

Belmont Master Plan Public Input Meeting
April 16, 2019
Charette Station Easel & Index Card Notes

Question: What is your vision for Belmont?

- More tennis courts
- Lights on courts
- Open for walking in the evenings
- No trespassing signs down from course
- 9-Hole rate and rain checks
- Alcohol and food sales
- Driving range from Brook Road up current hole #1
- More events such as weddings
- Keep Belmont open as a golf course
- Bocce
- Leave it as is! Take the funds from the General Fund
- Maintain the course and they will come.
- Save the course as is but spend money on bunkers
- Over seed
- Belmont is underutilized
- More residents play tennis on the courts than golfers play on the course
- Make Belmont inclusive to all ages and races by installing a skate park
- Create biking, walking and hiking paths.
- Planting native plants which cost less money and are low-maintenance.
- Where is the sign for the 1947 PGA Tournament? Or No membership required?
- Play once for \$
- We have enterprise fund. Where is the promo fund?
- Keep the golf course, it is historic and very walkable unlike most modern courses.
- Henrico should fund the golf course to be a first-class public course especially due to the central location and the surrounding areas being revitalized. (i.e. Scotts Addition)
- I think Henrico County should keep Belmont as a golf course and fund the necessary improvements.
- This is affordable! Keep the golf!
- An affordable, inclusive, first class facility for the enjoyment of Henrico residents and visitors – 18 Holes!
- Millions have been spent on water park and dog parks. Spend money on Belmont.
- Unelected officials are making decisions. Board of Supervisors are used for approval.
- Boost golf interest by having golf lessons for students. (GAHS) goes bowling during May A.P. testing. Why not golf? e.g. golf summer camps for varying ages.
- Keep existing facility. Add a restaurant and a bar area for golfers to have a beer once done.
- Millions were spent on artificial turf on the high school fields. Spend it on Belmont.
- Par 3 or 9 hole course one side Other side of the street a bike path and trails down to Spring Creek. Partner with City of Richmond and connect to Bryan Park. Great Opportunities!
- Spend the money to save Belmont as is.
- Done blame losing \$ on not supporting with parks budget. Seems like more could be invested. But obviously \$ must come from somewhere.
- Many people want to golf if 9-holes. Will increase traffic.

- If a public park: I'm concerned about cars, traffic, parking, noise on Club Road. Would love bike/multi-use trails like Deep Run. Move LYB uphill to avoid flooding?
- What will county do to subsidize home value depreciation in the event future reduce resale value? Diminished home value assessments will cost county in tax revenue. Subsidize to home owners for losses?
- This is the only park that makes any portion of the cost to run it. None of the others do. (Totally supported by county)
- Providing public golf courses is a tremendous program offering for a public Recreation & Parks department. It is money very well spent. Former Recreation Supervisor – Doug Fitzpatrick
- Preserve Belmont Golf Course - We have enough parks close by. At least with Belmont Golf Course property managed could become self-sufficient. Dorey Park costs the County \$1,282,369. Belmont could survive on less – promote it. Belmont cost the county \$175,000. To run.
- A beautiful, well-maintained green space in the middle of Lakeside that serves the golfers of the county, as well as other community activities.
- Would like to see the space used more efficiently as green space. Walking trails, golfing par-3, and more space for a swimming pool and picnic area. No shopping or apartments or housing!! Remain green space.
- Henrico has lots of parks for biking, hiking, ball playing etc., but this is the only park for golfing where it is possible to walk! Please keep it for Henrico residents!
- A well-maintained golf course! Leave it as is! Take money to run it from the general fund.
- Move to a General Fund
- Hire a PGA Professional
- Fix Bunkers
- Work with schools on youth program
- Offer alcohol
- Expand food offerings
- Junior PGA
- VSGA
- Peggy Kirk Bell Golf Tour
- National Junior Golf Association
- RGA & USGA events
- Tee Times starting at 7 a.m. in April
- Keep it as is. 18-Hole course
- Reunite the park as one, golf course, club house and tennis and any additional uses that would not (harm the course)
- Put back in the general fund
- Hire a PGA Golf Pro. Hire a food vendor for a restaurant and ABC.
- Rebuild the bunkers and greens
- Reduce fee to get more business
- For land – keep course. Golf trend will cycle around
- Flood plain – develop for canoeing
- For building – family style restaurant, Sunday buffet, event venue – birthdays, weddings reunions
- I would like for the Belmont area to become a park with perhaps a lake but definitely walking trails, benches and lots of nature.
- No trespassing signs down public property. Golf Pro – put up. Walk in evening. ?
- I cannot understand how Henrico County could even consider closing the golf course. It is a historic property and the home of a PGA Championship. It is one of the few public courses in the area. Where will the average Joe who wants to play but can't afford a private club go? Where will the local high school teens practice and play if

Belmont closed? Henrico County under its current leadership does not appear to support golf at all. The tone of April 16 Times Dispatch article certainly reflected that Neil Luther wants the course gone. The County has committed \$2.7 million on 2 aquatic centers. I don't know how much has been spent on RF&P and Glover Parks. The County seems more interested in sports tourism than programs for its residents. Cost of upkeep of the other parks exceeds that of Belmont; some are more than 2 million. I question the commitment the County has made for maintaining the course. Money was set aside by Dick Glover to repair the sand traps, but the repairs were never made. The course is not in too bad shape. In 2016 & 2017 half the course closed for maintenance, which caused a shortfall in revenue. There is already a local park at Bryan Park. Why would the County put out money for another park and end all the programs that came with it? Belmont could be successful if the county would put out the effort. Look at Petersburg, Newport News, and VA Beach that have profitable courses. It can be done! Put Belmont under the general fund. Market the course. Hire someone who can run the course.

- We agree Belmont is a gem, a gem in the golfing world. So, we must build up the golf aspects make it a golf mecca. Don't bring in dogs or hiking paths etc. Do you think Augusta of Pebble beach etc. would have ever considered that kind of idea? No way! Tiger Woods would laugh at that foolishness. If you really consider Belmont a golf gem, then let's make it one. Have tournaments, beautify it to compete with the major courses. That will bring the \$\$\$'d in. Tom Morrisett
- Is the problem for the proposal to close Belmont Golf Course since it's operating in the red? This is a public facility and not all public facilities make money. This service to the citizens is necessary for golfers since there are no other courses near. Where will the First Tee youngsters golf when they become graduates? Where will the seniors play? They don't play basketball, baseball, track, or hiking. What is going to happen to the tennis courts? Is this basically about the golf course losing money?
- Keep Belmont as a golf course!! Put the money into maintaining it and make sure it's managed properly. I have not heard of any other use that makes sense for the county and is not repetitive of other facilities. Feels like you're blowing smoke on the finances. Golf needs to break even, and other uses don't need to.
- Belmont Options – Use Dogwood Trace as a renovation renewal model. 4.4 stars read comments on website – self-supporting option. Lease course to an operating company. Current course operation with updates and other thru recreations. Operating as a golf course much less expensive than a park.
- Preserve Belmont Golf Course – historic value, community resource, asset to neighbors property value, potential for tourism through golf tournaments, Rec, Dept sponsoring youth golf activities, tournament competition, county has an opportunity to enhance current value of the course to the citizens by make improvements (greens, sand traps) at a modest cost. Break even financially should be the goal.
- Golf Course Only
- Keep Belmont open for senior golf – very important; bring back experienced management team; raise rates of losing money; Sam Snead put Belmont on the map; Belmont is a safe and wonderful course for seniors to golf on; Henrico County owes its residents something back for all taxes paid
- I am approaching retirement soon and look forward to playing the course again and for many years to come. My desire is for Belmont to remain generally as it is, except add a beer cart.