

From: [CMOffice](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for next city council meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 2:18:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Do I need to do anything specific with this email?

Kali Mahre | Senior Administrative Assistant

City Manager's Office | 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 10 | Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel. (707) 543-3011 | Fax (707) 540-3030 | kmahre@srcity.org

Please note, if you do not receive a reply on a Tuesday afternoon, I am assisting with the City Council meeting.



Please note: The City of Santa Rosa has closed most of its public counters until further notice to help curb a resurgence of coronavirus infections occurring in Sonoma County and statewide.

From: City Clerk <cityclerk@srcity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 1:20 PM
To: CMOffice <CMOffice@srcity.org>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for next city council meeting

From: Jonathan Hawes <jonathanhaweselmonte@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:57 AM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for next city council meeting

Good evening. My name is Jonathan Hawes. I served as El Monte City Clerk from 2013 to 2018. Since 2015 I have been a whistleblower on Andre Quintero and Team El Monte's embezzlement of \$10 million from the El Monte Promise Foundation scholarship fund. I have interviewed dozens of El Monte residents who have privately confirmed that Promise funds were used for fraudulent trips to Vietnam and Haiti, a bogus consultant in Salt Lake City, house repairs, and other criminal activities. I have myself been interviewed by the FBI about two dozen times. Documents proving the embezzlement have been submitted to the FBI and the District Attorney's Office and are now available to the public online

(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v434alh1dkikaj4TCNZLMSZkhftmtA8f/view?usp=drive_web). I am asking the Santa Rosa City Council to call out these crimes and protect the vulnerable residents of one of the poorest cities in southern California. El Monte children, who should've been provided with college scholarships, were robbed. Andre Quintero and Team El Monte members must go to prison. If you have any questions, please call or text me at (626) 863-2149. Thank you.

From: [Glenn Seime](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments; Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course Study
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 4:35:49 PM
Attachments: [City Council #2 .docx](#)

Hello City Council Members and Jen Santos,

I sat in on the February 2 City Council meeting during the discussion of the BVCG potential options, and my feeling was that the golf course and golf in general got a bum rap from the information presented. I've attached two items to this email that I would like you to take a look at. The first is Golf Research and Industry Data that has a lot of information about the current status of golf in general, which portrays golf in a much more positive light than what was presented at the council meeting.

The second attachment is just a copy of a letter I sent to the City Council prior to the February 2 meeting just to show you where I am coming from.

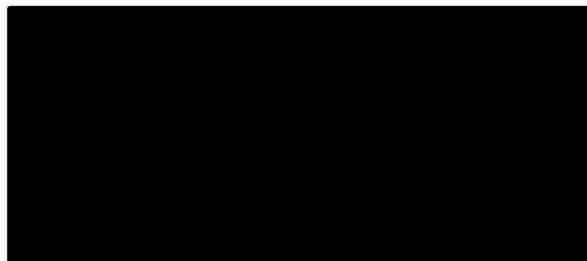
I included a paragraph in my letter on the restaurant and how a better manager than Legends could easily increase the restaurant profit, but the restaurant was barely mentioned in the presentation, and I just want to make you aware of what a big impact that could make on revenue going to the city, especially now that I know the lease will probably be based on a percentage of the restaurant's gross revenues.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to review this information.....

Respectfully,

Glenn Seime

[Golf Research and Industry Data](#)



Golf Research and Industry Data

Data on the number of golfers, demographics, golf course supply and annual rounds played.

-
-
-
-

To: cc-comment@srcity.org

Subject: City Council February 2 Meeting Agenda Item #3.1

So many of the options to be presented to you today require major expenditures that would dramatically increase the debt load and associated risk, not to mention alienating the many golfers in our community. And please don't put solving the city's housing crisis on the back of the Bennett Valley Golf Course.

I, and many of my golfer friends, would much rather pay higher greens fees than reduce the course to 6 or 9 holes, in order to increase the land available for potential redevelopment.

And, importantly, the status quo is not that bad. The cost to the city is a real bargain considering the recreational and social benefits that are derived from the BVGC and restaurant. And there is no guarantee that the options other than the status quo are going to meet all the needs.

One of the funding ideas under the Outdoor Sports and Recreation Focus is "demolishing the existing clubhouse/restaurant and use that pad for future commercial use like developing a restaurant/event center.." Really? Seems like that is pretty close to what we have now.

Guessing it is obvious...I strongly oppose hiring a consultant to perform a highest and best use analysis costing \$150,000.

From: [Glenn Seime](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#); [Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: City Council February 2 Meeting Agenda Item Number 3.1
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 4:58:15 PM

City Council Members and Jen Santos

I apologize for any confusion I may be causing here, but this is the 2nd attachment that I intended to send to you in the email I just sent to you at 4:35pm today instead of the one I included...

Respectfully,

Glenn Seime

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Glenn Seime <gseime@sbcglobal.net>
To: cc-comment@srcity.org <cc-comment@srcity.org>
Cc: fredricrose@comcast.net <fredricrose@comcast.net>; Jim and Nancy Gurke <1jgurke@gmail.com>; Bob Nadell <nadellb@sbcglobal.net>; Wehrmeister, Kurt <kurtwehrmeister@gmail.com>; roy thuestad <roymond@comcast.net>; jlweaverj47@gmail.com <jlweaverj47@gmail.com>; Glenn Seime <gseime@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2021, 03:31:57 PM PST
Subject: City Council February 2 Meeting Agenda Item Number 3.1

Please consider ways to increase the profitability of the existing golf course and restaurant, as opposed to the myriad of options being presented to you in this meeting.

The existing driving range is profitable. I use it frequently and have never heard any complaints about it being too short. My guess is it would only be too short for ~ 1% of the golfers, and, if needed, a net could be installed at the end of the range to contain longer balls. And the usage and profitability of the range could be increased by adding lights for nighttime use. There is no need to relocate and expand the existing driving range.

Regarding the restaurant, I don't know how the lease would be structured, but it shouldn't be difficult to get a better restaurant manager than Legends to increase the restaurant profit. But one manager for both the golf and restaurant is not a good idea. They are two very different businesses.

Reducing the number of holes on the golf course from 18 to 6 or 9, and possibly making them par 3's would dramatically decrease the revenue from the course, offsetting any cost savings.

Another thing to consider....CBRE is the real estate company that worked with city staff to prepare the presentation for City Council. I'm sure that CBRE is a respected real estate company, but it's business is real estate. I can't help but think that they would have a tendency to think in terms of real estate solutions, as opposed to the status quo, and the presentation seems to bear that out.

Respectfully,

Glenn Seime

From: [Philip Schuman](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BVGC
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 5:24:27 PM

Dear City Council,

I would have preferred to address you live at your Tuesday meeting (and I plan to see you in the future) but am unable to due to work requirements. I am therefore submitting this in writing instead. I have also written to each of you separately but have only heard from the Mayor and Councilman Alvarez. I really wish the entire council were more responsive.

By this note, I need to register my disagreement with the initiative you are pushing at BVGC and your planned actions regarding the Bennett Valley Goof Course. But I want you to understand why.

First, I think when you think about the BVGC fixating on the number of golf rounds there is really not the point. This is especially the case when the course IS in fact UP in rounds played, is profitable and has paid down quite a bit of its debt. That is success, not failure.

Moreover, the BVGC is a city amenity. It is for everyone. Fully open to all players. Given that, in my view even though it makes money, it doesn't need to be making money for it to be valuable to the City. This is a treasure and needs to be treated as such. Preservation matters more than money.

To reiterate: I think worrying over how many rounds are played is way too short sighted and is a path that lets decisions like this be governed by money and not what is good for the community. It's just not the right basis.

If you were saying we need to improve the facility as it is, to preserve it as community green space, that makes sense. But this is not broken and we don't need a bunch of development over in this side of town. We have two lovely strip malls just down the street and you can buy anything in the world on Santa Rosa Ave.

Yulupa and the golf course is a slice of amazing green space that once it is taken can never come back. It is why many of us live here. For the beauty and atmosphere and the BVGC is a big part of that. We paid our taxes too so to have the BVGC for me is part of why we do that.

To me and many of us who live here it is utterly wrong to even consider selling out and letting developers build piles of housing and shops there. That is a no go. We are a small, quiet lovely part of town and that kind of thing will ruin our community. And for what??? This is not broken. It's beautiful.

So no, I think and ask you reverse the decision to hire a commercial real estate development firm to plan alternative uses - commercial uses - of the land. If the alternative is the expand Galvin Park. Fine. Build baseball fields. Expand the dog park. Have that considered as it maintains the free space amenity but let's not ruin a beautiful part of our city for money. This is way more than a business issue, it's a community way of life issue. It's a city amenity issue.

Neighbors, can you please assure me that you will limit the scope of any study in this way? If so, I have no beef. You should say that publicly - the entire city council - so we all are on the same page.

I also think before you decide to do anything (including hire someone that is a real estate developer) you owe it to our community here to have several meetings to get community input and approval.

I would also request that I get to see the RFP and any final contract before execution to ensure that myself and those similarly impacted can be fully and transparently informed of what is being done.

Can that happen as well?

I also want to say many, many thanks for your service. I think especially in these days it's important to honor public servants such as yourselves, and I do. I'm just asking you to consider these notes and remodel what you are doing here.

Many of my neighbors are already aghast about what has transpired already. It will calm many fears if this is handled with more sensitivity and with a firm eye on the key thing which is preservation.

I request as a first confidence building measure that all actions on consultant selection and scoping be put on hold until better community involvement is achieved. I request a written reply to this by the end of this week.

Kind regards,

Philip Schuman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Philip Schuman](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: BVGC
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 6:08:52 PM

From the Santa Rosa Historical Society.

This is what you all are ruining. Note the comments about preserving the open space from development.

BENNETT VALLEY GOLF COURSE — In May 1966, the City of Santa Rosa formed the Municipal Golf Course Study Committee to study the feasibility of a municipal golf course in Santa Rosa. Heading the committee was City Recreation Commissioner Dan Galvin — for whom Galvin Park (built next to Bennett Valley Golf Course in 1981) was named.

In 1968, after much study and negotiations, the City of Santa Rosa agreed to purchase part of the old C.F. Dedekam dairy farm (at the southern end of Yulupa Avenue) from Santa Rosa Savings and Loan and to build a golf course there. Santa Rosa Savings and Loan had purchased the Dedekam dairy farm in 1960.

Groundbreaking for Bennett Valley Golf Course occurred on April 1, 1969. The 135-acre golf course was designed by Ben Harmon, a Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club employee. An existing 30-year-old farmhouse on the property was converted into the clubhouse. Fairway seeding followed the planting of 225 Monterey pines on the beginning holes. Later, 150 trees were planted on the course across Matanzas Creek. The trees had been taken from the City's tree farm east of Marlow Road.

In May 1970, before the course was completed, it suffered extensive vandalism which delayed the full 18-hole opening of the course for several months.

The finished property included a par 70 course, putting green, driving range, clubhouse, pro shop, and snack bar (the restaurant opened in 1971). Irrigation water was supplied by Matanzas Creek and well water. City water was piped to drinking fountains and restrooms.

A Press Democrat article described the new golf course as “an area preserved as open space in a location that might have been swallowed by a sea of homes” and stated that businesses saw it as “another advantage for living in Santa Rosa”.

Bennett Valley Golf Course was dedicated on September 1, 1970. Santa Rosa resident Richard Galli teed off the first public ball. Initially, only nine holes were available for play, as repair of the damage from the May 1970 vandalism had not been completed. Weekday greens fees were \$1.50 for nine holes or \$2.50 for all day. Weekend greens fees were \$2.50 for nine holes or \$3.50 for all day.

On November 9, 1970, the entire 18-hole course opened for play. In December 1970, weekday greens fees were increased to \$3 for 18 holes, and weekend and holiday greens fees to \$5 for 18 holes. The golf course's first hole-in-one was achieved by Santa Rosa resident Harry Aho on November 20, 1970.

Bennett Valley Men's Club held its first tournament at the new golf course in January 1971. In the spring of 1971, team play and high school play began and a women's golf club was formed. In the summer of 1971, the City's Recreation and Parks Department began offering junior golf lessons. The first annual junior championships were held August 30 thru September 2, 1971. Future Montgomery High School golfer, Lex Murray, was one of 97 participants.

Thus began several decades of golfing enjoyment at Bennett Valley Golf Course.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 7, 2021, at 5:24 PM, Philip Schuman <pwschuman@msn.com> wrote:

>

> Dear City Council,

>

> I would have preferred to address you live at your Tuesday meeting (and I plan to see you in the future) but am unable to due to work requirements. I am therefore submitting this in writing instead. I have also written to each of you separately but have only heard from the Mayor and Councilman Alvarez. I really wish the entire council were more responsive.

>

> By this note, I need to register my disagreement with the initiative you are pushing at BVGC and your planned actions regarding the Bennett Valley Goof Course. But I want you to understand why.

>

> First, I think when you think about the BVGC fixating on the number of golf rounds there is really not the point. This is especially the case when the course IS in fact UP in rounds played, is profitable and has paid down quite a bit of its debt. That is success, not failure.

>

> Moreover, the BVGC is a city amenity. It is for everyone. Fully open to all players. Given that, in my view even though it makes money, it doesn't need to be making money for it to be valuable to the City. This is a treasure and needs to be treated as such. Preservation matters more than money.

>

> To reiterate: I think worrying over how many rounds are played is way too short sighted and is a path that lets decisions like this be governed by money and not what is good for the community. It's just not the right basis.

>

> If you were saying we need to improve the facility as it is, to preserve it as community green space, that makes sense. But this is not broken and we don't need a bunch of development over in this side of town. We have two lovely strip malls just down the street and you can buy anything in the world on Santa Rosa Ave.

>

> Yulupa and the golf course is a slice of amazing green space that once it is taken can never come back. It is why many of us live here. For the beauty and atmosphere and the BVGC is a big part of that. We paid our taxes too so to have the BVGC for me is part of why we do that.

>

> To me and many of us who live here it is utterly wrong to even consider selling out and letting developers build piles of housing and shops there. That is a no go. We are a small, quiet lovely part of town and that kind of thing will ruin our community. And for what??? This is not broken. It's beautiful.

>

> So no, I think and ask you reverse the decision to hire a commercial real estate development firm to plan alternative uses - commercial uses - of the land. If the alternative is the expand Galvin Park. Fine. Build baseball fields. Expand the dog park. Have that considered as it maintains the free space amenity but let's not ruin a beautiful part of our city for money. This is way more than a business issue, it's a community way of life issue. It's a city amenity issue.

>

> Neighbors, can you please assure me that you will limit the scope of any study in this way? If so, I have no beef. You should say that publicly - the entire city council - so we all are on the same page.

>

> I also think before you decide to do anything (including hire someone that is a real estate developer) you owe it to our community here to have several meetings to get community input and approval.

>

> I would also request that I get to see the RFP and any final contract before execution to ensure that myself and those similarly impacted can be fully and transparently informed of what is being done.

>

> Can that happen as well?

>

> I also want to say many, many thanks for your service. I think especially in these days it's important to honor public servants such as yourselves, and I do. I'm just asking you to consider these notes and remodel what you are doing here.

>

> Many of my neighbors are already aghast about what has transpired already. It will calm many fears if this is

handled with more sensitivity and with a firm eye on the key thing which is preservation.

>

> I request as a first confidence building measure that all actions on consultant selection and scoping be put on hold until better community involvement is achieved. I request a written reply to this by the end of this week.

>

> Kind regards,

>

> Philip Schuman

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: sherirossi5799@gmail.com
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 10:09:18 AM

Dear City Council,

I am a resident in Santa Rosa and I use the City's Golf Course at Bennett Valley. I play golf on the course 3 to 5 days a week. I belong to the Santa Rosa Women's Golf Club and I am the Membership Chair on the Board of that club. We the City of Santa Rosa have a true gem in our City Golf Course. I am always encouraged when I see the young men and women from the schools in Santa Rosa

playing golf on the City course knowing we are raising a new generation of golfers in our area. I also see the numerous numbers of all ages playing golf on this gem of a course.

I find it very interesting that when any new subdivision is approved in Santa Rosa they are required to set aside acreage for recreational use. If I understand correctly you are considering in removing a great asset for recreational use to put houses in and requiring them to set aside property for recreational use. Your thinking is circular on this point.

My request to you is keep the course. Invest more money into it to make it even better and book more people into it to make it pay.

Save Bennett Valley Golf Course!

Caio!

Sheri Jean Rossi de Guevara
Membership Chair,
Bennett Valley Women's Golf Club
707 569 6059 Cell
sherirossi5799@gmail.com

Here's Today's Tip... How to practice.

There are many facets to improving a golf game and just going to the range and hitting a bucket of balls with your driver or 5-iron isn't going to necessarily make you a better golfer.

Here's a quick suggestion:

First, start with your wedge, using a smooth, slow swing. Work your way up to longer clubs until you finally get to the driver. Do not fall in love with one club, hit each club 5 times.

Next, spend 15 minutes simulating different shots on the golf course by changing clubs every two swings and changing your target to match your club you are swinging. Don't just hit at the same spot all the time.

These two simple things will make a huge difference.

From: [Carlie Liranzo](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [Nutt, Jason](#); [Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021 4:25:58 PM

Hello,

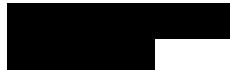
Please do not build housing on the golf course. There are so many run down areas in Santa Rosa that can benefit from being revamped, and the BV golf course is not one of those areas. There is a comfort that comes with having the golf course right behind my house (I live on Yulupa in condominiums that back up directly to the golf course) for when fires occur. Building multi story building right behind me would change everything about the area I chose to buy a house in, not to mention the multiple neighbors that have the golf course in their backyard.

Please only consider revamping the current golf course with upgraded outdoor recreational areas. There is no reason to tear down and bury this beautiful area. It will change the entire environment as well. There is so much wildlife around here.

This email is not the most professionally or perfectly worded but I am a hard working, professional person and I am invested in this community. I own my home, take pride in living in Bennett Valley, I work for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and with that comes knowledge of our city. Please don't make this huge unnecessary change.

Thank you for your time. Do the right thing.

Carlie Liranzo



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Janaize markland](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#); [Nutt, Jason](#); jsantos@srcity.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BV Plans
Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021 4:45:08 PM

I am a resident of Bennett Valley and I am writing to express my concerns regarding the study re-evaluating the usefulness of the golf course at Galvin Park.

I am 100% opposed to turning this community asset into a cash cow for greedy developers that will simultaneously destroy one of the best parts of the city.

Besides the obvious beauty, peacefulness, and general well being associated with green spaces, the golf course is a much needed wildfire break and outlet for community connection.

To reimagine redevelopment that includes additional commercial space and housing will not only add to the congestion and car pollution already becoming a problem, it will destroy the special small town, community feel of BV.

Additionally, hiring CBRE, a commercial development and property management company, is an obvious conflict of interest. Why would they suggest anything but more development they could benefit from? The deck seems stacked against the interested of the residents of BV.

It's hard to put into words how upset I am at the thought of destroying such a pretty little place ever, but especially when there are already other areas of the city that would welcome and benefit from redevelopment.

Downtown for example. Now that is a place that needs a consultant to re-imagine (again!)

My hope is that the council will reject any ideas that erode the small town feel of BV. I will be working to actively oppose any sort of paving over our quality of life.

Respectfully,
Janaize Markland

From: [Nan Bella](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [Nutt, Jason](#); [Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BV Golf Course
Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021 7:03:09 PM
Importance: High

Good Evening,

I have lived in Bennett Valley for 11 years. I am on Tachevah between Yulupa and Bethards. The Golf Course is very important to me-although I am not a Golfer. I walk and there are two different routes I take. One goes by the Golf Course and if I walk down Yulupa I can go into the Golf Course/Galvin Park area. There other walk just goes by the Golf Course on Summerfield. So peaceful and nice. I like the green. My Number 1 concern about any commercial/residential development of the Golf Course is Fire. It is already difficult to get out of this area of Bennett Valley in the event of an evacuation. Can you imagine if we had many more people trying to leave this area at once? Say Crane Canyon is blocked off. Very dangerous. People would be trapped. Speaking of Crane Canyon that used to be a little traveled back road that has become increasingly crowded and dangerous. Do we really need to add a bunch more people traveling on that road on a daily basis? I do not feel development of this area would be safe. Perhaps turn it into a bigger park that everyone can enjoy?

Thank you

Nan Bella

From: [salina gonzalez](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [Nutt, Jason](#); [Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save our green space!!!
Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021 7:25:52 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I grew up in Santa Rosa, Bennett Valley to be specific. Yulupa, Strawberry, Slater, and a member of the elite Montgomery Cheer team all 4 yrs. Life has taken me to San Jose, but all my friends and family remain in Santa Rosa. My heart is in Bennett Valley. Myself, my husband and daughter are currently on a plan to move back home where the trees are green and the air is fresh. Although I live 2+ hours away now, I still host birthday parties for my daughter at the golf course. My 3 nephews live in Brentwood, they all have parties there as well. During fire season, my parents in Vista Del Lago were told the golf course worked as a fire stop gap from the Annadel side. This park, filled with beautiful recreation space is a gem of the community, a special place. The issue is not income, it is inability to be creative. Affordable housing? Sure, but there are plenty of blighted areas that could use a refresh. Leave this serene and beautiful green space for recreation. Do the work of a city council to make it better financially. Food trucks, movie nights, maker's markets, the examples are out there. Paying companies who profit from closing golf courses to evaluate is a joke and clearly seen for what it is. Make Santa Rosa the most amazing city of all Sonoma County, the potential is there and the people support that. Listen to them as they are the reason your job exists, to be their voice.

Salina Gonzalez

From: [RedMamba The original](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please do not re- purpose Bennett valley golf course
Date: Saturday, February 6, 2021 10:06:06 PM

Please do not remove Bennett valley golf course. I have been playing there with family and friends for 20 years. We love it. Save our golf course please.

From: [Joseph Heil](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BV Golf
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:41:29 AM

I want to be on record as opposing closure or repurposing. The future of golf as declining is not about public/municipal courses. It's about country clubs. Please don't reference Adobe Creek which was mismanaged in my opinion. Do you really want to kill public golf for SR residents? Not many will be able to join a country club to play, or play at Mayacama, Fountaingrove or SR Country Club. You would be also helping guarantee that golf becomes a sport for only privileged youth whose parents belong to clubs.

All in all, a misguided impulse here. Waste of 150k. Big mistake. Will eventually be seen as real estate grab that it is.

Joseph Heil

Sent from my iPad

From: [Bryan Fikes](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [Nutt, Jason](#); [Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Cours - DO NOT CLOSE
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:51:11 AM

To whom it may concern,
My name is Bryan Fikes and I'm a long time resident and business owner in Santa Rosa. I'm concerned decisions are being made that will negatively affect our city long term.

Do not close Bennett Valley golf course

It's the most played course in Northern California. How could the city not make it profitable. I've asked close to a hundred golfers of the course and each of them said they would have no problem paying an extra \$5 per round if it saves the course.

I will be making it my personal mission to use my large social influence to make sure this doesn't happen.

I hope the council listens and does the right thing.

Saddened by this,
Bryan Fikes

From: [Carole Galeazzi](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Cc: [Sawyer, John](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:02:40 AM

Dear Santa Rosa City Council:

Regarding the investigation into the future of the Bennett Valley Golf Course I hope that you will consider input from the community.

The golf course is a much needed low cost community recreational facility that is an affordable option to people that cannot afford private course fees or membership fees.

Since the current numbers are in the black it seems premature to even consider removing it from the community.

I'm concerned that the City Council has hired a consulting company that is out of our area and specializes in real estate development.

If the City Council is doing this to provided land for housing development, there is plenty of undeveloped land that was originally set aside for the Hwy 12 extension that will never happen. That land has been undeveloped for decades

When you are considering this issue, please consider what it offers to the community and the history behind it. Everyone, not just youth, need recreation and the Bennett Valley complex offers not only recreation but gathering facilities and dining. The Bennett Valley Golf Course is much needed asset that benefits not just the Bennett Valley area but the entire community.

Respectfully
Carole Galeazzi
[REDACTED]
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [Catherine Conrado](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley golf course
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 11:57:39 AM

>

> I am disheartened that all or any of you are considering the closing of the course to build houses. This piece of land is an amazing source of nature for the city and surrounding areas that you would trade for traffic and congestion.

> The course has been a main source of exercise, engagement and safety for thousands of people during this pandemic. Rounds are up by 50% and closing the course would represent a poor economic and social decision.

> Please make the correct decision to abandon these plans.

Shame on you for not listening to your constituents if you have a predetermined decision.

>

> Catherine Conrado

From: Gwenskis@sbcglobal.net
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [Nutt, Jason](#); [Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:57:07 PM

Just learned that the city is considering possibly repurposing Bennett Valley Golf Course. Not certain why this is something potentially on the chopping block. What is next - Howarth Park? Come on, we need our parks and places to play now more than ever. The course is gorgeous and brings a lot to the surrounding neighborhood and home values.

Not everything needs to be developed. If you want to repurpose something, why not all the land from Farmers Lane to Summerfield. You managed to get ahold of the Mayette Pool for what? A flawed and ridiculous plan to extend the Highway. Seems like the city could sure do a whole lot with that empty patch of land. If the state owns it, maybe it is time to buy it back.

I understand things change. When the change makes zero sense, change is wasteful and harmful to the community you claim to represent.

Please leave Bennett Valley Golf Course alone.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Wendy Watson
95401

Sent from my iPhone

From: [C.Marianella](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Galvin Golf Course
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 12:01:57 AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

My husband and I have lived in Santa Rosa since 1980. We have lived in Bennett Valley since 1985, first urban and now rural. I write to urge you to rescind the ill-considered contract with CBRE to study repurposing of our beautiful Bennett Valley Golf Course. We rural 'folks' know that you don't put the fox to guard the hen house.

The Golf Course provides much appreciated green space. Beautiful trees thrive. There is no greater treat than to lunch or dine on the terrace of Legends, overlooking the greens. My many, many good neighbors of nearly 40 years have written to you and made their thoughts and feelings known, so I will not repeat what you already know.

There is an issue I wish to bring forward. Bennett Valley Road is our local Blood Alley. The number of accidents acknowledged at the entrance to the road by the golf course defies reality. As a Bennett Valley Road resident, let me assure you that the number is much higher. The county has made an effort to improve the road, however, the fact is that BVR was never intended to accommodate high traffic volume. Add to the mix the fact that users of BVR are encouraged to "share the road" with bicyclists. How many near head on collisions have I barely missed as drivers in the opposite direction swing over to pass the bicyclists? BVR is heavily used by the residents of Bennett Valley because it is a useful way to access 101S from the area, via Grange/Crane Canyon and Petaluma Hill Road. We don't access 101S until the congestion of Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park is completely by-passed. Additional housing where the Golf Course is? Are you willing to accept additional deaths in the area? Increasing housing density near BVR will do just that. And, by the way, there is no way BVR can be widened without the destruction of homes and trees that come right down to the road.

My children are now middle-aged. When they were small I took them to the playground at this site almost daily. My family has used the tennis courts year after year. My son played soccer on the soccer fields for years. My husband takes our dogs to the dog park weekly. How do you see these activities co-existing with housing and retail?

You are making an error that will damage the quality of life in Bennett Valley permanently. The Golf Course should be treated and respected as parkland. To do less than that will do great harm.

Conchita Marianella, Ph.D.

From: [Jason Smits](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Cc: [Nutt, Jason](#); [Santos, Jen](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:15:43 PM

You must keep Bennett Valley golf course open for the public.

It's absolutely ridiculous that you are thinking about using the Bennett Valley golf course for any other use. Santa Rosa has 170,000 in population and you want to take away it's only golf course? How would this help our community?

I don't know of any other cities with 170K people that has only one golf course. Like every other proposal the counsel makes this would be a huge mistake.

Your number one concern should be fixing our downtown. Santa Rosa's downtown is a joke. If you visit any other city around Santa Rosa like Healdsburg, Sebastopol, Sonoma or Windsor they are have families enjoying the businesses and walking around. Santa Rosa has all homeless people with zero families because they are scared to be there and don't want to pay parking fees.

What the City Council has done to this town is a horrible and will be looked upon as a case study of what not to do.

Jason Smits

Tax payor. Business owner.

From: [S.Hoefer](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 1:27:32 PM

Begin forwarded message:

To Santa Rosa City Council:

I have been a resident of Bennett Valley for 93 years. I have watched this valley grow from a back road community to a thriving multi-generation community. Within this community we have a citywide affordable complexes of Galvin Park; soccer fields, tennis courts, our beloved Bennett Valley Golf Course and Legends Restaurant. Thanks to the City of Santa Rosa, Bennett Valley Golf Course has given our community an affordable Golf Course to serve the general public. For many years, my husband played golf with family and friends. He also played with the Senior Men's Golf Club and evening Industrial Golf League with men and women of all ages. Where else in our City can our youth affordably learn to play golf and host Montgomery's Golf Team. Or a place where hard working general public, many of them first responders, play at a reasonable fee. And then there are our seniors who play to keep healthy physically and mentally. As for Legends Restaurant, it is a place for social gatherings such as business meetings Quinceaneras, weddings, family and school reunions.

Please keep this well managed and maintained Golf Course intact for future generations to come.

Sincerely
Gwendolyn Sandstrom

From: [Richard Gregus](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 3:10:51 PM

Dear City Council members,

My name is Richard Gregus. I have been playing golf for thirty-five years and coaching two high school golf teams for the past twenty-two years. Bennett Valley Golf Course is a facility that the city can not alter, close or change in any way. It has provided recreation for thousands of local citizens for fifty years . I personally have an annual pass to the course which I use at least three times a week . At seventy-two years of age, playing golf at Bennett Valley allows me to exercise and enjoy a sport which gets me outdoors and enjoying a round of golf which is right across the street from my home . I taught my son how to play the game on this course and he went on to be the only person that I know to ever win a state medal in both high school and Junior college level. We have a love of the sport and play together when time permits. He currently works for one of the local country clubs in the area and has worked in the Pro Shop of Bennett Valley while a student at Santa Rosa Junior College. With the advent of the COVID pandemic, playing golf is one of the few sports left to play without a huge risk of being infected by the virus . To alter or close the course would be a huge mistake and disservice to the citizens of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County. I implore you to leave the golf course as is so that the citizens of this city can continue to enjoy playing golf locally .

Sincerely,

Richard Gregus
[REDACTED] Drive
Santa Rosa, Ca 95405

From: [Barbara Cooper](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save our City Golf Course
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 4:19:26 PM

Dear City Council Members;

Even for someone who doesn't golf, I can see the advantage of a regulation 18 hole public golf course. It is a great amenity for our town. It is as important as any park, and it allows recreation for juniors, seniors and families.

Having a regulation 18 hole golf course is an enhancement for our residents and visitors. Once the zoned green space is gone, you cannot get it back. The city is generating revenue from the course, it is already built and in place. Golfer's play on the course from dawn till dusk. Men's and women's groups, gather in the evening after work. The Junior program allows young golfers to learn about the game of golf, sportsmanship, and golf etiquette that carry over into life skills. Golf allows many older athletes who can no longer enjoy rigorous sports to continue to enjoy the outdoors, companionship and camaraderie. It is great for mental health, especially during the pandemic when many are feeling so isolated.

I feel it is important for Santa Rosa to continue to promote and manage an 18 hole golf course. I am asking that there is transparency in this process and that anyone who is concerned about losing the course may have a voice.

Barbara Cooper
Santa Rosa