

Dear Save Sligo Community,

On 11-09-09, the Task Force discussed what Keith Miller of the Montgomery Revenue Authority (RA) believes are ESSENTIAL capital improvements for Sligo over the next five years.

REMEMBER that it was the \$2.5 million of proposed capital improvement needs – as determined by the RA – that was used to justify closing the course in March 2009. The RA did not believe that Sligo could generate the additional revenue needed to finance these improvements.

While we agree it would be difficult to finance the whole \$2.5 million up front, as with our own households, we must prioritize maintenance and improvements based on our personal budgets and what is truly essential and what is a “nice-to-have.”

As your representative on the Task Force, I WELCOME YOUR INPUT to determine a reasonable capital improvement plan. Please read the attached PDF (or visit [www.sligocreekgolfassociation.org](http://www.sligocreekgolfassociation.org) where it is posted on the home page) and decide WHAT is most important to you:

- **Irrigation System**
- **Bunkers**
- **Tees**
- **Cart paths**
- **Tree Work**
- **Parking Lot**
- **Maintenance Facility & Clubhouse**
- **Other**

What, if any, of these improvement would DETER you from playing Sligo?

What, if any, of these improvement would ENCOURAGE you to play Sligo?

Send an e-mail to:

[howlandk@gmail.com](mailto:howlandk@gmail.com)

or call me at:

301-608-3162

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### **Summary Report of Nov. 9 Sligo Task Force Meeting**

From Woody Brosnan,

PREZCO representative on the Sligo Creek Golf task force

This is a brief summary of the Sligo Creek Golf task force meeting Monday, Nov. 9. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussing the capital needs of the golf course.

By way of background, the county badly neglected the golf course when it was under Park and Planning and there have only been marginal improvements under the Revenue Authority. During the 90's, plans were formulated to upgrade the clubhouse, but the money was never appropriated. Sligo Creek Golf Course is the only public course in the county with bathrooms that are not handicapped accessible. This is not a technical violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act because the county has other golf courses where the handicapped can use the bathrooms. Nonetheless, I think it is disgraceful that the county was building new clubhouses and ice skating rinks while allowing this condition at Sligo.

The Council staff and Park and Planning now agree that it would cost nearly \$900,000 to fix the clubhouse, including the bathrooms, the roof and kitchen. Merrill Goozner, representing Woodside Forest, pointed out that this would mean spending about \$400 per square foot, nearly double commercial construction costs, but county officials said it is line with other county building projects.

The golf course itself also was badly neglected during the last 20 years. I should not that when Park and Planning turned over its four golf courses to the Revenue Authority in 2006 it was agreed that the county would complete a new irrigation system for Needwood. There was no such agreement for Sligo. The Revenue Authority now estimates it would cost \$550,000 to replace the irrigation system, which is under-pressured and in danger of failing. The other capital needs are included in the attached report. I should add that there is disagreement about whether some of these improvements are needed immediately or at all and whether they would cost as much as the Revenue Authority estimates.

Much of the discussion centered on whether it was more important to fix the clubhouse or irrigation system first. Donna Bartko, chairperson of the county wide recreation board, suggested that the task force outline spending based on budgets in increments of \$500,000 between \$500,000 and \$2 million. My comment was that the spending would depend on whether we chose the "survivor" mode or attempted something bolder, such as expanding the restaurant to serve not just golfers but Sligo Creek park users and surrounding neighborhoods.

The task force also discussed several "implementation" issues, such as the legalities of contracting out the snack bar to a private operator and whether the non-compete clause of the existing lease between Park and Planning and the Revenue Authority could still be invoked. But Diane Schwartz Jones, Leggett's executive assistant, suggested that the task force should stay focused on the concept for the course and worry about implementation issues later.

At the next meeting, Nov. 23, the task force will consider proposals to make the course a center for golf for disabled veterans and potential public-private partnerships. Task Force

chairperson Tedi Osias, said she would like to begin drafting a report for the County Council by early December.