



City Council Meeting

Public Comments

January 26, 2022

Submitted on Monday, January 24, 2022 - 2:48pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email laurahunter744@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date January 26, 2022

Item # 8

Subject Reidy Creek Golf Course

Position No Position

First and Last Name Laura Ellen Hunter

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Since four of you are new since the last big discussion of this issue, I just wanted to share what transpired when this was discussed a few years ago. At that time, it was still clear that the golf course was a drain on the city and the levels of tax-payer subsidy were unacceptable. It still is. The built-in increases, no matter how well the contractor did or did not perform, were likewise unacceptable. The end of this contract offers the city an amazing opportunity to re-think and re-vision what the current golf course could be and do for the community. The little stretch of Reidy Creek could be a site of restoration and education like comparable areas of Escondido Creek which are used for science education. The club house could be an amazing community center where climate resilience, skills trainings, community meeting rooms and other benefits and resources could be offered to residents. Now, with full awareness of our need for affordable housing and the need for infill locations to develop it, there is a higher area of the golf course that should be fully evaluated for a small to medium affordable housing project. The location close to the elementary school also commends it for this purpose.

Please make good use of this opportunity to improve our city.

Thank you

Submitted on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 - 11:41am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email rbates@unitehere.org

Council Meeting Date 01/26/2022

Item # 8

Subject Item 8 – replace JC Resorts and consider alternative uses

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Rick Bates

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

My name is Rick Bates, and I'm speaking on behalf of UNITE HERE Local 30, and our 6,000 members throughout San Diego who work in hotels, gaming, food service, and airports.

Tonight, along with the Sierra Club, Climate Action Campaign, and our sister Local in LA and Orange County, we are urging you to consider alternative uses for Reidy Creek and to replace its current operator, JC Resorts.

Working people like our members are feeling the impacts of the climate and housing crises most intimately, and we encourage cities to do everything in their power to mitigate both crises.

The average 18-hole golf course reportedly uses almost 90 million gallons of water per year. As referenced in the San Diego Climate Action Campaign's "Solving Sprawl" report, repurposing municipal golf courses like Reidy Creek into open space and other uses would save water and natural resources used to maintain the course.

This course has presented challenges for Escondido taxpayers. The San Diego Union-Tribune called the course a "municipal money pit" in October 2018. Since 2018, Escondido taxpayers have continued to subsidize the Reidy Creek course.

Please issue this RFP, replace JC resorts, and get a better deal for Escondido taxpayers and for our environment.

Submitted on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 - 1:41pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email brenda@climateactioncampaign.org

Council Meeting Date 01/26/2022

Item # 8

Subject MANAGEMENT AND CONCESSION CONTRACT FOR REIDY CREEK GOLF COURSE

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Brenda Garcia Millan

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

My name is Brenda Garcia Millan and I'm a Research and Policy analyst with Climate Action Campaign. With more than 72 golf courses throughout the San Diego region, repurposing unused or underutilized golf courses is a unique opportunity to meet the region's ambitious housing needs and address water scarcity at a time when golf is losing popularity and water prices continue to rise.

That being said, I recommend the City of Escondido to authorize a request of proposals for the management of the Reidy Creek Golf Course and Concessions, and select a golf course operator other than JC Resorts. I also ask the City to study the viability of redeveloping the Reidy Creek Golf Course into affordable housing, open space or other uses, and hold a public hearing to incorporate community input into how to use this land to improve the public welfare.

Thank you.

Submitted on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 - 2:13pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email danielle.wilson@unitehere11.org

Council Meeting Date 1/26/22

Item # 8

Subject MANAGEMENT AND CONCESSION CONTRACT FOR REIDY CREEK GOLF COURSE

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Danielle Wilson

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 11 and the 32,000 hospitality workers we represent in LA and Orange County, we encourage you to issue this RFP, replace JC Resorts as the operator of the Reidy Creek Golf Course, and consider alternative uses for the site altogether.

As you know, the Reidy Creek Golf Course in Escondido, which is operated by JC Resorts, has presented challenges for Escondido taxpayers. The San Diego Union-Tribune called the course a “municipal money pit” in October 2018.

Since 2018, Escondido taxpayers have continued to subsidize the Reidy Creek course. The City transferred \$80,590 from its general fund to its golf course fund during the 2018-2019 fiscal year; transferred \$225,890 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year; and listed a revised transfer of \$144,440 for fiscal year 2020-2021 (after adopting a budget transferring just \$76,410). Only for the current 2021-2022 fiscal year has the City budgeted no transfer of money to the golf course fund, but it projects needing to transfer \$100,000 to the fund each year for fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Furthermore, Escondido taxpayers paid \$366,795 to cover the golf course’s debt service payments in fiscal year 2018-2019; \$336,595 in fiscal year 2019-2020; \$365,250 in fiscal year 2020-2021 and the City has budgeted \$365,620 in fiscal year 2021-2022. Clearly, the course remains a “money pit.”

Please replace JC Resorts and consider uses for the site that are better for our environment and serve community needs, such as housing and public open space.

I appreciate staff's detailed work and trying to look at all of the options for the Reidy Creek Golf Course and appreciate that we are looking to put out an RFP to make the contract a lot more favorable to both the City and taxpayers than the current contract. I hope that the City will be looking at doing this next contract for a shorter period of time to allow more options to see how it really is working out with the new operator so that the City's hands are not tied as they are with the current a ten-year contract. We can build certain metrics into the new contract.

It was explained very well why the golf course is most likely going to stay a golf course until 2030 when the debt is to be paid and I would hope that the contract would be up for renewal by that date. That way the City can entertain other public benefit uses, such as housing, affordable housing, park land and receive community input.

- Michelle Krug