

Golf Course Landscape Master Plan Design Review Committee	Meeting Minutes
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Date: March 2, 2022

Place: Zoom Webinar

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

Members Absent:

Guests:

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION
Welcome/Introduction Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting commenced @ 2:03 PM • J. Lawson opened the meeting welcoming the committee members and guests. He reiterated this is a collaboration between the design team and the community on a long-term vision and master plan for our golf course. • A. Bellalta moved to approve the February 9th minutes. Roll call: J. Bain, C. Hillman, J. Parla, A. Bellalta. Unanimously approved. T. Mooney abstained; Minutes approved.
Resident & Golfer Survey Distribution Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Lawson shared the DRC March meeting slide presentation with update of the Resident/Golfer Survey. He reviewed the various distribution channels he has sent it out to. The survey will be open until March 15th. Currently we have about 500 responses (normal response is 50 – 75).
Continued discussion of concepts for US Open Restoration Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Mungeam continued the slide presentation by reviewing the Proposed Project List which would be paid for with the US Open funds (\$150K). He suggested that leveling tees (5, 10, 12, 13, 14), adding the forward tees (4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14), addition of back tee on 16, and turf improvements (1, 4, 6, 7, 15) would be the top priorities. If we can fit in a few bunker improvements, that would be nice. Drainage issues would have to be addressed later in the Master Plan. He showed the locations of the various improvements on the course site map. • J. Bain questioned the low cost of the Fairway Turf Improvement program at \$20,000 • J. Lawson responded by stating this would be a beginning phase of a multi-year plan. He further explained the total proposed project list cost is about \$350K. The US Open funds are \$150K so it will be up to the DRC to make the decision of which projects will be prioritized. • M. Mungeam continued reviewing the proposed projects on the site map (see slides). • C. Hillman asked about the improvements to the 1st hole. • J. Lawson said it would be part of the multi-year project. • J. Bain asked why we are concentrating on holes 1 & 2?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Lawson responded we have addressed these holes with seeding etc., but further improvements would require a permit. We are limited in our short window to go through permitting process. • M. Mungeam added these improvements will be part of the Primary Master Plan. • A. Bellalta also mentioned the beautification planting along Hammond Street. • J. Lawson asked the committee for input regarding the priority list. • J. Parla said he would like to see lights on the driving range as part of the project list. J. Bain agreed. • J. Lawson responded it would be a great revenue opportunity. • J. Parla mentioned the skating rink, Larz Anderson, DPW, the parking lot are all lit so we would not be adding to light pollution. • Bellalta added we need to be aware what those lights would look like from the neighbors’ perspective. • C. Hillman believes the lights will be a major issue and we should not derail from the objective of this process – improvement of the golf course. • T. Gerrish mentioned shoulder-season use of lighting and talked about LED/low voltage lights along with angle of lights may be solutions. 	
<p>Other Recreational Activities and Concept Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Mungeam spoke about trying to get more people to the course with other recreational activities and the importance of public golf courses. Topics he covered included (see slides): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Golf Course as a Community Destination Municipal Course History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Andrews was the first public course in early 1500s Franklin Park was the second in the US in 1896 Brookline was a WPS project in the 1930s Municipal Course Restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate more non-golf activities into facility • Committee comments/inputs: • C. Hillman suggested a pickle ball court and asked about the existing bocce ball court. • J. Lawson responded we could move the bocce ball court and replace it with food and beverage site – perhaps a pavilion. • J. Bain suggested adding tennis courts and pickle ball. • J. Parla regarding the trails, you could create a safe lit walk/hike from the parking lot through Dane park, etc. Walking through Putterham Woods is fantastic. • L. Jackson brought up platform tennis is a growing sport and another idea for this committee. • A. Bellalta said we could add winter sports to the list along with leasing of equipment. She expressed her support for these ideas 	

	<p>including a dog park. We have 2 pavilions. Do they need to be moved versus adding another one?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Mungeam was thinking about another pavilion near the 12th green near the bocce ball court. • J. Lawson said this would be a food and beverage pavilion, event space, educational space. • L. Jackson there is a huge opportunity for an event, educational, and/or a premier event space. • A. Bellalta being closed on a Monday isn't a family day. She envisions picnics, environmental education of Dane Park/Putterham wood, a family ecological day, summer programs. • J. Bain mentioned winter activities in the clubhouse. • T. Mooney supports opportunities for kids and making the course more accessible for women. 	
<p>Committee Member Input for Landscape Master Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Lawson urged the committee to engage with the architects. • J. Parla added driving range with lights could be a dog park and, perhaps, a skating rink. A more robust practice facility will grow sport for women and children. • A. Bellalta brought up donation opportunities. If we are going to make this an environmentally prime place, we need to be careful as we take down trees, we add them back. 	
<p>General Manager Vision for the Golf Course</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Lawson shared his vision of the golf course beginning with his Vision Statement. <i>"My vision for the Brookline Golf Course is to continuously improve a community recreation asset that focuses on creating a memorable, enjoyable golf experience for all community groups, protecting and enhancing the open space for future generations, while being respectful and responsible in all processes."</i> His priorities include (see slides): Be inclusive Playing experience Honor the past Versatility Re-orient the golf course, routing Our future • J. Bain let everyone know that J. Lawson is also a great pro-golfer, and we need to publicize this! M. Murphy is an amazing turf manager! 	
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Mattison is concerned about Brookline's open spaces. She hopes that protecting the environment is not an afterthought. The more we can increase the environmental integrity of the course. She then asked if leaf blowers are used at the golf course • J. Lawson responded that we want to ensure the golf space is here for generations to come. We will be looking at the challenges in providing a neighborhood-oriented golf course combining regional environmental solutions that address all our goals. 	

	<p>We try to be careful in using the leaf blowers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Murphy noted we use them to move debris off the greens, not damage our equipment, yet make the surfaces playable. We are looking at different ways we can handle debris removal and lessen the use of the leaf blowers. • J. Parla unfair to talk about the use of leaf blowers unless we talk about all parks, cemetery's, etc. • A. Mattison ask if we could show a map of the walking route J. Parla discussed? • J. Lawson said after we unveil it • N. O'Connor added it needs a lot of money to become safe. • L. Jackson we have \$300K over the course of 2 years. • A. Mattison commented we need to educate about environmental benefits and sustainability of our golf course. • A. Bellalta stated a water storage pond would be a great feature. • R. Nagle has seen attitudes change about lighting and believes there is an audience for it. He praised the excellent comments presented at today's meeting. Finally, he stated walking trails are sustainable versus pickle ball, etc. 	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote to adjourn • A Bellalta moved to adjourn. J. Bain 2nd. • Unanimously approved <p>Adjourned @ 3:49 PM</p>	

Next Meeting: March 16, 2022

Location: Zoom Webinar

A true record

Attest: Laurie Ferrell

Date: March 2, 2022