

Hillmoor AdHoc May 24, 2023

Present:

Mayor Klein
Dave Quckel
Skip Atwell
Henry Sibbing
Adam st.Marie
Michael Krajovic
Fred Gahl
Karen Yancy
Paula Porubcan
Norine Smyth - Sub - Donna Jovani
Deborah Beagle

Absent:

Cherie Borowiec
Celine Lillie
Lawrie Weed
David Curry

Resigned:

Cynthia Forester Feuredi

Presenter:
Karen Yancy and Don Root

- White River Water Trail
- Don Root has shown that there is a way to make the river navigable by kayak to the White River Park.
- There is a natural kayak launch near the culverts on the Hillmoor property that would be easy to utilize.
- Good parking opportunities by the water treatment plan. There is room for 5-10 potential vehicles
- Few direct costs for creating this kayak launch
 - Need to verify insurance
 - City and County approval needed
- Presents Lakes Park Ft. Myers as an example of a large land/wildlife park opportunity

Donna

- What is the depth a kayak needs?

Don

- About 6" minimum as an average.
- The trees there now are not safe for people with the current so the trees would need to get cleared out.

Donna

- Are you thinking about this as a hobby or money making enterprise?

Don

- Just as a hobby.

Donna

- Would flying golf balls be marked on a map to make it clear that there are flying golf balls?

Don

- That's where we would work with the Grand Geneva to make that area safer

Hank

- It seems like there are a number of legal questions that need to be answered. Would the land owners be able to keep people from portaging over their land?
- Do the land owners have rights?
- I think we are a little premature in being able to say that we recommend this until we get more information
- Can people just launch a kayak wherever they want?
- Can the City prevent people from launching kayaks? Riparian rights issue of who has control over who owns land.

Karen

- We agree. We wanted to just paint the picture of what it could be.
- We do need to look into this more.

- We are just asking if the committee wants us to look into this a little bit more.

Fred Gahl

- I'd like to make a motion that you continue to look into the legal aspect of this and get back to us.
- Seconded by Hank and Skip

Deborah Beagle

- Private landowners would be concerned if someone got hurt on their property.

Disc Golf Introduction

- Sport exploded during the pandemic. 9,000 courses in the nation.
- Great for family and getting outdoors
- Courses are designed to coexist with mother nature
- The property is shared with all. It is etiquette that anyone walking around has the right of way.
- My number one priority is just making sure that we do not lose our disc course in the process.
- There are thousands of logged hours with people at the Lake Geneva Disc Golf Course
- If there was any possibility of putting additional disc courses we have some designers who would be willing to help design it.
- It could have moderate monetary income possibilities.
- We have a disc golf club of 20-40 people that meet on Tuesday and we have 250 members on our Facebook group.
- We have donated discs to the local library so people can go and check them out from the Library.
- We have annual course clean up days for the members. Local businesses have donated for them to help clean up.
- A lot of courses we have gone to have donation boxes. It could be a way to help with costs
- We need more garbage cans on the course
- Some baskets are damaged and we have donated baskets that can replace it but we need permission to do that.
- We could use an outhouse or porta-potties
- It would be nice to have some benches and a way to keep things inclusive for everyone.
- The "T" signs need to be replaced out there.
- I would be willing to spend time to help get donations for these things.

Mayor Klein

- There has been some consideration for a multi use course, regular golf/foot golf. This basket looks portable vs. the ones out there that are permanent. I was wondering if you

have ever played on a multi use course? What if one day it was ball golf and one day it was disc golf?

Nathaniel

- It wouldn't be my first choice but it would be better than losing the course altogether.

Skip

- They didn't have a club. I was on the park board at the time. There were a few years that we didn't see anyone out there. I see you guys out there now.

Nathaniel:

- That could be because it may have been flooded. There was a good period of time where it was wet.
- I play there Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. I always see 1-2 people out there.
- I know there are a lot of people who travel to come and play here.

Hank

- You said the course was open in 2014. What club started that? So the disc golf course is being used everyday?

Nathaniel

- Oh, yes, there are people playing everyday.
- It's pretty much a ball golf course that's become a disc golf course

Hank

- What if there was discussion of moving it to the woods?

Nathaniel

- I personally would but I am speaking on behalf of other people who would not be.

Mayor Klein

- I was out there at 11:30 and there were a few people out there practicing.

Deborah

- Is it a true statement that the open course is a novice course and the woods course is for more experienced players.

Nathaniel

- That's probably accurate.

Hank

- One final question. How many people do you think in the course of the week play would you say?

Nathaniel

- I would say during good weather I would say there are at least ten groups of people every day. A group is maybe 4-10 people.

Hank

- Are they locals?

Nathaniel

- I believe some are. One lady is on her mountain bike so I assume she isn't biking from too far.

Skip

- I think one of the disadvantages you have is that most people don't even know it's there. I think if we are going to have a disc golf course we need to let people know that it's there.

Michael

- I was out on the property in February and I was surprised there were people out there playing in the winter. I was shocked. The issue of it being a secret, I don't think that we do a very good job of connecting that piece of the property to the Geneva Corp. Do you think there is potential for more visitors to Lake Geneva to use it?
- Is there a way for your club to find out how many people are using it?

Nathaniel

- I am looking to try to make a tournament happen in the fall.

Adam

- Are there any courses people pay for? What could we do if anything to make this something that would be revenue generating?

Nathaniel

- Most courses are free. Alpine built one that is \$5 to play. It would be tough to police it and transition the free course to a paid course.

Skip

- I think it's a good idea to talk to the Y about getting them involved.

Dieter Sturm - Celsius/Snowflex

- Year Round Tubing, Skiing, Snow
- I invented the first biodegradable snow for the motion picture industry.

- After traveling around I found these places that were called "Dry Slopes" to be able to ski and snowboard and tube without snow.
- I found this company called Snowflex and another company Briton
- Grand Geneva and Alpine have their own programs and we approached them about this and they were not interested.
- \$12-\$15 hr. You can raise or lower the price for weekdays and weekends.
- Snowflex tubing parks are an option. We built one in Branson Missouri. Cost 1.2 Million to develop. 2,500 riders in the first weekend. The first year they did \$650,000 just off the slope. By the second year it was paid for.
- All the water gets recycled into a drain system and reused for the slope.
- Non-sport revenues from people who would be coming into town.

Hank:

- How many acres do you envision for this?

Dieter

- No, we could do 5 acres but 10-15 would be more comfortable. We would also have to assess the terrain and see if some dirt would need to be moved around. We would also have to think about how else this ties into other structures on the site.

Mayor Klein

- I was intrigued by the cross country aspect. Is there an ice skating component?

Dieter

- Not with snowflex but I do know of some companies that have great synthetic options.

Paula

- So listening to what the community would want to see on Hillmoor we hear mostly that people want to preserve or recreate green space. Maybe you could explain how this would fit into the vision?

Dieter

- It all depends on the overall design of the property. This is something that could be fun and aesthetically pleasing if put into the right position.

Deborah

- So this is not similar to ice castles because it's permanent.
- What is the longevity of something like this?

Dieter

- 10 - 15 years and there are x amount of cents per dollar for repair/replacement. The is also modular so it can be repaired and dropped in.

Cheri

- So it sounds like this could be a good recreational project for the property. I feel like the community didn't just want a big park but they wanted a place for recreation and fun.

Dieter

- I think residents should be entitled to discounts or free occasional use like the beach passes.

Fred Gahl

- I would like to refer back to Sean Kelly and friends of Hillmoor Presentation. The most pertinent thing I point out is that they said was that we tell people how we want it to be. Clearly there would be a lot of interest in this and funding for it. I would like to move that we further explore ways to have Snowflex do something on this property.

Hank

- To the motion: you are asking for a plan? Is it going to cost money?

Paula

- I think this is a little premature. I think we still need to answer some questions.

Adam

- I agree that it seems premature. To me we need to determine how much time we are going to spend hearing ideas so that we can determine how we want to aggregate this information. It looks like we have two pictures for the Hillmoor estate. Option One: is that we have a low cost open nature concept. Golf Course, Disc Golf, Hiking Trails, Kids Park, some low cost facilities. Option Two: We develop this property at a magnitude more along the lines of what Sean Kelly had presented.

Skip

- What about the matching grant money? Have we heard any update on that?

Mayor Klein

- I think we are getting close to being able to put these ideas together.
- The next meeting will be Thursday Jun 8, 2023

Donna

- Have any steps been taken to rectify the hazards on the course?

Mayor Klein

- I will check with Tom. This is a very busy time for them. I have not heard that the insurance company has gotten back to us.

Fred Gahl

- Movement to adjourn

Meeting Closed 6:08

