerycountymd.gov>
To: Lockerman, Vicki <Vicki.Lockerman@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Cc: Funes, Ingrid P. <Ingrid.Funes@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jenkins, Dwayne B. <Dwayne.Jenkins@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Tull, Mel <Mel.Tull@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Sent: Mon, 18 May 2009 3:48 pm
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Re-Use Study Public Meeting -COMMUNITY BROADCAST

Hello,

Attached is an invitation to a Community Meeting for the Interim and Future Use Plans for the Sligo Creek Golf Course on May 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the MRO Auditorium located at 8787 Georgia, Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. This meeting is being hosted by the M-NCPPC Department of Parks. Please join us and pass this notice on to anyone you think might be interested.

For questions or comments about the project, contact Rachel Newhouse at Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org.

Tanya Schmieler
Park Planning Supervisor
Park Planning and Stewardship Division
M-NCPPC
301-650-4392 Phone
301-650-4371- Fax
1109 Spring Street, Room 802
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Tanya.Schmieler@mncppc-mc.org- email
www.parkplanningandstewardship.org- Division Web site

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Newhouse, Rachel

From: Tatum, Donald (DCRA) [donald.tatum@dc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 10:43 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Reuse Plan for Sligo Creek Golf Course

Ms. Newhouse,

Do you have any information you can email me on the Reuse Plan for Sligo Creek Golf Course? Or directions to a website perhaps?

Don Tatum

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Dana Andersen [dander54@jhmi.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 6:46 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Re: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Thanks for your reply. I am curious why "alternative uses" are being considered. Is it a financial issue?

DKA

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

From: "Newhouse, Rachel" <Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org>
To: Dana Andersen <dander54@jhmi.edu>

Sent: 5/19/2009 10:54:03 AM
Subject: RE: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Thank you for the email. After we have heard from the community, we will be preparing concept alternatives for different uses for the park. These will be placed on the website and you will be notified of the web address to view the alternatives and send your comments.

If you have any additional concerns or comments, please contact me at the addresses below.

Rachel Davis Newhouse, RLA
Planner Coordinator

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Park Planning and Stewardship Division
1109 Spring Street, Suite 802
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

301 650-4368 direct
301 650-4370 division
Rachel.Newhouse@MontgomeryParks.org

www.MontgomeryParks.org
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-----Original Message-----

From: Dana Andersen [mailto:dander54@jhmi.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 9:02 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Hi Ms Newhouse,
I live in Silver Spring and enjoy Sligo Creek Golf Course as an outstanding example of a county resource for recreation. I understand that some consideration is being given to change, but I am unable to attend the open discussion on tuesday May 26. I am interested to know what options are being considered, and would hope that this resource will continue to be available for county residents.
Thanks for your consideration,
Dana K. Andersen

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Laura Mol [lauramolmail@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 4:33 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Golf future

As you likely know, *Friends of Sligo Creek* has a very high interest in the contribution that the ~70-acres of the golf course can make (or not) to the ecological health of Sligo woods and waters. I've been under the impression that you all at P&P didn't particularly want to meet with interested parties prior to the public meeting on the 26th--but it finally occurs to me to ask you that directly. I'm one of the designated pointpeople for *Friends of Sligo Creek* on this issue; president Bruce Sidwell is another, and he is out of the country so i offered to be in touch with you. I'd be glad to come over to talk with you sometime during the next week if you'd be open to that.

And this detail: back when the Revenue Authority was producing their plan for the driving range on the course, they got a consultant to do a survey of trees. It appeared that the report was entirely linked to the requirements of the Forest Conservation and other regs but, in the process, there was an inventory and detailed map--the latter used at a public meeting at Holy Cross hospital. It occurs to me that, regardless of the inventorying that may yet take place, it would be of interest to get hold of that January 2008 (?) report/map.

Whatever the timing, we look forward to some interesting conversations about the Sligo golf land and its possibilities.

Regards,

--

Laura Mol, Corresponding Secretary
Friends of Sligo Creek
1013 Robin Road
Silver Spring MD 20901
h: 301.681.9686
o: 202.745.8000x5589

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Vidra, James D [James.Vidra@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 3:57 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Status of the Sligo Golf Course

Dear Ms. Newhouse,

I am a frequent golfer at the Sligo Creek GC and wish to impress upon you that many of we area golfers continue to enjoy this course and its very convenient location. Seldom are the lines long at Sligo making golfing there a very enjoyable sport. A golf course not only brings satisfaction to its golfers, but also provides the open space and greenery needed by area residents and wildlife. Please take these comments into account before making your very important decision.

Thank you!

James Vidra

James D. Vidra, Ph.D.

Branch Chief

Branch VII, Division of Postmarketing Evaluation

Office of New Drug Quality Assessment

Center of Drug Evaluation and Research

10903 New Hampshire Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Telephone No. 301-796-1767

Fax No. 301-796-9749

Email Address: james.vidra@fda.hhs.gov

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Dean, Jane [Jane.Dean@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 3:47 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Please do not close Sligo Creek Golf Course!

Ms. Newhouse,

I'm writing to you because I'm concerned about Sligo Creek Golf course closing at the end of this year. This is a lovely suburban course that enables many to enjoy a sport in the same way that the ball parks and soccer fields do. There is nowhere else in the community (that is, within the Beltway and so easily accessible) that does this. Every time I have gone to the course, it has been busy and people are waiting to start their round. Also, as the baby boomer reaches retirement age, there will probably (though I admit I do not have any numbers to back this up) be a larger number of people using the course in the future.

Please do not close this course without having additional input from the people who would be most affected by such a decision, that is, the local taxpayers and community at large.

Thank you.

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Newhouse, Rachel

From: Miranda S Spivack [spivackm@washpost.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 3:17 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: my contact info

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