

**Please remain CAUTIOUSLY optimistic about Sligo -- and thank you! (06-09-10)**

Despite recent press articles, the fight is far from over. We have been "promised" through November. Not one thing we have been working for for nearly two years has been resolved satisfactorily for the community. It is more of the same -- continual delay and half-measures that allows the course to hobble along.

This decision is convenient timing to get through the election without having to commit. Basically taking Sligo out of the equation as an election issue.

Earlier this week, our press contacts indicated they were not even going to publish a story about Sligo. Our call to action of 06-07-10 that flooded new letters to the:

- County Council,
- County Executive
- Revenue Authority,
- Parks & Planning, and
- M&T Bank

had some impact because the Post and Gazette changed their minds and did report after all.

***\*\*\* We thank everyone in the community who has diligently written letters time and time again, posted signs, signed petitions, volunteered at events, and supported the course. We would NOT be here today -- much closer to victory, but not there yet -- without the fantastic, engaged citizens that make up our community. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! \*\*\****

The phrase "**indefinitely**" in Miranda Spivack's Washington Post story (<http://tiny.cc/a45uk>) was used by Keith Miller of the MCRA during an interview with her. This may have left the impression in people's minds that everything is fixed, when it is not.

It is NOT indefinite. It is only through November!

Jason Tomassini also has a report in the Gazette (<http://tiny.cc/u4jdd>).

As we have said all along, the **Save Sligo** issue is NOT just about golf. While it does provide recreational options for people of all ages and abilities, it is more about preserving open land -- 65 acres -- that doubles as a wildlife habitat. There is a reason why the Friends of Sligo Creek support **golf as the best environmental option** for that land and its leader, Bruce Sidwell, sits on the board of the Sligo Creek Golf Association.

That land, if left fallow, is **vulnerable to vagrancy and crime**. It will cost Parks & Planning nearly the same amount of money (approximately \$60,000) to just mow the grass as it does to keep the course open. And there is zero budget to do anything more

with the land. An already strained Parks Police will be responsible for managing crime, etc. on that land. I can provide (offline) to anyone who wants more info on national studies of what happens when large tracts of urban land are left fallow.

It is also about preventing development of that land. Those of you who have attended meetings where you expressed concerns about increased traffic on Sligo Creek Pkwy and other feeders. Imagine the impact if hundreds of townhouses get crammed on that land. It will be severe!

Finally, it is about a crime that was perpetrated against the residents of Montgomery County when land was transferred illegally from Parks & Planning to the Revenue Authority. I can provide (offline) details about Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler's opinion about the legality of the lease agreement and the successful passage of HB1481 that will prevent this from happening to other parkland moving forward. Unfortunately, HB1481 does not retroactively apply to Sligo. So we still have a FIGHT on our hands to **Keep Sligo Golf Open** for all.