

MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Board of Managers
From: Michael Hayman
CC: Lars Erdahl, James Wisker
Date: August 27, 2015
Re: Item 12.1 – Review of feasibility for Meadowbrook Golf Course Ecological Restoration

In December, 2013 the Board directed staff to seek partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and initiate a preliminary exploration of Minnehaha Creek restoration and re-meandering through the Meadowbrook Golf Course area.

In March, 2015 – following nearly a year of communication with MPRB and the historic flooding that occurred throughout 2014 – the Board authorized execution of a cooperative agreement with MPRB for conceptual planning of improvements to Minnehaha Creek and Meadowbrook Golf Course. Since that time, the assembled teams have been exploring and developing a variety of conceptual alternatives for a range of golf and non-golf uses for the Meadowbrook site. Each of these alternatives has been evaluated for relative flood resilience, golf operations, ecological improvement and community connectivity.

Throughout 2015 the MPRB hosted to a variety of public meetings designed to outline opportunities associated with various golf course reconstruction options (three alternatives). The overwhelming consensus from these meetings, as well as over 800 survey responses, was to move Option B forward. This option includes the addition of a driving range, creates a playable 9-hole route during high water conditions, addresses flood issues for the course and adjacent properties, and provides restoration opportunities for the creek corridor and wetland areas. At the August 19 MPRB Planning committee meeting, members unanimously approved moving this option forward for full Board consideration.

At the August 27, 2015 Board meeting, staff will provide a presentation on the feasibility of ecological improvements on the Meadowbrook Golf Course. This presentation will highlight the prospect of restoring the currently ditched segment of Minnehaha Creek, the potential for increased flood resiliency; the ability to provide flood mitigation for properties adjacent to the course that are currently impacted under 100-year conditions; detail opportunities to restore and enhance wetland function within the golf course; and discuss the opportunity for community connections through expansion of the Minnehaha Greenway with a new trail corridor running south into the City of Edina.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Michael Hayman at mhayman@minnehahacreek.org or 952.471.8226