

Belmont Master Plan Public Input Meeting  
April 30, 2019  
Charette Station Easel & Index Card Notes

Question: What is your vision for Belmont?

- Playground possibly on Brook Rd area – seems to be not used
- Crosswalks at Brook/Hilliard and Lakeside/Hilliard
- Café with beer and wine
- Bike trail on old trolley line
- Revamp golf course
- Dog Park (Brook Road next to Hilliard)
- Golf course with improved bunkers. This will draw more business. Add a marketing campaign to utilizegroupon, golfnet, golfnw, etc. There are proven programs that work and make more money. Retirees love this course because it is affordable and a source of socialization.
- Keep Belmont the beautiful golf course that it is today. People from all over the Richmond area enjoy playing golf here. To keep a public golf course for Henrico County and the City of Richmond – We in Richmond City use this course to! The Belmont Ladies Golf Association will be glad to hold fundraisers for Belmont to help the county reach their goals. We need sand – who ever herd of a golf course without sand? One person should not have the authority to hold back funds that were allocated by the Supervisors for sand. He is destroying the course.
- Golf Course! No Change – Better Conditions
- Please maintain the golf course by fixing the bunkers so they are not environmental hazards and playable.
- Keep it as a golf course. Provide the necessary resources to maintain it in good conditions.
- A great facility for weddings. So affordable! Expand facility to serve more people.; Examples recreation, fitness, pool – so people in Lakeside can learn to swim and swim for fitness. Water aerobics are great for seniors! The facility could serve the community year-round.
- Take care of the bunkers. Add nine-hole rate. Reopen snack bar, serve beer, over seed in the fall.
- Maintain Tillinghast design. Repair traps. Keep course for another 100 years! Classic
- Keep as golf course with bunker improvements. Course is vital to recreation for many people!
- Agree with above
- Expand recreation center/add pool for use by more people in Lakeside year-round
- A well-maintained golf course. Repair the bunkers, let wet areas go naturel, advertise. If the county wants it to be a business, then run it like one!
- Fix the sand traps, put \$ into maintenance, keep it a golf course
- Keep it as an 18-hole golf course. Fix the bunkers with the \$300K+ endowment. Maybe then the triangle piece of land at the bottom (the old trailer park) into a proper dog park. 😊
- Organize more golf tournaments which raise money as well as introducing more players to Belmont. Most golf courses have several tournaments a year. Women's Inv, Men's Inv, Youth Invitationals
- Recreation area for ALL
- Maintenance plan – sand traps, greens, fairways, tee boxes
- Business plan – 9 hole rate, fresh sandwiches, beer
- Master plan – Add driving range and chipping area on land next to the Dump store
- 9 hole option after 5pm on weekdays – Front 9 and Rec. Walking on back nine
- Move golf course from Rec & Parks to create sep. entity with exec. Dir and governance board. Run as business
- I would like to submit two ideas.
  - Turn the facility over to HCPS. Let them run it as a certification program through the ACE education
  - Construct a putt putt ADA course that is designed as a replica of Belmont
  - Both ideas would grow the game, improve golf at the high school level while also showing the PGA the county's commitment to the game. It would also make a statement regarding the county's commitment to its citizens with disabilities and special needs. -RB
- Keep the Green Space

- It is difficult for me to believe that a decision has not already been made to shut down the 18 hole golf course. All actions taken to date seem to be directed at minimal expenditure and effort to make the course successful. (poor bunkers, no marketing, minimal maintenance). The question around why the course needs to make money and the parks do not, was never satisfactorily answered. I understand that they are handled differently in the budget, but why can't the course be brought under the park system in the budget? This is absolutely what will happen if you turn Belmont into a park. Different standards are being used to judge the golf course versus the parks. The lack of a defined process that will be used to make this decision also causes a lack of credibility. I think these meetings are a means to say that you solicited input, but at the end of the day they won't count for much. -DM
- There is no way that this golf course will ever be self-sustaining again unless the condition of the course is markedly improved (and the snack areas also). People often golf here only one time since the course is in poor condition. Then they tell their friends that is a crummy course – the worst kind of advertising. Anyone who has ever run a business will tell you the old adage, “You have to spend money to make money is true”
- Get Tiger Woods Exhibition Rd
  - Sam Snead won '49 PGA
  - Woods 81 wins, Snead 82
  - Get sand in bunkers
  - Charge \$100/head (1000 head=\$100K)
  - Shuttle from Dump parking lot
  - 10% take to Woods or his charity pick
- OR getting Woods might be a long shot
  - Have a 1 day tournament in Woods Quest of Snead record
  - Serve beer
  - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (Tiger Woods stuff)
  - \$50 fee
- Timeline presented by guest:
  - 1977: Belmont purchased by Henrico. The purchase galvanized an effort to support a 7.1 million PARKS bond referendum that funded it.
  - 1985: Belmont golf put in enterprise fund (not general fund)
  - Late 1980s: Last bunker renovation
  - 1992: Belmont Golf 'peaked'
  - 2011: Neil Luther, Dir. of Rec & Parks / John Vithoukas, Deputy Co. Mgr for Administration
  - 2013: John Vithoukas, County Manager / County Meals Tax (rejected by voters 8 years prior). All proceeds to County School operations and capital projects. Board of Supervisors passed a special ordinance that it would all go to schools.
  - 4-5 years ago: Belmont losing
  - 2016: Voters passed 5 Bond Referendums. 87.1m for park projects. 24m for libraries. 22.1m for fire stations and facilities. 14m for road projects.
  - 2017: in fiscal '17 maintenance project. A group came out for a November community meeting with golfers and a decision was made to suspend bunker repair – but the funds are still there (\$360,000)
  - 2018: January, Supervisors at a 2 day retreat. Considered Master Plan to study other uses. County department later solicited bids from golf course operations. 9m went to the capital budget. 10.4m went to a fund called the 'Education Meals Tax Project Reserve'
  - 2019: Jan/Feb, A recommendation about a preferred proposal was expected at which time supervisors could decide to move forward with a project. March/April, '18 ended with a 25.9m surplus (previous years had been better than expected). Vithoukas looks toward working on some unprecedented projects. April 24, 2019: New budget was adopted...which will include building a fire station, an arena, and an indoor swimming pool.
  - My question/thought is WHY isn't there money to fix the course?