WORKSHOP DISCUSSION – Trailhead Golf Course Master Plan

Mayor Brickner called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were: Mayor Brickner, Mayor Pro Tem Kennedy, and Council Members Dunne (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Folyer, Kaminskas, Severs (arrived at 6:26 p.m.), and Kurtz. Also present were the City Administrator, Finance Director, Golf Pro, Director of Planning and Engineering, Liberty Lake Library Director, Police Sergeant, Operations and Maintenance Director, City Engineer, and City Clerk.

The City Administrator opened the workshop by sharing a PowerPoint slide that re-introduced the five scenarios identified from the last meeting. She then turned the floor over to the Finance Director, who finished the presentation, which delved deeper into the design and construction costs; financing; and debt service.

At the conclusion of the presentation, council members asked clarifying questions and shared comments and observations. Some of the discussion included needing to find a revenue source that does not affect property taxes as well as needing additional time to analyze the numbers presented. The idea to develop this into a community-based facility rather than just a golf-based facility was also discussed.

Mayor Brickner suggested council keep an open mind when considering all options. He then proposed an option that would increase driving range revenue, get a nice new facility, lower advertising costs, and provide several additional amenities to the community at half the price. He suggested putting in a high-end 4-5 star L-shaped hotel on the two parcels that can be sold.

Mayor Brickner then opened the floor to receive citizen comments.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mark Thomas expressed concern about parking. He asked what is changing in that regard. He also inquired what the difference would be for the square footage of the clubhouse.

Linda Kilgore said she can see the golf course from her house. She spoke in opposition of a hotel.
Stacy Sitten said she love the ideas. She expressed disappointment that disc golf wasn’t brought forth in the concepts, noting the city would be missing an opportunity for revenue by not adding that amenity.

Gary Copenhaver suggested having some seating areas around the driving range and target competition areas within the seating areas. He suggested to promote that amenity within the schools.

Molly Aronson, who lives at the end of the driving range on Tanglewood, spoke against a hotel. She expressed concern about activities being moved, the noise factor and what kind of a disturbance will that bring. She also inquired what will happen to the current golf course.

Mark Nielsen said he plays a lot at the Meadowwood and Liberty courses but does not play at Trailhead because of the quality of the greens. He said, as a golfer the greens are not up to par with normal golf courses. He also spoke about the course possibly being a par 3 and that he would play that, but it must have the quality of the greens so real golfers don’t see it as a deterrent to their game.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the special city council meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes were approved March 17, 2020.

Shane Brickner, Mayor
City of Liberty Lake

Notes and Transcription by Ann Swenson, City Clerk. This Council meeting was also audio taped. Anyone desiring to listen to the recording may contact the City Clerk.