

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:17:19 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Douglas Smith submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 14.2 REPORT - CHARTER REVIEW - ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE, PROCESS AND ISSUES FOR 2022 CHARTER REVIEW BACKGROUND: The City of Santa Rosa is a Charter City formed pursuant to the provisions of the California Constitution. The City's Charter provides the fundamental framework for the City's governance. It is, in essence, the City's "constitution." The City Charter is subject to periodic review for possible revision or refinement. Any proposed amendments to the City Charter are subject to approval by the City's voters. Section 12 of the City Charter requires review of the Charter not less than every 10 years, with the review to be conducted by a committee to be appointed by the City Council. The last Charter review began in 2011 and resulted in proposed revisions placed on the November 2012 ballot. In accordance with Section 12, the City Council has directed that a new Charter review begin this fall. On June 8, 2021, and again on August 3, 2021, the Council held study sessions to consider the timing, process and scope of the Charter review. Council gave direction to the City Attorney to move forward with Charter review and asked staff to return to the Council on August 17th for formal action to establish the Charter Review Committee and to set forth the process and issues for Charter review in accordance with the Council's direction. RECOMMENDATION: In accordance with Council direction, it is recommended by the City Attorney that the Council, by resolution: 1) direct that a Charter Review Committee be formed, comprised of 21 city residents, with each Council Member appointing three members to the Committee; 2) establish a method for appointment of the Chair of the Committee; 3) direct that the Committee commence its work as soon as feasible; 4) identify topics to be included for the Committee's consideration; and 5) make such other recommendations regarding the Charter review process as the Council deems appropriate.

eComment: My name is Douglas Smith and I'm on the board of directors of the Bennett Valley Golf Club. I encourage the city council to do the following because the public is passionate about saving and improving the golf course, improving the Restaurant/Event Center, and finding a new operator for well into the future. 1 Approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to issue an RFP for a consultant to evaluate all golf course operations including the Restaurant/Event Center 2 Select a member from our golfing community to be part of the consultant selection committee 3 Let the SBVGC Committees share their findings with the

consultant

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From: whitingjohne@yahoo.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 14.3 Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:29:52 PM

I am writing you as a member of the steering committee for Save Bennett Valley Golf Course 501(c)3 organization. I am part of a multi-disciplinary team of more than 40 professionals with specific expertise volunteering their time in areas of restaurant operations, golf operations, finance, media. For the past 6 months the volunteers have donated their time to analyze the operations and financials of the Bennett Valley golf course, restaurant and event center. It's our goal to have a collaborative public-private partnership with city staff and council members to identify and implement solutions for successful operation of the golf course, restaurant and event center. To date, the city has not afforded us the opportunity to share our findings and be a part of good governance of such an important city asset.

My request is simple:

- 1. Commit to the citizens of Santa Rosa you, city staff and council members, will do everything in your power to find solutions for the continued operation of the course, driving range, restaurant and event center.*
- 2. Direct staff to engage with the SBVGC committees who have some of the best minds in the community and have been working for the past 6 months to understand the past, present and future opportunities for the golf course, driving range, restaurant/event center and Galvin Park. Allow these citizens to be part of the process to make it a true private-public partnership.*
- 3. In choosing a citizen to participate in the golf course and restaurant operator selection process, preference should be given to someone from the golf community here in Santa Rosa.*

There are thousands of citizens watching this process who are seeking transparency, inclusion and accountability from the city staff and council and an honest commitment to work together to create a sustainable solution for not only keeping BVGC, but enhancing it as a city asset and the only municipal golf course in Santa Rosa. Finally, it's no surprise the Press Democrat Readers Poll, just released last Sunday, named Bennett Valley Golf Course the best golf course in Sonoma County.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Whiting



Santa Rosa, CA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Brad Smith](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Cc: [James Gurke](#); [Steve Edelstein](#); [Fred Rose](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course - Report Item 14.3
Date: Saturday, August 14, 2021 2:56:47 PM

Dear City Council Members and City Staff Members:

I am encouraged to see that the City is considering options for keeping Bennett Valley Golf Course in operation after June of next year. I am a Santa Rosa resident and a regular golfer at Bennett Valley. I was also a regular user of the restaurant while it was open and a monthly user of the event facility when it hosted the Sons in Retirement group until the facility closed.

All of those facilities, and in particular the golf course, are important parts of life in Santa Rosa for many residents. Their loss would be a big blow to Santa Rosa's civic life.

I know several members of the SBVGC non-profit group, and I have confidence in them to represent my viewpoint with the City. At least one of them should be part of the selection process for hiring a consultant to study what needs to be done to keep the course in operation as well as the process of providing information and input to the consultant.

In the review of plans to continue the golf course and restaurant/event facility, I would respectfully suggest that it might be appropriate to evaluate to what extent the restaurant/event facility is really affiliated with the golf course and to what extent it is really an independent facility. Connected with that is the question of the extent to which the golf course should be responsible for paying for expenses related to the event facility. Properly allocating those expenses may make it easier to obtain someone to operate the golf course. The restaurant definitely served golfers, but the event facility only did so very indirectly, if at all.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Brad Smith

From: [Lynne Carlile](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 14.3 Aug. 17th 2021
Date: Sunday, August 15, 2021 12:17:08 PM

Dear Council Members

RE: 14.3 on Aug. 17,2021

- Please approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to issue an RFP for a consultant to evaluate the Bennett Valley Golf Course.
- Let the Public Member for the selection of the Consultant come from our Golfing Community. We who use, know and love this course should have a “seat at the table”
- Let the SBVGC steering committee share findings with the Consultant. We have worked for 6 months collecting valuable data that would help the Consultant do their job efficiently.
- The Public is passionate about saving and improving the golf course and Restaurant/Event Center, finding a new operator and moving forward sustainably into the future.
- Golf is on the rise! The 2020 Covid year was a banner one for Golf and according to the statistics Golf is up as of June 2021, 20-40% over last year! Equipment sales are higher than when Tiger Woods was at his zenith. This is not a dying sport!
- The Restaurant/Event Center was used frequently by Bennett Valley residents and other Santa Rosa Residents. Many City Employee retirements were celebrated there. With the right operator we could finally have a much better integration with golf course tournaments and activities and also have a family restaurant, music events and meetings. The patio overlooking the golf course has one of the best views in Santa Rosa.
- As a senior woman golfer and resident of Bennett Valley for over 50 years the Golf Course means a lot to my family. It is the only sport I know of that lets family members of all ages play together. I watched my sons (One played on the MHS golf team) and now grandson and granddaughter learn and enjoy this wonderful sport. Quite frankly, playing golf at Bennett Valley saved my sanity during Covid.

Lynne Carlile

From: [Chuck Twichell](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 14.3
Date: Sunday, August 15, 2021 4:32:54 PM

Agenda Item #14.3

Name: Chuck Twichell

In reading Jason Nutt's staff report to you he continues to feed you the same old lies and misinformation so, I must repeat information I gave you back in February. The Event Center/restaurant is not now, nor has it ever been, a "clubhouse" for golfers. It was called a "clubhouse" by the, then, city council to justify using the golf course enterprise fund to eventually pay for the entire project. I think it is the responsibility of this city council to unburden the golf course of the remaining debt owed for the Event Center and direct the city CFO to pay off the balance.

After all, the "clubhouse" is not contributing very much to the golf course enterprise fund. This entire process should be done right, unlike the actions of the 2005 council.

I think the council should look very carefully at the Request for Proposals being submitted for your approval by "Staff" so that it covers JUST the operations of the golf course and the event center/restaurant and doesn't waste time evaluating the golf and restaurant business in general. I, also, think you should require any consultant to sit down with the expert members of Save Bennett Valley Golf Course (SBVGC). They are a 501(C)(3) non-profit with as much or more expertise than any consultant you might hire. Additionally, I think one criteria for a consultant should be that they be a local company since they would be far more familiar with this specific situation. Along those lines, I think the proposal selection committee should have a member of the golfing community and a member of the general public to evaluate the event center proposals. As you may know, just the Facebook group of SBVGC has well over 4,000 members and you may be hearing from some of them shortly.

Another reason to hire a local consultant is the fact that the city, for years, has promoted "GO LOCAL". You even have a city web page with links to local businesses. I think it would be good if the city council joined this effort.

Lastly, I do appreciate how busy the council is but, I think item #4 under "Staff Recommendations" should be changed. I think any modifications should come back to you for review. Especially since the current city manager is interim.

Thank you for your attention.

From: [Victor Shellenberg](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bennett Valley Golf Course
Date: Sunday, August 15, 2021 7:04:48 PM

To the Santa Rosa City Council,

I believe that Bennett Valley Golf Course is an invaluable asset to the City of Santa Rosa and support the continued operation as a golf course, restaurant, and driving range/practice facility. I would like to see comprehensive improvements made to ensure the viability of the course and restaurant well into the future.

A very diverse group of Santa Rosan's enjoy the use of the facility. In addition, it is widely known that interest in golf is on the rise. This is the one and only public golf course in Santa Rosa.

I am vehemently opposed to a change of use and trust that you will protect and enhance the golf course facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Shellenberg

Sent from my iPad

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 4:12:42 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Sheila Bell submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 14.3 REPORT - APPROVAL OF SCOPE OF WORK AND PROCESS FOR BENNETT VALLEY GOLF COURSE OPERATIONAL EVALUATION BACKGROUND: Council has requested that staff work with the Bennett Valley Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee to develop a scope of work for a consultant to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the golf course, restaurant and banquet/event operations that will be used to develop a solicitation for a new operator prior to the expiration of the current operator contracts on June 30, 2022. Approval of the motion will finalize the scope of work, authorize staff to release a request for proposals and approve the review and selection committee composition. RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Bennett Valley Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee and Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council, by motion: 1) approve a scope of work for the Bennett Valley Golf Course operational evaluation; 2) authorize releasing an RFP to conduct a comprehensive operational evaluation; 3) approve the review and selection committee composition; and 4) delegate authority to the City Manager or his/her designee to further modify the Scope of Work and/or Operational Evaluation Process provided such changes are consistent with or do not otherwise conflict with Council direction.

eComment: Subject: Agenda item 14.3 As a long-time resident and board member of the Save Bennett Valley Golf Course Non-Profit Organization, I wish to again voice my opinion regarding the important decisions facing the Santa Rosa City Council about the valuable and treasured asset within our community. As you consider agenda item 14.3, I ask that you look at the united public entity we have formed and hear our voice. Although there are many aspects to review, there are 3 important requests that myself, and other SBVGC members wish you to hear: 1. Commit to the citizens of Santa Rosa that you will do everything in your power to find solutions for the continued operation of the course, driving range, restaurant/event center and Galvin Park. 2. Actively engage with the SBVGC committees who have some of the best minds in the community working to understand the past, present and future opportunities for the golf course, driving range, restaurant/event center and Galvin Park. Allow them to be part of the process making it a true private-public process. 3. Select someone from the Santa Rosa golf community with the appropriate background and expertise, to be a part of the golf course and restaurant operator selection process. Anything less than paying credence to the 3 requests above will

send a message to your community that you are working autonomously, not cooperatively, and that you have your own agenda. We know SR City Staff and Council members have many agenda items facing them right now. We also know that City Manager Jeff Kolin inherited a firestorm of issues about our city. For those reasons, the value of knowledge, volunteer time and expertise available through the SBVGC membership is critical for you to consider. Please do not allow your lack of resources to affect the outcome of this incredibly important issue. The clock is ticking on this property and the golf course operator contract close. Every day that passes, where the Restaurant/Event Center is not being utilized, causes a lack of revenue for us all. Your actions, or lack of action, affects your tax paying residents within your districts. Please hear our voice and work with us cooperatively. Submitted by: Sheila Bell - sbellconsulting@sbcglobal.net

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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 4:46:35 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Andrea Cameron submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 14.3 REPORT - APPROVAL OF SCOPE OF WORK AND PROCESS FOR BENNETT VALLEY GOLF COURSE OPERATIONAL EVALUATION BACKGROUND: Council has requested that staff work with the Bennett Valley Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee to develop a scope of work for a consultant to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the golf course, restaurant and banquet/event operations that will be used to develop a solicitation for a new operator prior to the expiration of the current operator contracts on June 30, 2022. Approval of the motion will finalize the scope of work, authorize staff to release a request for proposals and approve the review and selection committee composition. RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Bennett Valley Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee and Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council, by motion: 1) approve a scope of work for the Bennett Valley Golf Course operational evaluation; 2) authorize releasing an RFP to conduct a comprehensive operational evaluation; 3) approve the review and selection committee composition; and 4) delegate authority to the City Manager or his/her designee to further modify the Scope of Work and/or Operational Evaluation Process provided such changes are consistent with or do not otherwise conflict with Council direction.

eComment: Very concerned about the lack of transparency in the City Manger's office and the continued unwillingness to commit to working with the community, specifically Save Bennett Valley Golf Course. Stop spending general fund money and engage with the people you serve. Please. There are plenty of great minds willing and able and happy to take the gem that was gifted to us and make it shine. The City has too many other pressing issues. Let this enterprise be run like an enterprise by enterprising citizens of Santa Rosa. And let City of Santa Rosa government staff and elected officials focus on governance. Thank you.

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From: [Stephen Urbanek](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item #14.3
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 4:56:36 PM

Dear City Council Members and Staff, I am writing to support the continued use of BVGC in as golf course. I encourage the council to further invest in an asset that the community has clearly and passionately said they want. Bennett Valley Golf Course is a treasure!

Please approve the issuance of an RFP to continue golf operations and Restaurant event operation in it's entirety with a new golf operations organization, and reject any recommendation that would propose ending golf operations. Please include members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the selection committee. I also ask when the time comes to work with the consultants that the community continues to be invited to work with staff on the continued golf operations.

You've heard from the community in Santa Rosa that we are passionate about our golf course and want to emphasize to the city Council and staff that we want to do everything in our power to make sure that we continue that use for now and future generations.

Thank you

Steve Urbanek