

Questions for the MPRB Staff

Pumping/Water Levels/Flooding of Golf Course

- Protection of At-Risk Homes - The current models appear to be inaccurate for the flooding scenarios. The loss of flood capacity was not taken into account and the highest lake level modeled was too low. The maximum modeling was done at 814.1 feet. The highest water level in 2014 was 816.2 feet. (DNR presentation 30nov2017). **Please provide accurate, appropriate models for the highest known water level.**
- The MPRB states that Alternative A (the current golf course) has a once in every 10 years water level of 811.6 MSL. On the other hand, Alternative B would raise the Lake Hiawatha lake level by more than 1.2 feet to a new normal water level of 812.8 MSL. (Impact Assessment, July 2017, pp. 16-17) **Does this mean that Alternative B permanently raises the water level of Lake Hiawatha?**
- Alternative B moves the lake edge and the pumping across the street from the at-risk homes (about 4-5 blocks west of the current pumping). The assertion is that the cone of depression created by this pumping will keep the homes drier. But, this pumping will, also, draw water towards homes rather than having the water flow away from the homes for 4 to 5 blocks, and the percentage of lake water (seepage) pumped grows from 33% at the edge of the golf course to 46% at the new edge near the homes. Plus, the modeling shows that the water levels in the neighborhood would increase. **Explain how this would be beneficial rather than detrimental to these low lying homes, especially, considering the current problems at Lake Nokomis where the lake level has risen and ponds were also created nearer the homes, and those homes are now experiencing serious water problems?**
- Moving the water's edge (flooding of the golf course) and moving pumping to 19th Avenue and 44th St. loses the cleansing of the 66 million gallons of storm water that is currently cleaned by passing through the pond system on the golf course. It will now be dumped directly into the expanded lake. **What is the new plan for replacing the current pond system so that polluted water is not dumped directly into the newly expanded lake?**
- We are told that a pump/well will be put in at E. 43rd St. and 17th Avenue S. because Alternative B will raise the groundwater levels in that neighborhood. **Where will the pumped water go?**
- Park Board officials have told us that Alternative B will increase the water levels in the neighborhoods directly west of the golf course where

water levels are already high. **Who is going to pay for any damage to these homes if the planned pumping scenario does not work?**

- We have heard that there have been problems in the neighborhood around E 42nd St. and Bloomington Ave. S. since pumps were put in there, possibly drawing too much water from the properties, causing sinking and damage to homes. **What consideration has been given to the possibility of drawing too much water from properties with at-risk homes, potentially causing these same sinking problems?**
- **What effort has been put into looking at water mitigation upstream to reduce the water burden on Lake Hiawatha, Lake Nokomis, and the golf course property, such that less pumping would be needed in the current scenario?** This includes looking at why the deep-water aquifers in the high end of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed (like the Lake Minnetonka area) are being depleted while those in south Minneapolis are full.

Environmental Considerations

- Many environmental enhancements included only in Alternative B can, also, be accommodated on the golf course via the Audubon Certification program. **Why has a robust Audubon Certification not been done, which could include environmental enhancements?**
- **Has an Environmental Impact Statement been done for the proposed changes? If not, when will this be done and how much will it cost?**
- The MPRB document states that re-meandering of Minnehaha Creek under Alternative B will only decrease the phosphorus pollution coming into Lake Hiawatha from Minnehaha Creek by 3%. Also, this moves Minnehaha Creek closer to Bergan's and Carbone's (Bergan's is currently experiencing water problems.) An old aerial photograph from the 1920's shows that the area of Bergan's and Carbone's was flooded in a high water scenario when the creek ran in the proposed location. This flooding could be exacerbated by the construction of the pavilion and its 2 parking lots with a capacity of 160 vehicles. This also goes counter to current environmental practice which mitigates pollution at the source, not the destination. **What are the reasons for re-meandering of Minnehaha Creek within the golf course when this does little to reduce the phosphorus pollution and may negatively impact the businesses and homes in this part of the neighborhood?**
- Alternative B plans indicate that the MPRB will perform controlled burns and spot spraying on the property for 1-10 years to control invasive species. **Please provide details about what type of spraying and burning will be done on the property, and what impact this spraying and burning will have on the neighborhood residents.**

Projected User Numbers

- Projected user numbers for Alternative B appear to be inaccurate (overstated). They appear to include unusable (flooded) acreage when calculating the numbers. This needs to be clarified by the MPRB. **Are park user numbers generally calculated using the dry acreage OR dry & lake acreage?**

Proposed Open Channel

- A new open channel is proposed to replace the buried storm sewer pipe that runs under the golf course to the lake for trash mitigation. It appears that an open trench just moves the trash from the current lake edge to the golf course property or the new swamp. **What alternatives are there to solve this problem? For example, how is trash removed from storm sewer water before entering other lakes? How is it done for the 44th and Longfellow system that currently dumps storm sewer water on the golf course?**
- MPRB documents state that no grading plans have been developed for this new open channel to determine if the channel will actually work. **When will this engineering effort be completed so that it is known whether this proposal is even viable?**

Financials

- The FEMA money for the golf course (\$1.1 million) expires July 1, 2018. As far as we know, none of this money has been spent on the golf course. **What is happening with this money that was allocated by the Federal Government after the 2014 flood for repairs and improvements to the golf course?**
- **If the golf course were closed, what would happen to the golf course employees?**
- **Where is the money coming from to pay for any changes to the golf course?**
- **Please provide year by year revenue, expenses and profit/loss for each Minneapolis golf course for the past 20 years. Delineate any adjustments for changes in fees, changes in personnel expenses (moving personnel to/from golf expenses .vs. being expensed in other parts of the park system), also, golf personnel vs non-golf personnel expensed under golf. This should also include one time expenditures against the golf department for paying off bonds for other departments which was allowed under a long standing Park Board Resolution.**
- We understand that the new building being built at Theodore Wirth golf

course for the Lopet is being expensed against golf course revenue. **Why are expenditures for the Lopet, a private organization, being expensed against Minneapolis Golf Course revenue.**

- **Provide year by year user numbers broken down for each, individual Minneapolis golf course. Caveats for 2014-2016: play increased at Gross, Wirth and Columbia due to partial closures of Hiawatha and Meadowbrook. What effect did the recession have on the user numbers for the golf course?**
- **Why were the greens fees at the Hiawatha Golf Course less than greens fees at other Minneapolis golf courses in 2017?**
- The MPRB documentation states that Alternative B "would be subject to a higher level of regulatory oversight than Alternative A, resulting in a longer anticipated permitting timeline (and higher costs)". **What is this timeline and what are the higher costs?**
- Your project page indicates that an RFP will be issued in April. **Please provide us with a copy.**

Clubhouse

- Alternative B calls for doubling the size of the parking lot at the clubhouse and expanding the clubhouse. **We would like to see the engineering analysis that has been done to show that this is feasible on such a small piece of property. Or, will there need to be reconstruction of this knoll to increase the size of this property to accommodate these expanded amenities?**
- Expanded restaurant. **How large will the actual building be compared to the current clubhouse?**
- Clubhouse on-street parking - With the expanded clubhouse, the assumption is made by the MPRB that Longfellow Avenue, 45th St and 47th St will handle overflow parking for up to 450 users. MPRB documentation indicates that Longfellow Ave. is a quiet side street. Residents know that this is not true. Longfellow Avenue has a lot of traffic that circumvents Cedar Avenue, and people also use it to drive around the perimeter of the park. Speed bumps attest to this fact. Plus, many residents park their cars on the street. **Please provide us with a better analysis of this issue than what is provided in the Impact Assessment to show that plans for parking will be reasonable and adequate, and won't overburden the neighborhood with traffic and parked cars.** This should include an analysis of exactly how many parking spots exist and how many of these parking spots would already be used by residents of the neighborhood based on actual counts of the cars parked in this neighborhood over time.

North End - Proposed Picnic Shelters & Parking Lots

- Picnic shelters are proposed for the north end of the property with seasonal plumbing. **Please provide the engineering plans that show how these pipes would be laid out and installed**, since the existing sewer and water pipes that serve the homes are 20-30 feet above the golf course property for much of the length of the golf course.
- The 2 proposed new parking lots at E 43rd Street at 21st Avenue S. and E 43rd Street at 23rd Avenue S. seem to be questionable changes. There is a 20-30 foot drop from the street to the golf course at 23rd Ave. which seems to make this lot unbuildable or inaccessible. **Please show us the engineering plans for these parking lots. Also, will the rain garden at 21st Avenue S. be gone? Plus, how will the open trench be accommodated in this area?**
- City ordinance would allow the Park Board to build the shelters without adding off-street parking, thus, the neighborhood streets would, likely, be expected to handle up to 21 extra proposed parked cars per day. **Please show us an analysis of where the traffic and cars will be accommodated, so that we can evaluate whether the neighborhood will overburdened by cars and traffic?**

Flexible Interior Space

- It is unclear where the new Flexible Interior space will be on the property. If it will be on the actual golf course area, this will be built on un-buildable property unless pilings and fill are used. Plus, the property will periodically flood the building. **Please provide the engineering plans for the Flexible Interior Space along with any considerations for building it on a flood plain.**

South End - Pavilion & Parking Lots

- South end pavilion - **Please provide engineering plans including how big this structure will be and where it will be located. Also, we would like information regarding the feasibility of building this structure on a flood plain, including the functionality needed to survive flooding.**
- South End parking lots - **Please provide engineering plans including the location and size of these parking lots. Also, we would like information regarding the feasibility of building these parking lots on a flood plain, to include the functionality needed to survive flooding.**
- You estimate 62,000 square feet of pavement/permeable pavers for the 2 parking lots. **Please provide the engineering numbers for the volume of extra water that will be flowing INTO Minnehaha creek.**

- You estimate that each event at the Pavilion will attract 1,300 people. Minnehaha Parkway around Cedar Avenue can back up on a normal day. **Please provide your analysis of how Minnehaha Parkway and the adjoining streets will accommodate this amount of traffic.**

Golf

- Capacity - The MPRB says that Hiawatha GC is operating at 47% of capacity, but gives no information as to how this compares with anything else. Thus, it is a number without context. **Please provide the comparable numbers for Minneapolis parks, the other Minneapolis golf courses, other area golf courses, and golf courses in general so that there is some context for evaluation.**
- The MPRB has stated that golf is a declining sport. **Please provide your data that supports this statement.**