

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Foster, Shondell [Shondell.Foster@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course
Attachments: Suffanti suggestions for Sligo.pdf

Dear Ms. Newhouse,

I work with the Montgomery County Council and we received correspondence from a resident who proposes plans for the golf course. Although I am working through our process to respond to him, I have attached a copy of his email for you to evaluate or consider as part of the public comment M-NCPPC seeks to receive for the re-use plan for Sligo. We will encourage him to share his suggestions and participate in the process as the re-use plan process begins for Sligo.

Shondell H. Foster
Research Associate
Montgomery County Council
240-777-7937

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Prange, Eric R. [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,

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Laura [laura@thefirstteemcmd.org]
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 3:35 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Fw: Sligo Creek Golf Course Community Meeting
Attachments: Sligo Flyer 5-26-09.pdf

i will attend

Laura Sildon

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

From: "Tritle, Tina" <Tina.Tritle@montgomeryparks.org>
Sent: 5/15/2009 11:16:06 AM
To: acp1629@hotmail.com, "Brett, Christine" <Christine.Brett@montgomeryparks.org>, bowpeake@aol.com, msdonna@comcast.net, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>, William_Beattie@mcpsmd.org, heathbleau@yahoo.com, howlandk@gmail.com, KMiller@mcra-md.com, r.bradshaw@att.net, Laura@thefirstteemcmd.org, mboone@mcra-md.com, welshmj@hotmail.com, tjacob@mcra-md.com, basidwell@msn.com, wrohauer@MontgomeryCountyGolf.com, lauramol@zzapp.org
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course Community Meeting

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.

Tina M. Tritle
Administrative Assistant
Park Planning and Stewardship Division
M-NCPPC
1109 Spring Street Suite 800
Silver Spring, MD 20910
p. (301)650-4398
f. (301)650-4379

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Michael Welsh [welshmj@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 2:49 PM
To: Hench, John
Cc: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: North Hills and the Future of Sligo Creek Golf Course

Dr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
cc: Ms. Rachel Newhouse, Planner Coordinator
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring , MD 20901

May 18, 2009

Dear Dr. Hanson:

On behalf of the North Hills of Sligo Creek Civic Association, I want to thank you for the opportunity to address the M-NCPPC Department of Parks on the future of Sligo Creek Golf Course (SCGC). For geographic reference, our civic association of nearly 300 homes abuts the eastern side of SCGC.

As I'm sure you're aware, Sligo Creek holds a special place in our county as the first public golf course. This 71-acre parcel of land has operated as a golf course for over six decades and continues to serve as a bastion for beginning and community golfers alike. It also an environmental keystone, providing refuge to myriad wildlife, breaking up the flow of impervious surfaces, and serving as a conduit to both the greater Sligo Creek Park ecosystem as well as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Our community would prefer that SCGC remain just that: a golf course. We believe that repurposing the land for other functions would not only require extraordinary physical and financial measures, but ruin a near-perfect green space-- a true and precious down-County commodity. We also remain firm in our belief that this space should not be regarded as something that must generate revenue. Now that SCGC is no longer under the auspices of the Montgomery County Revenue Authority (MCRA), we would hope that you share this philosophy. With some basic upkeep of the course itself and possible renovations to the clubhouse, SCGC could remain a viable and enjoyable alternative to the County's other public courses. Unfortunately we understand that your lease with the MCRA states that once SCGC is returned to the M-NCPPC Department of Parks, it can no longer be run as a golf course because it would be in competition with the MCRA's other courses. This paradoxical arrangement remains a bit puzzling as we do not understand how the MCRA could deem SCGC a "financial drain to their system," thus the reason for dropping it, and then complain that it would be in competition with their other courses. We hope that this prior agreement could be amended.

Suffice it to say, we have never felt entirely good about our interactions with the MCRA. Although the Revenue Authority appeared to be open to our community's suggestions for how to make SCGC more profitable, their effort proved just a facade. Let's be clear: the only choice the MCRA offered us was to either approve their drastic changes (re-routing the entire course to accommodate a 70-stall, two-tiered lighted driving range as well as two lighted miniature golf

Newhouse, Rachel

From: r.bradshaw@att.net
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2009 12:30 PM
To: Tritle, Tina
Cc: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Re: Sligo Creek Golf Course Community Meeting

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend but I am very much interested in this issue. Could I possibly get a copy of any documented plans or recommendations that come out of this meeting and notice of any future meetings? Thanks.

Robin Bradshaw

----- Original message from "Tritle, Tina" <Tina.Tritle@montgomeryparks.org>: -----

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.

Tina M. Tritle
Administrative Assistant
Park Planning and Stewardship Division
M-NCPPC
1109 Spring Street Suite 800
Silver Spring, MD 20910
p. (301)650-4398
f. (301)650-4379

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Hanna-Ruiz, Jeanette [Jeanette_Hanna-Ruiz@nsc.eop.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 12:19 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Sligo Golf Course Re-use plan

I will not be able to make the meeting at the end of the month but please put me on the mailing list with the following address: jhannaruiz@yahoo.com

I was not aware of anything going on with the golf course.

Thanks,
Jeanette Hanna-Ruiz

Newhouse, Rachel

From: woodybrosnan [woodybrosnan@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: 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



RECEIVED
0503
MAY 26 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

May 22, 2009

Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Sir or Madam:

NoVa Disc Golf would like to offer our support for the development of a disc golf course on the Sligo Creek Golf Course site. NoVa Disc Golf is the Disc Golf Club of Northern Virginia and we support the development of both recreational and competitive disc golf throughout the Washington DC Metropolitan area.

The possibility of a disc golf course installed upon the Sligo Creek Golf Course site holds tremendous promise. Disc Golf as a sport has mushroomed in growth across the United States. The beauty of the sport is that it can be enjoyed by all levels of participants from recreational play by families and juniors to high level competition by professional players. The potential of installing a premier disc golf course at Sligo Creek is an opportunity which should not be considered lightly. Currently, there are only a handful of "premier" level Championship Disc Golf courses across the country. With very little investment, Sligo Creek has the potential to become "the premier" disc golf course in the United States. As such it very easily could become a National Tour stop on the prestigious PDGA circuit. Additionally, the course could easily be designed in such a way as to allow for all levels of play.

NoVa Disc Golf would like to support any initiative the M-NCPPC towards disc golf. We have a large constituency which would be very willing to offer support both financially and through donations of time and work. We would also be willing to spearhead fundraising opportunities to help support the development of a disc golf course at Sligo Creek or anywhere within the Maryland Parks system.

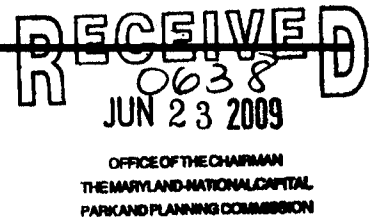
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Coffin". The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.

Tom Coffin
President, NoVa Disc Golf

Coleman, Joyce

From: Hsaaba@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 5:20 PM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: save sligo golf course



I believe that you should consider voting against the proposal to close Sligo Golf Course; it is a valuable recreational resource for the community.

Harris S. Ammerman, Esq.
1115 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202 638 0606
fax: 202 638 5858
email: hsaaba@aol.com
web: www.ammermangoldberg.com

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

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Bradford, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 5:18 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel; Tucker, Tiffany
Subject: FW: close sligo; terrible

From: DColl28416@aol.com [mailto:DColl28416@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 4:45 PM
To: Bradford, Mary
Subject: close sligo; terrible

June 24, 2009

Sirs and Madams,

It seems impossible to believe that this marvelous green sward of recreational opportunity will suffer the slings and arrows of bureaucratic malaise.

As a long time player at this delightful golf treat, it pains me enormously to learn that for short term thinking to prevail, we will lose a long term benefit which keeps giving and giving to our community.

I will be alerting many residents of Montgomery County to scream and scream and scream about this travesty.

Don Collins
dcoll28416@aol.com

Huge Savings on Popular Laptops only at Dell.com. Shop Now!

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Bradford, Mary
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2009 6:00 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: FW: Don't close Sligo Creek!

From: Joseph Candaffio [mailto:j.candaffio@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 6:16 PM
To: ocmemail@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov;
kmiller@mcra-md.com; Bradford, Mary; MCP-Chair
Subject: Don't close Sligo Creek!

It has come to my attention that council members plan to close Sligo Creek Golf course the first of October 2009. I think doing this will devastate many golfers, new and old, as well as future golfers. Right of the beltway, Sligo Creek is a convenient golf course in many ways. Its location makes it very easy to get to, and the 9 holes make it easier for new golfers to learn the game in a low stress environment. It is also a good course to go to when you just need to squeeze in a quick game when you are crunched for time. There are many golf courses that are better than Sligo Creek in many ways, but Sligo has created a niche that most golfers enjoy. It has become tradition for many golfers to go out and play at Sligo Creek and by taking the course away, many people will just stop going because they don't have the time, skill or money to go out and play 18 holes as often as they can play at Sligo. Sligo has become the home for many golfers, and also a great learning course where many players learned their swing. It was the first course I ever got a par on and I will never get to play on it with my kids and share that memory with them if you close it down. In conclusion, by closing down the course, you are doing a lot more damage than you think and many people will feel like they have lost a part of them. SO DONT CLOSE THE CREEK!

Coleman, Joyce

From: Lee Futrovsky [lee.futrovsky@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 9:59 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

RECEIVED
0646
JUN 24 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to you today to support the inclusion of soccer fields in the redevelopment of the soon to be former Sligo Creek Golf Course.

I am a long time resident of Woodside Forest, one of the neighborhoods abutting the site. I have two children who play soccer, one with Takoma Park and one with MSI and I have coached in both leagues. I can attest, first hand, to the dearth of fields in our part of the county. The fields that do exist are, in honesty, unplayable. We use them only because nothing else exists. I frequently drive to Clarksburg and Boyds to get my children to decent fields for their games.

The concerns of some about lighting and traffic are real and should be taken into account. However, the top priority of those making the decision about this land should be finding uses that will benefit as many members of the surrounding community and the county as a whole. Another proposal for this land (disc golf) seems to be gaining momentum, not because of a groundswell of disc golfers clammering for a course, but because it will keep this park land almost unused.

As this decision making process goes forward I hope you will consider what is the best use of park land for all who live in Montgomery County, not just a vocal minority.

Please support the inclusion of soccer fields in this redevelopment.

Very sincerely,

Lee Futrovsky
1530 Live Oak Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Coleman, Joyce

From: john [john@e-lacrosse.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 10:33 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: sligo golf

RECEIVED
JUN 24 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Please keep Sligo golf course open! It is the only comfortable course for beginners around. How do new people play if there are no par 9's where people don't frown on new and learning players? Thanks. -John Weaver

http://savesligogolf.com/why_sligo_is_really_closing

Newhouse, Rachel

From: MCP-CTRACK
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 4:27 PM
To: Bradford, Mary
Cc: Tucker, Tiffany; Newhouse, Rachel; MCP-CTRACK
Subject: CTRACK #2009-0646 - Various/Sligo Creek Golf
Attachments: 2009-0646-Incoming.pdf

**CTRACK ROUTING SLIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

File Number:	2009-0646	Date Received:	6/24/2009
Correspondence Type:	Email	Date Of Letter:	6/24/2009
Agenda Date:	N/A		
To:	Royce Hanson		
From:	Futrovsky & Weaver		
Description:	Two (2) letters regarding Sligo Creek Golf Course		
Transmitted To:	Director and Chairman		
Action For:	Bradford, M		
Copies To:	Tucker, T; Newhouse, R		
Date Due:	7/1/2009		
Remarks From Chairman's Office:			
Prepare response for staff signature; copy Chairman's Office.			

MCP-CTRACK

From: Steve Daniel [steven.daniel1@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 7:38 PM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Please save Sligo Golf Course

RECEIVED
0621
JUN 18 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Sir:

I learned to play golf at Sligo in the 1970s and to this day regularly see others there to learn to play too. I have played the course countless times over the years. It is a course that many of us play because it is convenient, the only down-county public golf course, but it is also where fathers teach their children to play golf, where husbands teach their spouses. It is a gentle layout that lets older players continue to play and less skilled players enjoy an unintimidating golfing experience. At the same time, it is a place where more skilled players can practice and squeeze in an afternoon's exercise.

As I understand it the financial issues are ambiguous at best and really don't justify closed this important facility.

Although I grew up in Montgomery County and was a voter and property owner there for a long time, I now live inside the District of Columbia. My vote is no longer something to be carried by you and your colleagues, but I would hope that the simple justice of the case will prevail.

Sincerely,

Steven F. Daniel

Newhouse, Rachel

From: MCP-CTRACK
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 11:24 AM
To: Bradford, Mary
Cc: Tucker, Tiffany; Newhouse, Rachel; MCP-CTRACK
Subject: CTRACK #2009-0621 - DanielSligo Creek
Attachments: 2009-0621-Incoming.pdf

**CTRACK ROUTING SLIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

File Number:	2009-0621	Date Received:	6/18/2009
Correspondence Type:	Email	Date Of Letter:	6/17/2009
Agenda Date:	N/A		
To:	Royce Hanson		
From:	Steven F. Daniel		
Description:	Sligo Creek Golf Course		
Transmitted To:	Director and Chairman		
Action For:	Bradford, M		
Copies To:	Tucker, T; Newhouse, R		
Date Due:	6/26/2009		
Remarks From Chairman's Office:			
Prepare response for staff signature; copy Chairman's Office.			

MCP-CTRACK

From: Mandi Wedin [mwedin@wedin.org]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:51 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Sligo Creek golf course - keep it open

RECEIVED
JUN 22 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman Hanson -

As a new participant in the sport of golf, I choose to play at Sligo Creek since it is an accessible, affordable, and convenient nine-hole course. As a female golfer living in Montgomery County, I recommend the Sligo Creek course to other golfers who are looking for a golf experience that is not fraught with class and elitism issues. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mandi Wedin
mwedin@wedin.org

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2009

MCP-CTRACK

From: Stasi and Craig Brown [the-browns@starpower.net]
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2009 7:05 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Save Sligo Creek Golf!

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

I am writing in support of maintaining Sligo Creek Golf Course as a golf course. This beautiful, mature green space is one of the only low-cost avenues for golf down-county. Just yesterday, my 10 year-old daughter and I played a round of golf at Sligo, we enjoyed the \$3.00 hot dog specials, walked the course, and spent some of the best dad/daughter time possible. I had the privilege of watching her jump for joy as she made her very first 'par' of her life on the 7th hole. For many Montgomery County residents, you couldn't ask for a better way to spend a 2-2 1/2 hours than walking a beautiful course playing a sport we love.

Between the great history of Sligo Creek Golf Course (giving up 9 of its holes to the Washington Beltway way back when), the beautiful condition, the buffer the course plays for residents between their homes the beltway, the Golf Course is truly a Montgomery County legend that should not be closed as a golf course.

Please help save Sligo Creek Golf Course, thousands of local residents, as well as others throughout the region will thank you for it.

all the best,
Craig Brown
2711 Blaine Dr.

Coleman, Joyce

RECEIVED
8629

JUN 22 2009

From: Martin, Ted [tmartin@steptoe.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 3:55 PM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Please save Sligo Creek Golf Course

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

I am a resident of Forest Estates who lives less than a mile from Sligo Creek Golf Course. The golf course was a factor in my decision to move to the neighborhood from DC five years ago. I have two daughters, ages 6 and 3. I have long planned to teach them golf at Sligo Creek Golf Course. Madeline, my 6 year old, is nearing the age when I will enroll her in Sligo's youth golf program, you keep it from closing forever this October.

Please preserve this treasure of southern Montgomery County. Sligo Golf Course is very different from the other county courses. It is smaller, shorter, and easier than the full-sized courses in the area. This makes it much more accessible to newcomers to the game of golf. And it makes for a quick enjoyable round for experienced golfers. I often meet two coworkers who live in DC for a pre-work round of golf at Sligo. Sligo's uniqueness draws golfers of all ages and abilities.

Please save Sligo Creek golf Course. Raise the price if necessary. \$15 for 9 holes on weekdays is ridiculously cheap in comparison to other courses. I think the price could be raised substantially with no reduction in use. Discounts could be increased for youth and senior citizens.

Thank you.

Ted Martin
1812 Cody Drive
Silver Spring

MCP-CTRACK

From: Mandi Wedin [mwedin@wedin.org]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:51 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Sligo Creek golf course - keep it open

RECEIVED
JUN 22 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman Hanson -

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Mandi Wedin
mwedin@wedin.org

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Bradford, Mary
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2009 3:37 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Cc: Giddens, Gene
Subject: FW: Support for Sligo Creek Golf Course

Another for the record

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

From: J & R Bruno [mailto:rosalind.bruno@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 1:41 PM
To: councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov
Cc: councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov; oemail@montgomerycountymd.gov; Bradford, Mary; MCP-Chair
Subject: Support for Sligo Creek Golf Course

I am writing as a 36 year resident of Silver Spring and supporter of Sligo Creek Golf Course. Do all recreation facilities of the county, whether Parks Department, Revenue Authority or other ownership, have to be profitable? Sligo provides a lovely facility for entry level golfers, a diverse population who may wish to learn or play the sport but are not in the social economic and ethnic class our society has determined are eligible to play golf.

Isn't it a sign you have "made it" in business if you play golf? It's a place for business deals etc., No? ... for professional congeniality. Golf is generally an elitist sport for a specific population, but should it be? Golf courses are less "public" than a park and other recreation facilities, because only the upper classes of particular gender and ethnicity participate. I think Sligo should remain as a more truly "public" course. Let the doctors and businessmen have the upcounty courses, but invite the younger, less affluent and, perhaps, those more suited to a smaller course to Sligo Creek. It would be a great place for teens to have lessons through the Recreation Department also. I didn't get any golf lessons until I got to college, where they had their own courses.

The current proposed uses sound rather desperate and do not improve on the current use. Soccer fields would require severe regrading of the terrain. Frisbee whatever is nonsense and probably quite elitist. Community gardens would only involve a small parcel which might be accommodated on current land. And a parking or storage lot on such a beautiful piece of property is just mean.

Is it possible that presentation of the Revenue Authority proposal for a huge driving range in the middle of a residential area (plus a miniature gold course) wasn't just a sure way of getting the whole project shot down so they could rid themselves of the property? The mistake seems to have been in the contract written between the Park and Planning Department and Revenue Authority. Parks got burned. Aren't they part of the same government? Shouldn't they be working together? So fix the contract.

Please support continuing with Sligo Creek Golf Course in it's current state.

Sincerely,
Rosalind R. Bruno
1003 Highland Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
rosalind.bruno@verizon.net

Coleman, Joyce

From: Hsaaba@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 5:20 PM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: save sligo golf course

RECEIVED
0638
JUN 23 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

I believe that you should consider voting against the proposal to close Sligo Golf Course; it is a valuable recreational resource for the community.

Harris S. Ammerman, Esq.
1115 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202 638 0606
fax: 202 638 5858
email: hsaaba@aol.com
web: www.ammermangoldberg.com

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

Newhouse, Rachel

From: MCP-CTRACK
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 5:19 PM
To: Bradford, Mary
Cc: Tucker, Tiffany; Newhouse, Rachel; MCP-CTRACK
Subject: CTRACK #2009-0638 - Ammerman/Sligh Creek Golf
Attachments: 2009-0638-Incoming.pdf

**CTRACK ROUTING SLIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

File Number:	2009-0638	Date Received:	6/23/2009
Correspondence Type:	Email	Date Of Letter:	6/22/2009
Agenda Date:	N/A		
To:	Royce Hanson		
From:	Harris Ammerman		
Description: Sligo Creek Golf Course			
Transmitted To:	Director and Chairman		
Action For:	Bradford, M		
Copies To:	Tucker, T; Newhouse, R		
Date Due:	6/30/2009		
Remarks From Chairman's Office:			
Prepare response for staff signature; copy Chairman's Office.			

Coleman, Joyce

From: john [john@e-lacrosse.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 10:33 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: sligo golf

RECEIVED
JUN 24 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Please keep Sligo golf course open! It is the only comfortable course for beginners around. How do new people play if there are no par 9's where people don't frown on new and learning players? Thanks. -John Weaver

http://savesligogolf.com/why_sligo_is_really_closing

Coleman, Joyce

From: Lee Futrovsky [lee.futrovsky@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 9:59 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

RECEIVED
0646
JUN 24 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to you today to support the inclusion of soccer fields in the redevelopment of the soon to be former Sligo Creek Golf Course.

I am a long time resident of Woodside Forest, one of the neighborhoods abutting the site. I have two children who play soccer, one with Takoma Park and one with MSI and I have coached in both leagues. I can attest, first hand, to the dearth of fields in our part of the county. The fields that do exist are, in honesty, unplayable. We use them only because nothing else exists. I frequently drive to Clarksburg and Boyds to get my children to decent fields for their games.

The concerns of some about lighting and traffic are real and should be taken into account. However, the top priority of those making the decision about this land should be finding uses that will benefit as many members of the surrounding community and the county as a whole. Another proposal for this land (disc golf) seems to be gaining momentum, not because of a groundswell of disc golfers clammering for a course, but because it will keep this park land almost unused.

As this decision making process goes forward I hope you will consider what is the best use of park land for all who live in Montgomery County, not just a vocal minority.

Please support the inclusion of soccer fields in this redevelopment.

Very sincerely,

Lee Futrovsky
1530 Live Oak Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Save Sligo Golf.com

- [Home](#)
- [Why Sligo Is Really Closing](#)
- [What You Can Do To Save Sligo Creek Golf](#)
- [Important Meetings](#)
- [Community Comments](#)
- [Political Roundtable](#)
- [FACEBOOK](#)
- [CIVIC ASSOC. MEETS WITH MCRA DIR. MILLER](#)
- [HOW TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION YOU WANT FROM MD GOVERNMENT AGENCIES](#)
- [RESIDENTS: KEEP GOLF@ SLIGO CREEK COURSE](#)
- [ON THE RECORD ...](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Why Sligo Is Really Closing

There have been many reasons given to the community from our local leaders as to why Sligo must close as a golf course, from "poor financial performance" to a "clause" in the 30-year lease between the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the Montgomery County Revenue Authority that requires closing Sligo. Let's examine the facts and you decide for yourself.

"Poor Financial Performance" or a rigged game?

The financial case is suspect at best. The truth is that the Revenue Authority heavily subsidizes many of the 9 golf courses they currently operate. All are charged an annual 6-figure "management fee" by the Authority. This is in addition to the manager's and staff's salary for each course. Tiny 9-hole Sligo Creek Golf Course pays the same \$140,000.00 fee that massive 27-hole Northwest Golf Course pays, and "NW" also has a lighted, heated driving range and considerably more employees.

All Authority operated golf courses also pay a "Capital Projects Improvement Fund" fee of over \$30,000.00 a year. The Authority claims Sligo "lost" \$144,000 last year and \$100,000 the year before. You do the math. When you subtract out the large, onerous fees that the Authority charges Sligo the golf course actually turns a profit.

The financial "loss" claimed at Sligo is a manufactured one and was initially designed to bolster the Authority's case to the Montgomery County Council that a gigantic, lighted, double-deck, 72-stall driving range was critical to saving golf at Sligo. Working together the local community and the golfing community successfully fought this off.

But even if Sligo loses money you should ask yourself why is it that so many of their suburban golf courses up-county that lose even more money are subsidized while the distinctly more urban Sligo Creek alone has been singled out as being "detrimental" to the Authority's growing golf monopoly?

In 2003 The National Golf Foundation did a landmark study on the importance of reaching out to women and minorities in order to grow the game of golf. Their study found that the place to find and

reach out to these golfers was at 9-hole golf courses just like Sligo. It further concluded that lowering the barriers to entry, reducing intimidations and increasing this segment's "comfort level" was key to growth. What message does closing Sligo send?

"We have no choice, closing Sligo is in the lease!" Is it?

One of the favorite arguments that our local leaders deploy is to say that Sligo cannot be operated as a golf course after October 1st because under the terms of the 30-year lease between the Authority and M-NCPPC once the Authority returns a golf course back to M-NCPPC it cannot be operated as a golf course. Period. But section 2.1 (2) of this very same lease states that if the Authority "in its reasonable opinion agrees that such a golf course would not compete" with its growing monopoly golf could be allowed to continue. So who really controls the shots?

M-NCPPC is the steward and legal "owner" of this public land but they claim that the Authority, legally their "tenant," tells them how it's going to be. The truth is that the Montgomery County Council has the real power, but you have to ask why M-NCPPC would sign a no-bid, no-compete, long-term, fiscally malfeasant, 30-year lease with the Authority that gives them near-absolute power over public property that they own. The Authority's charter states that it is to operate "in whole OR IN PART" for the public good. The mission of the M-NCPPC is to preserve and protect the public land it oversees. So how and why did this seemingly odd couple come together?

In 2005 the Revenue Authority found itself in desperate financial condition. It was a good, old-fashioned bailout, Wall Street style, where the banks get taken care of and the taxpayers pick up the tab.

"SOS: Revenue Authority Needs Revenue ASAP!"

In 2005 the Authority found itself in dire financial shape and under immense pressure from the banks who held over \$20,000,000.00 in bonds they had issued in 2002. At this time the Authority's primary assets were five golf courses (Falls Road, Hampshire Greens, Rattlewood, Poolesville and Laytonsville) and the Montgomery County AirPark. The golf courses as a unit were not profitable and the AirPark lost \$434,761.88 in 2004 and \$360,319.38 in 2005. The debt schedule from 2005 shows no bond payment activity, although they owed the banks \$580,000.00. Worse still, the Authority itself showed a net loss in 2005 of \$291,292.65. The handwriting was on the wall.

The Montgomery County Council members at that time, with the exception of Wellington and Bryant, began planning a rescue, a bailout really, by quietly arranging a sweetheart lease between the Authority and M-NCPPC, which operated four golf courses (Sligo, Needwood, Little Bennett and Northwest) in Montgomery County. It appears that the public was not only kept out of the loop but intentionally mislead.

On December 21, 2005, M-NCPPC adopted its "Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2007 - 2009." A sweeping number of issues were intentionally addressed as "this document features an action plan organized by overarching strategic objectives." Nowhere in this 63 page document meant for public consumption was leasing their 4 Montgomery County golf courses, the crown jewels of the organization, to the Authority even mentioned, although golf was directly addressed: M-NCPPC proudly pointed out their brand new tee-time reservation system. They should have saved their (our) money.

Four months later, on April 6, 2006, in less time than it takes to get a driver's license and below the public's radar, M-NCPPC signed an Interim Operating Agreement with the Authority, prelude to the formal 30-year lease. Buried in this legally-binding document giving control and revenue from their 4

Please help us save this valuable community resource for everyone in our diverse community. For a county that prides itself on diversity not one single study has been performed to show what the impact of closing Sligo will have on minorities, women, seniors, low income and handicapped golfers will have. This is simply unacceptable.

Contact the Montgomery County Council, Ike Leggett and others listed in "[What You Can Do To Save Sligo.](#)"

On behalf of ALL golfers, Thank You!

[HOME](#)

[SaveSligoGolf.com](#)

[close](#)



public golf courses to the Authority is the following:

"... the parties understand that MCRA has pledged all revenues from the Golf System (the 5 courses they ran) for its existing financing (the \$20 million bond debt) and that MCRA may be required to pledge revenues from the Park Golf Courses (M-NCPPC's 4 courses)."

The Authority's and the bank's financial positions rapidly improved once they got their hands on the public's "Park" golf courses. But it gets even better for the Authority thanks to a sweetheart lease drawn up by mostly Authority lawyers. In fact it was so generous M-NCPPC's own lead attorney resigned after 17 years of service in protest.

"A New Lease On Life"

Former M-NCPPC golf courses Northwest and Needwood are now the second and third most profitable courses in the Authority's growing monopoly. Except for Falls Road in Potomac, these are the only 3 truly profitable golf courses the Authority operates. The Authority seems to have no problem subsidizing its suburban up-county golf courses with the huge profits of these "public" golf courses.

But down-county and decidedly urban Sligo does not get one thin dime. It gets kicked to the curb come October 1st. There is no revenue sharing for Sligo, only the other courses needing it. Why is this?

And it only gets better for the Authority as the lease with M-NCPPC not only seems to allow them to return golf courses that they no longer want and then turn around and demand that the property no longer be operated as a golf course, as of November 11, 2011, it appears the Authority will pay no rent (they currently pay \$480,000/yr to M-NCPPC) thanks to generous provisions in the lease (sections 1.39, 1.49 & 4.2) that switch them to a "percentage rent" scheme based on net revenue. Such a deal!

"A Case of Discrimination?"

Players who golf at Sligo regularly know that it has a higher mix of people of color, women, handicapped, low income and senior golfers than the bigger, more expensive courses up-county. We are not accusing anyone of actively engaging in discrimination but the facts speak for themselves: Up-county golf courses get subsidies and revenue sharing from the Authority while down-county, urban Sligo gets the boot. Is this just a mere oversight?

Sligo regulars consider this close-in to Silver Spring and DC course (and the only conventional golf course at this end of the county) like a gateway golf course. It has a friendly, multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-gender, wide age range of golfers, some of whom are playing in Montgomery County for the first time.

Sligo offers the very type of low barriers and comfortable, relaxed environment that The National Golf Foundation says is critical to growing the game. Clearly there is a double standard when up-county golf courses need money and get subsidies and Sligo gets kicked to the curb October 1st.

We see Sligo as a gateway into Montgomery County golf. Perhaps others just see it as a gate that needs closing.

Golf has a long history of being the sport of white suburban men. What does singling out and closing Sligo say to you?

MCP-CTRACK

From: DColl28416@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 4:45 PM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: sligo gone! no way!

RECEIVED
0659
JUN 25 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

June 24, 2009

Sirs and Madams,

It seems impossible to believe that this marvelous green sward of recreational opportunity will suffer the slings and arrows of bureaucratic malaise.

As a long time player at this delightful golf treat, it pains me enormously to learn that for short term thinking to prevail, we will lose a long term benefit which keeps giving and giving to our community.

I will be alerting many residents of Montgomery County to scream and scream and scream about this travesty.

Don Collins
dcoll28416@aol.com

Huge Savings on Popular Laptops only at Dell.com. Shop Now!

MCP-CTRACK

From: Mbest001@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2009 6:49 AM
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: Sligo Golf Course

RECEIVED
0668
JUN 29 2009

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I am writing to express my dismay of the proposed closing of the Sligo Golf Course. My parents (both seniors in their 70's ad 80's) live close by this facility and have been using its services since the 1970's, as it is very close to their home. My mother and father, a WWII vet, consider this course a valuable resource for health and social well being. Our family members (10 in my immediate family) are lifelong residents of Montgomery County and have paid County taxes for for years; thereby subsidizing such golf courses and are happy to continue to do so.

My sisters and brothers (8 in total -- all in their 40's and 50's) have also utilized this course since the 1980's and enjoy the amenities offered by this small public golf course. There are so few public courses available in this region to folks who cannot afford a private course.

Although these are tough economic times, please, please do not close this course, as it will impact many individuals who truly enjoy the sport of golf and enjoy the friendliness and first name basis that only a "neighborhood" course offers.

It is important to keep this facility as a golf course. The County does not need another soccer field or frisbee golf facility, as there are many opportunities/facilities specifically geared to youth sports---keep something for the mid-life and senior population, who have paid into the economic system for many years, to enjoy and stay healthy in the years ahead. Healthy seniors equate to reduced expenditures for the County in the long run.

Please, please do not close this golf facility----keep it as it is so that it can continue to serve the County residents who appreciate its location, setting, staff and the exercise it provides to all who utilize its services---it is invaluable to us!

Marie Best

Make your summer sizzle with fast and easy recipes for the grill.

RECEIVED
JUN 29 2009

June 26, 2009

Rachel Newhouse
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
9500 Brunett
Silver Spring, MD 20901

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Jeffrey A. Bourne
Division Chief
Montgomery County Department of Recreation
4010 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902

*Mr. Hansen -
People have said your
mind is made up on this issue -
I don't believe it.
Please, save the Golf Course
JR*

RE: Saving Sligo Creek Park Golf Course

Dear Ms. Newhouse and Mr. Bourne:

Let me start by thanking you, Ms. Newhouse, for e-mailing the 1994 revenue information. It is very helpful.

And I would like to thank you, Mr. Bourne, for taking the time to speak with others and me at the June 24, 2009 meeting about which there was the unfortunate mixup concerning topicality and the course. Fortunately, at least one good thing came out of that meeting, and it was our conversation, which leads to this letter.

As you both know, I am one of the local residents surrounding the golf course who shares the virtually unanimous view that the golf course can be kept open as a golf course, in something generally the same as its current configuration, at less cost than converting it to any other use, and in fact, with or without taking into account revenues being generated by activities on the course (Holy Cross parking, radio tower rental), at a profit. Putting that aside, I am also one of that group, almost if not completely as large, who view the golf course as an amenity-recreational at root, but also aesthetically, ecologically, socially, and otherwise- that should continue to be operated as a golf course even if, like other recreational activities, there is some subsidy involved, either from profits generated by other golf courses (as would appear to be contemplated by the existing lease with the Revenue Authority, but which the Revenue Authority chooses not to do), or from County budgetary expenditures for recreation.

Which comes to the point of this letter. I understand that you, Ms. Newhouse, are managing the review of alternative uses for the facility after October 1, 2009. I also understand that as a result of the May 2009 community input meeting at MNCPPC headquarters in Silver Spring, continuing to operate the course in its current iteration is "back on the table" for analysis and consideration. And, at the June 24 meeting I put the question to you, Mr. Bourne, whether the Recreation Department would be willing to operate the course after the Revenue Authority

relinquishes control, and your response was that the lease with the Revenue Authority would prevent that. I then posed the query, assuming the lease was not a problem, would Recreation be willing to operate the course, and your response was "It is something we would consider".


I am therefore asking that you, Ms. Newhouse, and you, Mr. Bourne, confer with one another about the possibility, and that such an option be among those that is included in your report on alternatives involving keeping the course open. Among the options, as I am sure you understand better than I, would be replacing management of the course directly in the hands of recreation, or developing a Parks Department-Recreation Department operating partnership, or some other arrangement.

I ask you both to do this analysis including the assumption that the Council can convince the Revenue Authority to either waive any objection that it might claim to have to the course continuing to operate, or that the revenue Authority is willing (or required) to provide some level of subsidy, assuming it is needed.

I would be happy to meet with either or both of to facilitate this process, and request that if either of you feel that there is someone else withing your departments who should be directly involved instead of or beyond yourselves, please let me know if you would like me to contact them and bring them into the process.

If I can offer any assistance beyond this, please let me know.

Save Sligo Creek Golf Course!


Jeffrey P. Russell
9516 Crosby Road, Silver Spring MD 20910
(301) 448-2167
jeffruss@aol.com

CC:

Phil Andrews, President, Montgomery County Council
Roger Berliner, Vice President
Valerie Ervin, Councilperson for the Sligo Park district
George Leventhal, Councilperson
Nancy Floreen, Councilperson
Mike Knapp, Councilperson
Marc Elrich, Councilperson
Duch Trachtenberg, Councilperson
Nancy Navarro, Councilperson
Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Mary Bradford, Director, MNCPPC
Royce Hanson, Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board

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

June 26, 2009

Rachel Newhouse
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
9500 Brunett
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Jeffrey A. Bourne
Division Chief
Montgomery County Department of Recreation
4010 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902

RE: Saving Sligo Creek Park Golf Course

Dear Ms. Newhouse and Mr. Bourne:

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And I would like to thank you, Mr. Bourne, for taking the time to speak with others and me at the June 24, 2009 meeting about which there was the unfortunate mixup concerning topicality and the course. Fortunately, at least one good thing came out of that meeting, and it was our conversation, which leads to this letter.

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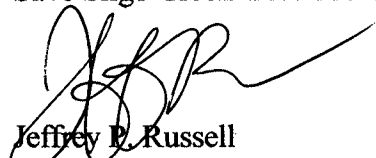
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If I can offer any assistance beyond this, please let me know.

Save Sligo Creek Golf Course!



Jeffrey P. Russell
9516 Crosby Road, Silver Spring MD 20910
(301) 448-2167
ieffruss@verizon.net

CC:

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Mike Knapp, Councilperson
Marc Elrich, Councilperson
Duch Trachtenberg, Councilperson
Nancy Navarro, Councilperson
Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Mary Bradford, Director, MNCPPC
Royce Hanson, Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Bradford, Mary
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 10:39 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: FW: Sligo Creek Gol

From: k.deschermeier@yahoo.com [mailto:k.deschermeier@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 04, 2009 7:32 PM
To: Bradford, Mary; kmiller@mcra-md.com
Subject: Sligo Creek Gol

I am disappointed by the County's decision to close Sligo Creek Golf Course. Please reconsider this decision, all of the alternate suggestions I have heard would likely cost more money. The proximity to this course was one of the reasons I choose to move to the area and are therefore highly disappointed by this move.

Thank you,

Kristen Deschermeier
Silver Spring resident and tax payer

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Bradford, Mary
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 4:45 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: FW: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Importance: High

From: Greg Hiemenz [mailto:greg.hiemenz@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 2:15 PM

To: oemail@montgomerycountymd.gov; county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov; councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov;
councilmember.navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov; Bradford, Mary; MCP-Chair;
house@montgomerycountydelegation.com; senate@montgomerycountydelegation.com

Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Importance: High

Dear Mr. County Executive, County Council Members, and other involved individuals:

This weekend I was extremely disappointed to learn of the planned closure of Sligo Creek Golf Course. I am an active and voting resident of the Seven Oaks neighborhood of Silver Spring and I deem the Sligo Creek Golf Course as a valuable community resource.

Over the past few years, Silver Spring has enjoyed a revitalization and a significant increase in new residents that were attracted to the area due to its many conveniently located community resources. Sligo Creek Park and the Sligo Creek Golf Course are such resources that attracted my family and I to the neighborhood.

My family and friends (also Montgomery County residents) with whom I play are concerned that the golf course will be closed unnecessarily and to the detriment to the community and environment. I have researched the detailed reasons for the course's closure and do not believe it to necessary. I firmly believe that, if managed properly and not unnecessarily burdened with exorbitant administrative fees, the Sligo Creek Golf course would be a very profitable venture for the County. Moreover, in researching details into the Revenue Authority's 30-year lease, I understand that it is completely within the County's power to continue operating the land as a Golf Course.

I am not at all happy with the proposed alternative uses that I have read about for the golf course. Golf courses are very important for environmental conservation as they preserve the meadow habitat - one of the most endangered habitats in the United States. Converting this space into sports complexes, athletic fields, or (even worse) housing/condominiums will be extremely harmful to such a valuable and beautiful natural resource (besides being an additional fiscal and traffic burden).

As such, I am requesting that you use your powers as steward of this public land to keep the Sligo Creek Golf Course open and as an available community resource for future generations.

R,

Greg Hiemenz
9224 Manchester Rd.

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Mary S. Gaffney [mpjgaffney@starpower.net]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 5:56 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: Don't close Sligo Golf Course

Those of us, seniors who finally have retired and are able to spend time on golf, but can't afford a country club, love Sligo golf course. It is just our speed. Closing it is pennywise and pound foolish. Spread sheets and small-minded accountants don't quantify the benefit to people's health to get out and exercise. Think of those seniors just sitting around alone, getting fatter, depressed, developing heart conditions and becoming diabetic. That will end up costing Montgomery County a whole lot more in budget expenses than keeping the golf course at Sligo and letting us play golf and exercise while we enjoy the beautiful Sligo Golf course. Thank you very much for the opportunity to give you my opinion on the ridiculous idea of closing Sligo Golf course. Mary Pat Gaffney

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Bradford, Mary
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 10:39 AM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: FW: Sligo Creek Gol

From: k.deschermeier@yahoo.com [mailto:k.deschermeier@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 04, 2009 7:32 PM
To: Bradford, Mary; kmiller@mcra-md.com
Subject: Sligo Creek Gol

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Thank you,

Kristen Deschermeier
Silver Spring resident and tax payer

Newhouse, Rachel

From: Mark Suffanti [marksuffanti@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2009 5:15 PM
To: Newhouse, Rachel
Subject: FW: Sligo Creek Golf Course
Attachments: image001.txt

Ms. Newhouse:

I understand that you have been absent from the scene for the past 4 years and after having viewed a link sent to me on the May 26th public meeting I am not surprised at your confusion. I will be calling you to discuss firm, not tentative dates, that are of paramount importance to those of us wishing to preserve Sligo as a golf course, a concept your "reuse" e-mail failed to take into account and for which you have obviously paid a price for being behind the curve. Make no mistake, I can help you or further your lackluster impression. And I will be happy to do either, as I have nothing for or against you. Welcome to the game.

Best,

Mark Suffanti

Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course
Date: Fri, 29 May 2009 10:29:37 -0400
From: Shondell.Foster@montgomerycountymd.gov
To: marksuffanti@msn.com

May 29, 2009

Council Reply

Dear Mr. Suffanti:

Thank you for your emails regarding the Sligo Creek Golf Course. At the time they were received, your emails were distributed to the entire Council. I am responding on the Council's behalf. Although the Council would like to be able to continue corresponding with you on this issue, due to the large number of emails the Council receives, this will be the last correspondence the Council will provide you on this issue.

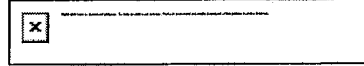
The Park Planning and Stewardship division of the Parks Department began a reuse plan to determine the best future use of the Sligo Creek Golf Course. A Community Meeting for the Interim and Future Use Plans for the Sligo Creek Golf Course was held on May 26, 2009 at the MRO Auditorium located at 8787 Georgia, Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. This meeting, hosted by the M-NCPPC Department of Parks, was the first step in reuse planning for the Golf Course. In addition, a web site, www.SligoCreekGolf.org, has been launched and is equipped to receive public comment and provide the public with additional information about the planning process.

Your suggestions and concerns regarding the future use of the Sligo Creek Golf Course should be shared with the Parks Department during the planning phases of the reuse plan to ensure they are evaluated and considered.

For questions or comments about the project you are encouraged to contact the project manager, Rachel Newhouse at 301-650-4368 or Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org.

The Council appreciates receiving your suggestions, comments, and concerns on this issue and encourages your participation in the re-use plan of the Sligo Creek Golf Course.

Sincerely,



Phil Andrews
Council President

Shondell H. Foster
Research Associate
Montgomery County Council
240-777-7937

From: Joyce Nohowel [mailto:jnohowel@1dcm.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 9:08 AM
To: Bradford, Mary
Subject: Sligo Creek Golf Course

Ms. Bradford,

My name is Harold Schlosser, a resident of Montgomery County all of my 83 years. Sligo Creek Golf Course is a mainstay for what remains of my golden years. I get together there with my fellow old cronies several times a week during the season where we can forget about our aches, pains, loss of wives and our hair. I am asking you to help the county figure out how to retain this treasured means of getting exercise and enjoy life a little.

Thank you
Harold Schlosser
1710 Gayfields Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Joyce Nohowel
President

From: Hsaaba@aol.com [mailto:Hsaaba@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 5:20 PM
To: Bradford, Mary
Subject: save sligo golf course

I believe that you should consider voting against the proposal to close Sligo Golf Course; it is a valuable recreational resource for the community.

Harris S. Ammerman, Esq.
1115 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202 638 0606
fax: 202 638 5858
email: hsaaba@aol.com
web: www.ammermangoldberg.com

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

From: Doug Schuessler <schuessler@msisoccer.org>

To: Bradford, Mary <mary.bradford@mncppc-mc.org>; Brooks, Terry <Terry.Brooks@mncppc-mc.org>;
MK.Riley@montgomeryparks.org <MK.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>

Sent: Fri Jun 19 16:25:58 2009

Subject: Re-Use of Sligo Creek Golf Course

Mary,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and talk about the possibilities for re-use at Sligo Creek Golf Course, as well as other possible projects in Montgomery County. Attached is a formal letter of interest in regards to the Sligo re-use, in support of our desire to explore opportunities to make a difference in the lives of youth in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to engage in this important debate!

Regards,

Doug Schuessler
President, MSI

From: john [mailto:john@e-lacrosse.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 10:33 AM
To: Bradford, Mary
Subject: sligo golf

Please keep Sligo golf course open! It is the only comfortable course for beginners around. How do new people play if there are no par 9's where people don't frown on new and learning players? Thanks. –John Weaver

http://savesligogolf.com/why_sligo_is_really_closing

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:49 AM
To: Bradford, Mary
Subject: Sligo Creek golf course - keep it open

Director Bradford -

As a new participant in the sport of golf, I choose to play at Sligo Creek since it is an accessible, affordable, and convenient nine-hole course. As a female golfer living in Montgomery County, I recommend the Sligo Creek course to other golfers who are looking for a golf experience that is not fraught with class and elitism issues. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mandi Wedin
mwedin@wedin.org

From: Martin, Ted [mailto:tmartin@steptoe.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 3:55 PM
To: Bradford, Mary
Subject: Please save Sligo Creek Golf Course

I am a resident of Forest Estates who lives less than a mile from Sligo Creek Golf Course. The golf course was a factor in my decision to move to the neighborhood from DC five years ago. I have two daughters, ages 6 and 3. I have long planned to teach them golf at Sligo Creek Golf Course. Madeline, my 6 year old, is nearing the age when I will enroll her in Sligo's youth golf program, you keep it from closing forever this October.

Please preserve this treasure of southern Montgomery County. Sligo Golf Course is very different from the other county courses. It is smaller, shorter, and easier than the full-sized courses in the area. This makes it much more accessible to newcomers to the game of golf. And it makes for a quick enjoyable round for

experienced golfers. I often meet two coworkers who live in DC for a pre-work round of golf at Sligo. Sligo's uniqueness draws golfers of all ages and abilities.

Please save Sligo Creek golf Course. Raise the price if necessary. \$15 for 9 holes on weekdays is ridiculously cheap in comparison to other courses. I think the price could be raised substantially with no reduction in use. Discounts could be increased for youth and senior citizens.

Thank you.

Ted Martin
1812 Cody Drive
Silver Spring