

## City of Duluth – Duluth Golf User Group Communications

The Public Golf Committee was formed as a sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 8, 2020 and held its first meeting on September 15, 2020. During its tenure, the Committee achieved multiple tangible accomplishments: adoption of the Enger Park Golf Course Renovation Plan, amendments to golf-related City Ordinances, and completion of the RFP process to contract for golf management services. Collectively, these accomplishments have set Duluth Golf on a positive course, and the Committee's efforts should be commended.

In 2022, with the renovation plan document adopted and moved into implementation, ordinances in place, and a single qualified response to the RFP, the attendance of committee members as well the participation of broader golf community in public meetings has declined. Quorum was not met in 2 of 4 meetings, leaving meeting minutes unapproved and delaying conversation about the structure and focus of the Committee until December.

In order to continue engagement with the golf community, a new approach is needed.

City staff recommend that the golf community be supported and engaged in similar fashion to dozens of other user groups throughout the Duluth park system. This is achieved through two-way communication, invitations to meetings, timely opportunities to weigh in on key decision points and activity-specific items, and respectful discourse to achieve shared goals and visions.

Staff anticipate that timely outreach designed to be easier for golfers to participate in will result in the City receiving more valuable input on golf-related decisions. The following outline is a good faith representation of how City staff intend to engage with the golf community moving forward:

### In-person Communications (at minimum):

- Pre-Season Meeting at Enger Park Golf Course Spring
- Post-Season Meeting at Enger Park Golf Course Fall
- Key decision points for operations and renovations As necessary
- Public presentations and reports to Parks and Recreation Commission As necessary

### Written Communications (at minimum):

- Construction/renovation project updates and operations information shared via:
  - Website status updates
  - Email communications to stakeholders including Friends group, Enger League representatives, etc.
  - Post in clubhouse
  - Parks and Recreation Division Report for project and operational updates

### Individual Inquiries (On-going)

City staff are available for individual inquiries via phone, email, online comment form, and to schedule in-person meetings for discussion.

In the future, should the Friends of Duluth Public Golf or another established entity wish to act as the representative of the broader public golf community, the City welcomes the opportunity to discuss the group's functional relationship with the City.