

RESOLUTION ON FINANCING IMPROVEMENTS TO GOLF OPERATIONS

Whereas, There appears to be sufficient community interest in continuing golf operations at both Leslie Golf Course and Huron Hills Golf Course, each serving different levels of ability;

Whereas, Based on an analysis by a hired golf consultant and City staff that Leslie Park Golf Course has the capacity to regain its competitive edge in the golf industry in southeast Michigan if given short-term assistance, the Parks Advisory Commission has recommended that the City provide Leslie Park Golf Course with a significant financial boost for the 2008 golf season from the City's general fund reserve for needed capital investments, equipment purchases and operational assistance for the 2008 golf season and additional operational assistance for the 2009 and 2010 golf seasons, funded by monies in the general fund reserve without expectation of repayment;

Whereas, Based on the analysis of the golf consultant and City staff, the ability of golf operations at Huron Hills to become reasonably sustainable is less certain and based on input from the golfing community and its supporters that Huron Hills Golf Course is a desired amenity and provides a unique golf experience for seniors and entry level golfers, the Parks Advisory Commission has recommended that the City make the essential investments needed to provide a three-year trial period for Huron Hills to determine if it can reasonably sustain itself as an entry level course;

Whereas, The Parks Advisory Commission has recommended that the essential capital investments for 2008 and additional operational support throughout the three-year trial period for Huron Hills Golf Course be funded from the City's general fund reserve without expectation of repayment;

Whereas, The Parks Advisory Commission has recommended not over-investing, but providing the essential investments to truly give Huron Hills a chance to compete in the marketplace and that any capital improvements should be made in such a way to allow for conversion to potential alternative future uses of the park whenever possible;

Whereas, There have been no opportunities for public input into potential alternative uses for Huron Hills;

Whereas, In the event that Huron Hills is not successful as a golf course after three years, the City should have a realistic sense of public wishes for alternative park uses for the property and the financial implications of such alternative uses;

Whereas, The General Fund reserve is sufficient to absorb the recommended financial support for golf; and

Whereas, PAC does not recommend that capital improvements to Golf Operations come at the cost of sacrificing other capital improvement projects that are needed and planned for within the Parks system;

RESOLVED, That the Parks Advisory Commission reaffirms its prior recommendation that the source of the funding for capital and maintenance improvements for golf operations come from the City's General Fund Reserve because it is the only funding source that would not result in the elimination of priority capital improvement projects in the Parks system;

RESOLVED, That no other projects, capital or otherwise, be postponed or eliminated in order to provide funding for capital and operational improvements to Golf Operations;

RESOLVED, That no other park operation or facility shall be financially impacted in order to provide funding for capital and operational improvements to Golf Operations;

RESOLVED, That neither Park General Funds nor Park Millage funds are to be used to provide funding for capital and operational improvements to Golf Operations;

RESOLVED, That Park staff, PAC, and the Golf Task Force develop the criteria for reasonable sustainability that will be used to assess Huron Hills Golf Operations at the end of the 2010 season;

RESOLVED, That at the end of the 2008 and 2009 seasons, Huron Hills Golf Operations are to be assessed for progress toward filling those criteria; and

RESOLVED, That an alternative use study to include city wide public input into potential alternative uses and the financial implications of such alternative uses should be conducted for Huron Hills Golf courses so that, in the event the three-year trial period for golf is not successful according to the criteria developed, the City will have a realistic basis for comparing the costs of maintaining Huron Hills beyond the three-year trial period with the cost of conversion to other park uses and ongoing operation for other uses.