

Date: May 17, 2022

Place: Zoom Webinar

DRC Members Attending: John Bain, Clara Batchelor, Antonia Bellalta, Carol Hillman, Leigh Jackson, Justin Lawson, Theresa Mooney, John Parla.

Guests: Tim Gerrish, Mike Murphy, Mark Mungeam.

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION
Chairperson's Welcome/Introduction Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting commenced @ 5:30 PM • J. Lawson welcomed panelists and guests. • A. Bellalta moved to approve the April 13th meeting minutes; Roll call: C. Batchelor, C. Hillman, T. Mooney, J. Bain, J. Parla A. Bellalta. Unanimously approved.
U.S. Open Renovation Plan Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Mungeam leveling of tees, forward tee, and moving back a tee. Need to submit plans/letter of intent to T. Brady by May 15th with plans to receive permit in mid-June. • J. Lawson acknowledged M. Mungeam, T. Gerrish, Mike Toohill's efforts. We've added a list of tees. What gets done depends on bids received. • We will share what will be done at a future date. • USGA will be contributing \$150,000
Preliminary Master Plan Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last master plan was prepared in 1999 • M. Mungeam's presentation: (see presentation here) He shared the design history of the Brookline Golf Course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil conditions are poor drained Much of course is peat bog, flat or wet which creates poor infiltration otherwise there is a lot of ledge. Goals and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a comprehensive plan Functionability is top priority Increase community use Preservation, integration, restoration, flexibility, responsibility. Master plan process review <p>Issues and recommendations with photos and maps were presented regarding: (see link above)</p> <p>Drainage is the most negative aspect of the Golf Course. In the past piping, both open and closed have been installed. Sand channels have been added. Peat soils creates heaving and unlevelled surfaces. Opening waterways moves water away from Tees faster. The 14th hole is very wet all the time. The plan recommends incorporating waterways as an amenity to the open space.</p>

	<p>Teeing grounds</p> <p>Trees and vegetation – selective removal of poor trees, and invasive material. Plant more climate adaptive species. Focal plantings. Manage the grove of Hemlocks. Maybe plant Western hemlocks. New plantings would include site lines and views.</p> <p>Bunkers, greens, fairways – Many deviate from the original design. Undulating edges are not a Styles design intent. Sand should be removed every 10 yrs. to improve drainage. Most greens have shrunk and become rounded. In golf terms as long as greens are fair or controversial that is good, it attracts golfers.</p> <p>Practice facilities</p> <p>Community access and paths – Current issues include limited use by residents who do not play golf, Putterham Woods has been closed due to storm damage, limited parking during golf season. Recommendations include an event pavilion, better-connected foot trails, improved/expanded parking, off-season dog park, etc.</p> <p>Irrigation – 25 years old and inefficient. There are better irrigation heads, better spacing and locations that could improve irrigation practices. Irrigation demand on this golf course is not huge due to the water table and flooding. Possibly capturing some of the water for reuse. Development of an on site pond to collect water. Multiple uses - Wildlife habitat, vegetation, possible winter attraction.</p> <p>Course routing with a new proposed scorecard – Revise the course numbering for efficiency and more rounds of golf.</p> <p>Moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRC to review Preliminary Plan Get thoughts of committee Meet in July to review any proposed changes Consultants will develop list of tasks along with cost estimates to implement work
<p>Committee Feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Bain is it better to have open trenches versus pipes? Yes, it is better to have open water. Some pipes will be removed, some will need to be replaced. • C. Hillman, J. Parla, A. Bellalta, and L. Jackson commended and thanked M. Mungeam and the team. • J. Parla noted the water cost savings of reclaimed water and impressed by the trail system. This is an incentive for non-golfers to play. • A. Bellalta asked is there space for the addition of an athletic field? T. Gerrish responded there is space at holes 1 and 2 but you cannot have a 16-hole golf course. With the rock, peat and terrain this would be very difficult. Plus, you would need additional parking. It makes the golf course financially unsustainable. Mark Mungeam responded there could possibly be opportunities, but you would need access and parking reducing the golf course playability plus soil issues would not make fields sustainable. Are there ways of rearranging a 9-hole golf course? Financially possible?

	<p>We could come up with a 9-hole routing but is it viable, sustainable? Golf course needs to exist on an enterprise fund and be supported by cash receipts. A 9-hole golf course reduces that earning power by 50% so rates would have to double – most expensive in New England.</p> <p>Per the survey more people play 18 holes versus 9 holes.</p> <p>There are more sustainable areas in Brookline for fields versus the long-term issues that would present themselves at the golf course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Parla stated considering the financial cost, reduction of the enterprise intake, having to pave for additional parking – robbing green space, this would not be possible. • J. Bain how are we addressing the water pouring in from The Country Club? This has not been addressed.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Wholey noted that the survey response of nongolfers was only 10%. He is interested in getting more community outreach as to what non-golfers would want in this space. We had an overwhelming response to the survey compared to other surveys. L. Jackson encouraged L. Wholey to reach out to Brookline Recreation with his ideas. We are planning many community events post renovation. • H. Doshi asked are we considering a crosswalks on Newton and W. Roxbury Parkway for accessibility to golf course? The entry sequence problem is a recognized safety issue, but not part of this master plan. Traffic, crosswalks, entry sequences will be addressed during the “clubhouse” renovation plan in our next fiscal year. • J. Flannagan likes that one can golf, cross country ski, take nature walks, etc. She noted the creativity of using the pond for irrigation and ice skating and making the greens more playable. Suggested we work with the Audubon Society regarding the wildlife. • A. Bellalta stated we also need to work on plans to get people to the golf course to enjoy all these activities! • R. Nagle referenced a prior athletic field study not recommending the repurposing the golf course. He also noted this is a very popular, diverse golf course in the Boston area.
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will pause future meetings until after the U.S. Open and the reopening of the golf course – potentially in late June. It is important we get the plan out to the community for review and feedback. • J. Bain thanked the DRC and others for bringing this plan forward. • Vote to adjourn. A. Bellalta moved to adjourn, J. Parla 2nd. • Adjourned @ 7:38 PM

Next Meeting:
TBD

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A true record
Attest: Laurie Ferrell

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