

Rocco,

I think we can all agree that green space is a good thing to acquire to slow down growth in Green. By using taxpayer dollars to purchase green space we must make sure it is a good deal for taxpayers and serve a meaningful purpose. Green space can be enjoyed several ways. First, to actually enjoy what that green space has to offer and secondly, being able to visually enjoy this green space. I agree this is a beautiful piece of property, but because of its location, it cannot be seen and enjoyed by the majority of our residents simply because it can't be seen unless you actually drive back into the property. A developer could purchase this property today and build 250 homes tomorrow and no one in Green would know these homes have been built except for the people that live there. If you think about this logically, this property is better suited for homes rather than park land simply because it is so secluded. New homes on this property would have no visual impact on residents and would actually be spectacular lots to build homes on.

We are being told we need to buy this property so it doesn't become a development and put more pressure on our schools and our roadways. Looking at the city's long-term development plan, when Green is fully developed the estimated population will be around 37,000 people, we currently have approximately 27,000 people today. This means, over the next several decades we will be adding approximately 10,000 people to Green. Buying this property would only stop about 600 or 700 of that 10,000. Buying this property would also not stop any commercial development in Green which will continue to put pressure on our infrastructure. So looking at the big picture, I compare buying this property, to throwing a pebble into the ocean. We are spending a large chunk of taxpayer dollars that could be used to work on much needed connectivity throughout Green and to continue to improve our infrastructure rather than on a golf course/park that in the long run will do nothing to stop the pressure on our schools and roadways.

The last point I would like to make is probably the most important, the purchase price. We are buying a golf course with an appraised value of \$2.3 - \$2.7 million, in which we want to pay \$3.3 million. This is just another example of why government almost always loses money when they try to get involved in the private sector. The mayor was asked if it is appraised at \$2.7 million why are we paying 3.3 and his response was because it's not available to us at the 2.7. In the real business world, the negotiation would have stop right there and you would have walked away from the deal. The only reason you would over pay by \$600,000 - \$1 million is because you really have to have this property for something Green residents need or it would solve a major issue we have going on in Green, this purchase does neither.

I think the city should continue to look for opportunities to purchase green space, which there is still plenty out there. It just needs to make sense financially and serve a meaningful purpose to Green residents, fitting into the city's long term development plan.

I ask City Council to vote responsibly and respectfully with the taxpayer's money. Please vote no, in regards to the purchase of this property.

Thanks for listening,

Mark Herdlick

Green Resident

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