



Belle Park Ideas - Golf Focus Group

Dates: July 6th, 2017 – Belle Park Clubhouse

- The purpose of the public input sessions was to engage the Golfers in informing future opportunities for Belle Park
- Approximately 23 people attended – invitations were sent out to members for the past three years based on the contact information we had in the system
- The Golfers were given background information on the survey work that the Belle Park Working Group undertook in 2016 and the recommendation to Council that emerged as a result
- Staff explained “what we’ve heard” from the public through the public sessions which is forming the language of our survey, options including:
 - A shorter golf course (executive style)
 - Driving Range
 - Putting Green
 - Pitch and Putt
 - No Golf At all
- A golfer asked why “leave golf as is” wasn’t an option.
- Staff clarified the language in the Council motion in response:

That Council direct staff to explore options to reduce, modify or eliminate some or all golf activity and increase alternate outdoor recreational and naturalization opportunities at Belle Park; and

That Council direct staff to report back to Council with recommendations on the future opportunities and planning for Belle Park after public consultation.

- Staff explained that “stay as is” is not an option. One golfer asked if “improve” could be considered for “modify” to which staff responded that it might satisfy the language of the motion
- Staff were asked to include an option for “modify current golf activities” to which they could add what they wanted to see to the survey.
- Staff agreed that they would and that that BPWG would be involved in finalizing the language on the survey
- Staff fielded questions concerning flattening of the course and watering restrictions
- Staff were asked why individuals from sports groups or from outside of the neighborhood were allowed to participate in the public sessions. Staff explained that Belle Park is a public park for all Kingston to enjoy and public sessions are open to the general public.
- A golfer questioned the poplar tree planting program and why golfers weren’t consulted as to where they would be planted.
- Staff explained that the planting plan was created in consultation with the BPWG in 2016. That a map of the site, indicating where the plantings were to take place was present in the clubhouse throughout the season and that golfers requested several changes via sticky notes to the original plan. The course was then staked to provide a visual as to where the planting would take place and the course was further walked with golfers at three different opportunities to make any final modifications to the plan to which several changes were made until the final plan was executed.
- Golfers requested more information as to the high lake waters and their potential impact on the remainder of this season and next season.
- Staff explained that as the water recedes, we’re continuing to maintain as much as possible where possible. Staff indicated that even when the course dries out, there would 8-12 weeks of maintenance required to the inaccessible areas to return it to some semblance of a golf course. Staff were concerned about the impact to quality that could be evident in 2018. Staff indicated they would hire a consultant to provide pricing and a scope of work for repair of damage in preparation for the 2018 season.
- Golfers were given the dates of the survey and how they could access it.
- A golfer asked if paper copies were going to be available at the Clubhouse and even the Invista Centre.
- Staff explained they would mail paper surveys to all members for the past three years and that paper copies would be made available at both the Belle Park Clubhouse and the Invista Centre with self-addressed return envelopes.
- The golfers thanks Staff for the session and information shared and for allowing their input in shaping the survey.