



***Statement from the Sligo Creek Golf Association*
September 3, 2009**

After meeting with Montgomery Council members or their aides within recent weeks, the leaders of the Sligo Creek Golf Association can say with increasing confidence that we will have the six council votes needed to keep the golf course open on Oct. 1 as we work with county leaders on long-term solutions for our beloved nine-hole course.

Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg, chairperson of the Management and Fiscal Policy Committee, assured SCGA President Karen Howland of her support to keep the course open in a meeting Thursday. Also present were Merrill Goozner, SCGA Treasurer and Communications committee chairman, Bruce Sidwell, president of Friends of Sligo Creek and an SCGA board member, and Woody Brosnan, chairman of the SCGA political outreach committee.

On Monday, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission canceled plans to hold a Sept. 9 community event to unveil alternative plans for the course after five other council members sent a letter to M-NCPPC stating that they believe the best option for the property is to remain a golf course.

“We are grateful to County Executive Isiah Leggett, Councilmembers Ervin and Trachtenberg, and all the council members who have heard the pleas of golfers and non-golfers who want to keep this community course open,” said Howland. “We will continue to work to persuade all council members to support the course, but we also look forward to soon talking about long-term options for the golf course and turning our attention to fund-raising efforts for projects at the course.”

In the month-and-a-half since the SCGA was formed, it has gathered more than 800 names of individuals who want to help the golf course, distributed nearly 1,000 yard signs and gathered hundreds of names on petitions to the Council.

The workings of the calendar and the Council schedule mean the vote itself is likely to come only days before Oct. 1. Mr. Leggett may send up a supplemental appropriation request as early as next week but it cannot be introduced until the Council returns from its summer recess on Sept. 15. The Council has to schedule a hearing on that request and give people at least a week’s notice. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee has already scheduled a hearing on Sligo Creek Golf Course for Sept. 24.

Because this is a supplemental appropriation, it needs six of the nine council member's votes, not just five.

Brosnan urged SCGA members to continue to write and email council members about their positive experiences at Sligo and how we can improve the course as we look to its future.



Contact:

Woody Brosnan
240-481-0309
woodybrosnan@verizon.net