

SCGA Proposes Future Operating Plan for Sligo Golf

Dear Sligo Creek Golf Course Supporters,

Thanks to all the golfers who completed the recent survey. If you haven't completed it yet, it will be up through this Friday. For those who entered the drawing, we will be announcing the winners next week. We will also be posting a survey for non-golfers over the weekend. Look for the posting of results sometime next week on our website (<http://www.sligocreekgolfassociation.org>).

The County Council task force has only a few meetings left before having to present a recommendation on the future operation of Sligo Creek Golf Course. The Sligo Creek Golf Association decided to accelerate the process and present a plan at this past Monday's meeting (December 7th). The plan details a viable way for the course to operate without taxpayer subsidies as well as care for capital improvements over time. In summary, we recommend that the operation of the course be put out to a competitive bid – open to both public and private operators.

The future operator of the course would pay a nominal percentage of revenues in rent to the county, which would be reserved in a capital fund for improvements to the course. In addition, other sources of money (e.g., including rent from HC hospital for parking spots, radio tower lease, \$1 capital fund surcharge on rounds, and community contributions, etc.) would be diverted to the capital fund in order to build enough equity to address major improvements such as the irrigation system. Our proposal is currently endorsed by seven (7) members of the task force and has certainly garnered some interest from others.

The Montgomery County Revenue Authority (the current Sligo operator) also presented a plan. The good news is they seem to be willing to put forward a plan. The bad news is their plan, as currently outlined, is unacceptable. It represents keeping the status quo operating agreement with a minor concession of a temporary reduction in the management fee.

- ** It still asks the county to subsidize the operation for a TBD amount of up to \$150,000.
- ** It proposes to close the course December through February.
- ** And – it places all responsibility for marketing the course to increase revenues on the community.
- ** Finally, it suggests that a year from now the task force reconvenes to determine if the course should continue to operate.

You can find both the Sligo Creek Golf Association's proposal and the Revenue Authority's proposal on the SCGA website (<http://www.sligocreekgolfassociation.org>). Comments are always welcome.

Note: Despite the recent Gazette article, programs supporting Veterans are still envisioned as part of Sligo's charge. Necessary changes to the course to accommodate them would be accomplished over time as other improvements to the course are made.

With thanks for your continued support,

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