

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan

A Massive Folly!

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March 2023

SaveHiawatha18 has spent over 7 years trying to figure out why the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been spending almost \$1 million to create the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. It is still a mystery.

This document describes the past history of this project from the perspective of the public , trying to impart information that is not forthcoming from the MPRB.

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1.0 History of Hiawatha Golf Course.

The history of the Hiawatha Golf Course property has been distorted by the MPRB and other supporters of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, wanting people to believe that the Hiawatha Park property went from a pristine swamp directly to a golf course. Much history is left out of this self-serving narrative.

1.1 Creation of Lake Hiawatha and the Hiawatha Golf Course.

Current MPRB Commissioner Tom Olsen has talked about the "original sin" of developing the Hiawatha Golf Course property into a golf course in the 1920's and 1930's (3). The MPRB's Assistant Superintendent of Planning Michael Schroeder states that Theodore Wirth "despoiled" the natural wetland called Rice Lake. (5) The actual history of the property contradicts their points of view.

The narrative that the golf course destroyed a pristine wetland is misleading. If you research the history of the development of the Hiawatha Park property you will see that in the early 1900's the property was in the hands of private property owners including farmers, homeowners, speculators and developers. And, in the 1910's and 1920's, the property was rapidly being developed. We have found, at least, 38 buildings on the Hiawatha Park property, along with a couple of farms when the Park Board bought it in 1922. Fifteen new homes were built on this property from 1917 to 1922. Much of this property had been platted for homes, and there were at least 3 or 4 homes on the shores of Rice Lake where the golf course's second hole is today.

The purchase of the Hiawatha Park Property was approved in 1922, and bonds were approved for sale in 1923. The land was purchased in 1923 from private individuals. (Source: Minneapolis Star, October 25th, 1924, p. 23) .

After the Park Board purchased the property, some of the homes were immediately auctioned off in 1925 and moved to other locations in the neighborhood. The Park Board rented out the remaining homes, including several on the golf course, until the Park Board was ready to build the golf course. The Park Board eventually held an auction of these buildings on April 25th, 1931. It included 20 houses, 9 garages and 2 barns (Source: Minneapolis Star, April 18th, 1931, p. 16).

Using building permits, we found the following records of buildings on the golf course property. The year of construction is in parenthesis.

E. 44th St. - 2510(1917), 2514(1917), 2518(1917), 2522(1917), 2616(1922) - All on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th holes.

25th Ave. S. - 4300(?) - On the 4th hole.

26th Ave. S. - 4304(1919), 4308(1919) - Both on the 3rd hole.

19th Ave. S. - 4311(1915), 4315(1913) - Both on the 6th hole.

19th Ave. S. - 4550(1921) - On or just below the clubhouse knoll

19th Ave. S. - 4700 (2 buildings-1907 & 1910), 4706(1909) - On the golf course maintenance facility area.

Longfellow Ave. S. - 4557 (2 buildings-1921), 4601-03(1897), 4605(1912) - On the clubhouse knoll.

Longfellow Ave. S. - 4721(1922) - On the golf course maintenance facility area.

That is 19 buildings on the golf course property.

There were also 7 new homes built just outside of the golf course property in 1920 and 1921 on the west side of 27th Ave. S. between E. 43rd St. and E. 44th St. In 1925 the Park Board auctioned off these homes and they were moved elsewhere or they were demolished.

Interestingly, a storm sewer map of E. 43rd St. on the north side of the golf course shows an abandoned pipe under the 4th hole coming from 25th Ave. S. This pipe was, obviously, there to service this new neighborhood of homes, a remnant of the homes that existed in the golf course.

So, this narrative that pristine property was "despoiled", as Mr. Schroeder puts it, is just pure fiction. It was rapidly being sub-divided, platted and developed.

Theodore Wirth pushed the Park Board to buy the property which stopped that development and preserved this landscape as park land for the people of Minneapolis, along with retaining the basic landscape with some modifications. If the MPRB did not acquire the Rice Lake

property, Theodore Wirth had plans to divert Minnehaha Creek around Lake Hiawatha by routing it directly from Lake Nokomis to the outbound Minnehaha Creek. This would have left the Rice Lake property open for even more massive development. So, we can only speculate what the Hiawatha Park property would have become in the hands of private developers. The swamp land, and even the lake, might have been filled in and gone. Theodore Wirth deserves praise for saving this now beloved piece of property.

Maybe the MPRB should tell the real story; the building of the golf course saved this property as parkland for the people of Minneapolis.

1.2 Why is Hiawatha Golf Course being treated differently than other similar MPRB properties?

The MPRB states in their draft letter to the Minnesota Historic Commission (5): "In 1929, Wirth commenced a dredging operation that would shape a new lake from the former Rice Lake and create new 'dry land' for a golf course using dredge materials. While the changes were then viewed as an improvement, it occurred without regard for the ecology of the lake and creek, which flowed through it. While those changes were ecologically significant, the long-term conditions would result in the golf course being situated at an elevation lower than the adjacent lake, requiring pumping of groundwater sufficient to supply domestic water needs of a small to medium-sized Minnesota town, and placing the golf course at a one-in-ten chance of flooding every year. Wirth's actions supported the expansion of the park system with new amenities serving portions of Minneapolis' growing populace but the despoilation of a natural lake, the elimination of significant wetlands, and the loss of expansive habitat would never be allowed today."

The above statement is very disingenuous in that many of the parks and amenities in the Minneapolis Park System were created on swamps and lakes, and were heavily dredged and reconstructed. A few examples are:

- Meadowbrook Golf Course - Parts of this MPRB golf course were wetlands that were dredged and reconstructed. Like Hiawatha Golf Course, water is pumped out of this golf course to keep it dry, with the pumped water eventually draining through Lake Hiawatha. This golf course also flooded in 2014, and was closed for a much longer time

frame than Hiawatha Golf Course. Yet, it is still in operation and is not being closed or downgraded. In fact, a new clubhouse was built in the past year, and this golf course does not even reside in Minneapolis proper which makes it inaccessible to many Minneapolis residents, especially children. Why is this Minneapolis owned golf course being maintained while one in the heart of South Minneapolis is being destroyed?

- Columbia Golf Course - Part of this MPRB golf course was a wetland called Sandy Lake. In 1914 storm sewers were installed to drain Sandy Lake to dry out this parkland. This golf course was recently reconstructed to help with water problems and city storm water infrastructure. It is not being slated for closure or downgrading.
- Theodore Wirth Golf Course - Parts of this MPRB golf course were a wetland and suffer from wet conditions. This golf course is not being slated for closure or downgrading.
- Pearl Park - This park in South Minneapolis was originally a wetland called Pearl Lake. Dredged spoils from the dredging of the adjacent Diamond Lake and excess material from construction of the MSP airport were dumped into this wetland to create Pearl Park in the 1930's. The Diamond Lake Management Plan (2009, p.24) states "all soils within the Diamond Lake watershed area have been highly modified and disturbed by urbanization. Even parkland and Diamond Lake itself have disturbed soils due to dredging and filling activities." According to the Pearl Park history on the MPRB website, this park has repeatedly suffered from water and drainage problems, yet it has received maintenance and enhancements over 80 years to solve these problems. In fact, water that drains from Pearl Park ends up in Lake Hiawatha. It is not slated for closure or a return to a wetland. In fact, recently, the MPRB had a grand opening of renovations made to this park. We watched repairs being done in the Fall of 2021. Is this because this park serves the largely white, more wealthy neighborhoods in South Minneapolis? See Appendix 2 for more information about the history of Pearl Park.
- Lake Nokomis - This lake and park were part of an extensive dredging and reshaping of the original wetland complex in the 1910's. Recently, some of the created parkland has been converted back to ponds, and many people are concerned that this is causing the recent extensive water problems in the neighborhood. The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan would do a similar, yet more extensive, project in the Hiawatha neighborhood which is extremely concerning to homeowners.
- Lake Hiawatha Park Building, Swimming Pool and Playground - In looking at old maps of the Hiawatha Park property it appears that the Hiawatha Park Building, swimming pool and playground on the east side of the lake were built on dredged spoils from the lake. Old maps indicate that the original lake bed went to the corner of E. 44th St. and 27th Ave. S. So, this area was filled in with the dredged spoils of the lake and elevated to a

much greater extent than the golf course. Should the park building, pool and playground also be demolished so that this part of the property can also be returned to its original state? It is not currently slated for demolition.

Thus, many amenities were created on land in the Minneapolis Park System that was "despoiled", many wetlands were eliminated, and habitat was lost in the city. We ask, why is Hiawatha Golf Course being treated differently than other parks in the MPRB system? It appears that amenities built on this type of terrain are saved if the MPRB wants to save them, whereas the Hiawatha Golf Course has been slated for demolition. Most people believe that this is because District 5 Commissioner Steffanie Musich does not want a golf course in her district. Kathryn Kelly met with Ms. Musich in December of 2017 to ask her to retain the 18-hole golf course. Ms. Musich's parting words to Kathryn were, "There will not be 18 holes of golf on that property."

We also have to defend Theodore Wirth regarding the MRPB description of him "despoiling" the Hiawatha Park property. We need to praise Theodore Wirth for his foresight in saving this land for the general public, and the MPRB needs to stop demonizing him.

1.3 Historical Designations and Memorials

There are several historic concerns regarding the destruction of this golf course. The Hiawatha Golf Course is currently part of 2 historic nominations. And, the Hiawatha 18-hole Golf Course has its own set of memorials, most contributed and paid for by patrons of the golf course.

1.3.1 National Historic Designation - The 18-Hole Hiawatha Golf Course

The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Commission voted on February 7th, 2023 to approve the listing of the 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course as an important Black cultural history site on the National List of Historic Places. It celebrates Hiawatha golf course's significant Black cultural history. In April of 2023 the National Park Service approved the listing of the Hiawatha 18-hole Golf Course and Clubhouse on the National Register of Historic Places.

1.3.2 National Historic Designation - Grand Rounds Historic District

The 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course and Clubhouse are included in the application for historic designation of the Grand Rounds Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

1.3.3 The Solomon Hughes, Sr. Clubhouse.

In 2022, the Hiawatha Golf Course clubhouse was renamed in honor of Solomon Hughes, Sr., a Black professional golfer whose home course was Hiawatha. The proposed golf course plan would demolish this building and build a restaurant, a golf course pro shop and a kayak rental building. It is unclear what would happen to this dedication.

1.3.4 Memorials on the golf course.

The Hiawatha Golf Course currently has 40 memorials to people across the golf course. These memorials were paid for by family and friends of the people. They include many trees, some benches and lately medallions. Many, if not all, of the trees will be demolished. What will happen to these memorials?

You can find information about these memorials at:

https://www.savehiawatha18.com/history/Memorials/hiawatha_golf_course_memorials_history.htm

2.0 The Plan for Reducing Pollution.

A big part of the MPRB's justification for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan has been that it would reduce pollution in a major way.

2.1 Violates EPA guidelines for Constructed Wetlands.

The claims made by the MPRB have been that this project would mitigate pollution in the watershed. That means that the MPRB would be building a constructed wetland. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines artificial [constructed] wetlands as "wetlands that have been built or extensively modified by humans, as opposed to natural wetlands which are existing wetlands that have had little or no modification by humans, such as filling, draining, or altering the flow patterns or physical properties of the wetland." (2) p. 12

So, the Park Board proposal would attempt to build a "constructed wetland" on the Hiawatha Golf Course property even though the MPRB says that it would be doing wetland restoration back to a "natural wetland". Based on the EPA definition of "natural wetlands," the Hiawatha Golf Course property has not been a natural wetland since it was modified in the 1930s, and it can never again be considered a "natural wetland" because it is a product of extensive modifications by human beings and extensive changes in the neighborhoods surrounding the property.

Even if the MPRB would like to attempt wetland restoration, the EPA says that modification or direct use of natural wetlands for wastewater treatment is discouraged. (2) p. 12

In reading EPA guidelines for constructed wetlands, it becomes very clear that the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan project violates site selection guidelines for constructed wetlands for pollution mitigation that are established by the EPA. Some of the guidelines are as follows:

- The site should contain soils that can be sufficiently compacted to minimize seepage to groundwater. **Although peats are common in natural wetlands, they are not preferred soil for establishing constructed wetlands.** Peats can release organic acids, which contribute to low PH. Also, when flooded, peats have a soft, loose texture that may not provide adequate support for plants. (1) *(Our comment: The golf course is heavy in peat)*
- **The site should be above the water table and not be in a floodplain!** (1) *(Our*

comment: The golf course property IS a floodplain.)

- Water level management is key to maintaining wetland vegetation. Most wetland species are adapted to daily or seasonal fluctuations in water level but most wetland plants can tolerate neither extended periods of flooding nor drying of their roots. (1) *(Our comment: The Hiawatha Golf Course property is a floodplain that can suffer large seasonal fluctuations in water levels.)*
- **A large buffer zone should be placed between the wetland and neighboring properties. The wetland should not be placed next to the edge of neighboring properties.** (1) *(Our comment: The water will be across the street from homes; i.e., within about 30 feet and removes the large buffer zone (the golf course) that currently protects low-lying homes.)*
- **The effectiveness of a constructed wetland in treating wastewater or stormwater is related to the retention time of the water in the wetland.** High volumes of water through a wetland (that is, low retention rates) reduce the effectiveness of the wetland. (1) *(Our comment: Lake Hiawatha has one of the highest volumes of water running through it (lowest water retention rates) of any lake in the State of Minnesota.)*

The EPA also states that people have a misconception that constructed wetlands can remove significant amounts of phosphorus. Phosphorus removal in constructed wetlands is limited to seasonal uptake by the plants, which is not only minor compared to the phosphorus load in municipal wastewater, but is negated during the plants' senescence, that is, their condition or process of deterioration with age. Within one or two years of start-up, removal of phosphorus will decline.

The Park Board has not been diligent in maintaining the 18-hole golf course or the constructed wetlands at Lake Nokomis. If the Park Board does not maintain this new wetland, how will it serve the stated purpose of phosphorus removal over time, or will it just turn into a phosphorus saturated swamp?

Find more detail at: <http://savehiawatha18.com/commentary/TheMPRBandTheHiawathaConstructedWetland.htm>

2.2 Does Not Mitigate Pollution Coming Into Lake Hiawatha from Minnehaha Creek.

We have found that this plan does little or nothing to mitigate pollution coming in from Minnehaha Creek. It does, however, make Lake Hiawatha the collector (cesspool) of all of this pollution. Currently, environmental Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines for pollution mitigation say that pollution should be mitigated "at the source", not the destination. The MPRB's plan violates these guidelines by trying to mitigate pollution at Lake Hiawatha, the destination.

A recent article put out by the City of Seattle states: "Part of managing golf courses sustainably includes ensuring that the water that flows into it and out of it is healthy for aquatic and other wildlife. At Jackson Park and West Seattle Golf Courses, readings have shown that the water quality that exits the course is as clean or actually cleaner than the water that enters it. Excerpt from Beyond the Fairways: Wildlife Habitat in Golf Courses."

<https://parkways.seattle.gov/2021/08/03/beyond-the-fairways-wildlife-habitat-in-golf-courses/>

Solutions should require that cities in the upper watershed send clean water into Lake Hiawatha. They should not expect Lake Hiawatha to clean up their pollution.

2.3 Daylighting of the 43rd Street Storm Sewer Pipe for pollution mitigation.

Some of the trash pollution in Lake Hiawatha comes from the City of Minneapolis storm sewer outfalls that dump directly into Lake Hiawatha. A main focus of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan plan is one large outfall that runs alongside E. 43rd Street and under Hiawatha Golf Course, dumping storm sewer water directly into Lake Hiawatha by the second hole on Hiawatha Golf Course. The pollution and trash that comes from this pipe has nothing to do with Hiawatha Golf Course; it comes from Minneapolis storm sewers. Part of the MPRB's pollution mitigation strategy includes the daylighting of this large storm sewer pipe at E. 43rd St. and 19th Ave. S. where it enters the Hiawatha Park property as an underground pipe. This would put the dumping of polluted stormwater right across the street from low-lying homes and into a highly prized neighborhood park. This is an inappropriate response to this problem, and violates EPA guidelines of not doing pollution mitigation near other properties.

A perfect example of the EPA's concern with putting pollution mitigation near other properties was an incident that happened in 1965. A tanker truck turned over on the corner of Cedar Ave. S. and E. 38th St. It caught on fire and the burning fuel went into the storm sewer, ending up in the 43rd Street sewer pipe. The burning fuel dumped directly into Lake Hiawatha. It was a spectacle, but it was put out rather quickly and no homes were put in danger. With the MPRB's proposal, the burning fuel would end up across the street from homes, and it would end up passing through peat soil which could burn for days. While this incident was not normal pollution, it is an example of why pollution mitigation should not be done by nearby properties.

Another problem with this proposal is that the trash and pollutants do not come from the golf course. They come from outfalls that dump directly into Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek. The plan ignores the other outfalls that dump directly into Lake Hiawatha. At a Commissioner's meeting, Commissioner Thompson asked Assistant Superintendent Schroeder about this part of the project. Mr. Schroeder didn't reveal that all this would do is put trash into a newly created open ditch through the golf course. If a grit chamber is installed, it would capture the sinkable trash, but not the floatables. So, who will clean up this ditch running through the golf course? The golf course staff? This can and should be done without involvement of the 18-hole golf course. The City of Minneapolis is currently looking at implementing trash mitigation on this pipe to handle this problem without involving the golf course. So, this is a moot point.

Mr. Schroeder has also stated that water backs up into the 43rd street pipe which can produce bacteria. What wasn't said is the reason why the water backs up into the pipe. It is because the lake level is now higher than when the pipe was originally installed. This is another reason to look for ways to mitigate the volume of water that is dumped into Lake Hiawatha from the City of Minneapolis and the rest of the watershed so that the lake level can be lowered to its original levels.

2.4 Over 99% of the Phosphorus Pollution comes from Minnehaha Creek and the City of Minneapolis Stormwater Pipesheds.

According to Barr Engineering's assessment of the phosphorus pollution entering Lake Hiawatha, over 99% comes from Minnehaha Creek and the multiple pipesheds that drain directly into Lake Hiawatha. Less than 1% of the phosphorus pollution makes its way into Lake

Hiawatha from the golf course (and its pumping of water). So removing the golf course will, effectively, do nothing to clean up the lake. Best Management Practice (BMP) should be implemented that mitigates pollution at the sources of the pollution, not the destination. (4, p. 23)

2.5 Destruction of current pond system that cleans and sequesters pollution.

EPA guidelines for constructed wetlands state that pollution mitigation requires cells with controlled inlets and outlets that can sequester the pollution, especially on a site as large as the Hiawatha property. The MPRB's proposed plan does not show any controlled cells that would do this. That may be one of the reasons why Assistant Superintendent Schroeder stated at a CAC meeting that the MPRB was not building a constructed wetland; they were doing "wetland restoration."

In the late 1990's the MPRB created a system of ponds on the Hiawatha Golf Course. Our understanding is that the original intent of this pond system was to improve the playability of the golf course by providing a place for the playable areas of the golf course to drain. But, in 2011 the pond system took on another role for the City of Minneapolis; the ponds became the dumping area for city storm sewer water. This water is dumped in the pond at E. 44th St. and 19th Ave. S. It then travels through the golf course pond system to a pond by Lake Hiawatha, and then the water is pumped over the protective berm. Through this process, the water is cleaned and pollution is sequestered in the pond system. The MPRB's Master Plan would destroy this pond system and replace it with open water connections to the current lake which would no longer sequester this pollution. This certainly seems like the MPRB is going backwards with their new plan.

2.6 Success of Past Projects at Lake Nokomis for Pollution Mitigation Ponds is Questionable.

As SaveHiawatha18 investigated the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan regarding returning the property to a wetland, we heard about water problems in the Lake Nokomis neighborhood.

Homes were suffering from broken infrastructure and sinkholes, apparently due to high groundwater levels. We learned that the MPRB had converted dry land into pollution mitigation ponds (constructed wetlands) in the southwest corner of Lake Nokomis adjacent to these neighborhoods. This land was part of the old wetlands that were filled in and made into dry park land. Now, the ponds were retaining a lot of water, and growing in size, while trees in this area of the park were dying. Also, there is now an unintended wet area at the corner of Cedar Ave. S. and Nokomis Parkway. The cost of fixing these water line breaks was increasing due to the high water levels found underneath the properties.

In the past 2 years, a white paper containing currently known information about the history of the area was put together by the University of Minnesota as an initial project to try and start understanding what may be causing these problems. (11) The study was published in 2022, giving some historical information about the property, but no conclusions were given as to what may be causing these problems, only speculation. Further testing is proposed for this project to collect real data through test wells to determine the cause of the problems, but that testing has not been done.

Many people think the water problems may be due to turning this dry parkland back into a wetland. Thus, it seems very imprudent to proceed with an even larger conversion of dry parkland back to a wetland at Lake Hiawatha with hundreds of homes at risk, when little is known about the problems that are happening just a few blocks away.

At a SaveHiawatha18 meeting of public officials, Ali ElHassan of the Metropolitan Council stated that there needs to be more research into the hydrology of this area. This is especially true of the proposed changes on the scale of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. This is just another reason why any changes to the Hiawatha Golf Course property should not be done at this time. The MPRB needs to do engineering studies that show that this massive Hiawatha project is even viable and safe before spending massive amounts of public money.

2.7 What pollution would be released by reconstruction of the property for the proposed 9-hole golf course?

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan would need to massively reconstruct the whole Hiawatha Golf Course property. This would necessitate dredging of the water filled areas and filling of the golf course footprint to elevate the new 9-hole golf course above the level of Lake Hiawatha.

What pollution will be disturbed on the property with all of this dredging, filling and moving of soil. See Section 8.2 for more information on the 9-hole Golf Course.

2.8 Engineering Solutions Need to be Investigated.

The MPRB has promoted a return to pre-european contact "natural" solutions. But, the complexities of a property like Hiawatha Park and Golf Course in the middle of an urban environment calls for engineering solutions, not just trying to going back to nature or the past. Even the EPA says that natural solutions have limited success.

2.8.1 Flocculation plant in Richfield that cleans water before sending on to the next community.

A solution that should be considered, flocculation, would treat the water in Lake Hiawatha by a chemical process to reduce phosphorus levels.

One method introduces a chemical into the lake that binds the phosphorus to create floc, which sinks to the lake bottom. This is a one-time treatment solution. This process has been done at Bald Eagle Lake in Hugo, Minn.

Another possibility is to construct a flocculation facility at Lake Hiawatha. Such a facility was built at Taft Lake in Richfield under the leadership of Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel, former mayor of Richfield, and a civil engineer by trade. This facility continually takes in water from Taft Lake, removes phosphorus from the water by cleaning it as it passes through the facility, and returns the cleaned water to Taft Lake. The cleaned water then travels on to Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha. In 2020 the facility removed 12.87 pounds of phosphorus from Taft Lake, or 73% of the phosphorus in the processed water. Richfield staff indicates that it costs about \$50,00-\$60,000 in annual maintenance costs for the facility, and the floc containing the phosphorus empties into the sanitary sewer and receives treatment at the MCES wastewater treatment plant. The Richfield flocculation facility is an example of just one of the existing solutions that should be considered by government leaders (city, county, regional and state) as part of a comprehensive plan to fix the phosphorus problem in Lake Hiawatha and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

2.8.2 Dredging/cleaning of accumulated pollution in Lake Hiawatha.

The MPRB no longer dredges Lake Hiawatha to rid it of the accumulation of pollution and debris that it receives from Minnehaha Creek and the outfalls. This used to be done periodically, but it hasn't been done for years. The lake has now become a collection of debris and trash and pollution from the whole watershed.

2.8.3 Lehman/Komor plan - Separates the creek from Lake Hiawatha lessening pollution.

A group of concerned citizens with expertise in this area, The Lehman Group and Andy Komor from Pace Engineering offered a concept that they developed on their own time that would reduce pollution in Lake Hiawatha by allowing Minnehaha Creek to bypass the lake and thus eliminate the flow of pollution from upstream communities into the lake, much like Lake Nokomis is disconnected from the creek. While the MPRB allowed the group to make a presentation, the MPRB ignored the concept.

3.0 Pumping.

A huge misconception was perpetrated by the MPRB that the Hiawatha Golf Course was pumping water from the golf course illegally. This turned out to be a tangled web of misinformation.

3.1 Did Hiawatha Golf Course Violate Its Pumping Permits?

During the initial public engagement on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan project in 2017, the MPRB Planning Department stated that Hiawatha Golf Course was violating its pumping permits by pumping more water than allowed. The pumping in question was the pumping of water from the golf course over the protective berm into Lake Hiawatha for dewatering of the golf course.

We determined in 2017 that Hiawatha Golf Course had just 2 pumping permits, both for irrigation of the golf course. One permit allowed water to be taken from a well on the property for irrigation, and one permit allowed water to be taken from either the pond system or Lake Hiawatha for irrigation. A DNR employee confirmed that the golf course had never violated either permit.

The golf course did not have a pumping permit for dewatering of the golf course, which was the pumping in question.

We received documentation from the DNR regarding discussions between the DNR and the MPRB when the pond system was put in on the golf course. It appeared that both parties believed that a dewatering permit was not needed because the pond system was considered a part of the City of Minneapolis storm sewer system which did not require a permit.

In 2011 a project was completed that dumped storm sewer water into the golf course at E. 44th St. and 19th Ave. S. We have found no evidence that the DNR required a dewatering permit for this additional water that was now being pumped over the berm into Lake Hiawatha. This additional storm water is estimated to be about 20% of the water now being pumped out of the golf course.

Sean Connaughty of Friends of Lake Hiawatha posted a letter on social media that he received from Dan Lais of the DNR. It stated that the MPRB was told as early as 2015 that they needed a dewatering permit for the golf course due to the volume of water being pumped. Why Michael Schroeder of the MPRB stated at a 2017 public meeting that the MPRB had just found out that the MPRB was out of compliance is a question that should be answered.

Regardless, the DNR finally required the MPRB to get a dewatering permit in 2019. Why the DNR did not force the MPRB into compliance in 2015 is an outstanding question.

The upshot of this whole scenario is that the MPRB perpetuated erroneous information about the pumping of water from the golf course and portrayed the pumping as a golf course problem when it has turned out to be a problem created by public officials using this little lake and neighborhood as a dumping ground for water.

The MPRB states: "The MPRB is obligated to reestablish its permit with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) for removing groundwater from the property. The master plan sets a new water management solution for the property that allows for portions of the golf course to be retained but requires other portions to be modified to accommodate the unique hydrologic conditions of the property. Importantly, the Bronze Foundation considered solutions to those conditions (one of which would have eliminated Lake Hiawatha from the 'City of Lakes' and used reclaimed lands not just to preserve the golf course but to expand it). To date, no entity has developed a solution that allows for the perpetuation of an 18-hole golf course while addressing the water issues unique to this property."(5)

The above statement by the MPRB is just ludicrous on several levels. The MPRB does not need to reestablish their pumping permit with the MnDNR; they have an existing permit with no end date. The only requirement that they currently have is to notify the DNR of their future plans for pumping by the middle of 2023. The MnDNR has stated that they have no defined pumping level that is acceptable, and they will work with the MPRB on any future pumping at the site. You can read the MnDNR's response to SaveHiawatha18 regarding their stance on the pumping of water at Hiawatha Golf Course at:

<https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/DNR-Questions-Hiawatha-Pumping-Sept-2018.htm>

Regarding a solution for perpetuation of the 18-hole golf course, the Park Board has put minimal effort into developing a plan for the 18-hole golf course, and they have dismissed any other

offered solutions. See Section 8.1.3 for more information on this subject.

3.2 Why the large increase in pumping over the past few years?

At an MPRB Commissioner's Meeting, Commissioner Billy Menz asked Assistant Superintendent Michael Schroeder why pumping has increased from 300 to 400 million gallons in the past few years at Hiawatha Golf Course. (3)

Mr. Schroeder's response talked about adding groundwater testing wells, which is apparently being done. But, his response was unclear as to what this has to do with the increase in water being pumped, unless it was just to say that the Park Board Planning Department doesn't currently know why the levels have increased?

Mr. Schroeder also talked about a ridge that is impeding water flow. It is unclear what ridge he was talking about. Currently, a ridge is being studied that may be trapping water at Lake Nokomis.

Mr. Schroeder also talked about a study that is coming out. This white paper has been released and it talks about Lake Nokomis and the watershed. It is filled with conjecture rather than research about the cause of the water problems, and gave historical information about the neighborhood, but no real information or new research that shed light on why the Nokomis neighborhood is suffering from water problems.

Mr. Schroeder's responses reflect what many people have been saying all along; there is so little knowledge of the hydrology of this area and the effects of making any changes. At a SaveHiawatha18 meeting of public officials, Ali ElHassan of the Metropolitan Council stated that there needs to be more research into the hydrology on this area. This is especially true of the proposed changes on the scale of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan.

3.3 Park Board representatives have stated that the Park Board can stop pumping at the golf course any time.

During this project, Park Board representatives have stated that the MPRB can stop pumping at Hiawatha Golf Course at any time. At a Commissioner's Board meeting, Commissioner Steffanie

Musich brought up a case in Minneapolis where the Park Board stopped a homeowner from pumping water into one of the Minneapolis lakes. (3)

Commissioner Musich also brought up a case to Kathryn Kelly in a one-on-one meeting that a developer in Minneapolis was pumping water directly into a lake and that was illegal, seemingly indicating that the pumping was illegal. The case in point turned out to be a developer that had dewatered the site for construction (and had a permit to do so for construction only), but the developer continued to pump water after construction and did not have a permit to do that. So, this case was totally irrelevant to the golf course situation.

Commissioner Musich seemed to be saying in both cases that this allows the Park Board to stop pumping at the golf course anytime that they want? But, the cited cases were private entities pumping water for their own personal benefit, and the golf course is a public entity pumping water for a public purpose.

It is also rather disturbing that a public official would be so cavalier about a change that could have devastating effects on nearby homes that may be at risk of flooding if this project is implemented.

Although, past history has shown that Commissioner Musich does not seem to have much sympathy for homeowners who are having water problems from adjoining park property. Several years ago a resident who lived next to Solomon Park was having water inundation on her property from the flooding occurring at Solomon Park. Half of her backyard was under water and dead trees were at risk of falling on her property, along with backed up plumbing. She requested assistance from Commissioner Musich, and stood crying before the Board one night. She stated that she had called, emailed and even sent a registered letter to Commissioner Musich requesting help, and she had received no response.

3.4 The Cost of Pumping.

Supporters of the Hiawatha Master Plan stated that the pumping cost a lot of money. In SaveHiawatha18's original White Paper we gave an estimate of the cost of pumping based on information from staff members at the golf course. Subsequent to that, we received a spreadsheet of the actual electric bills through a Public Data Request. They showed that the pumping cost about \$30 per month, or \$360 a year. And, this pumping cost is paid for by the

golfers through their golf fees.

3.5 Is the Level of Pumping a Golf Course Problem?

The MPRB talks about the pumping of water from the golf course as though it were a golf course problem. We need to be clear that the pumping of water at Hiawatha Golf Course is not an inherent problem of the golf course. It is a culmination of bad public policy over many years that have put the burden of handling the increased development in the watershed, and thus the increasing volume of water, on Lake Hiawatha and Hiawatha Park. You can read about some of the poor decisions that have overburdened Lake Hiawatha at:

<https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/Lake-Hiawatha-The-Dumping-Ground-April2020.htm>

In Barr's 2017 engineering study of the groundwater at Hiawatha Golf Course they wrote, "on an annual basis, this excessive pumping is due to regional groundwater inflows (~50%), inflow from Lake Hiawatha where lake levels are above the existing golf course pond elevations (~30%), and a storm water diversion project to the golf course from the neighborhood to the west (~20%)." p.47 (4)

New proposals would add even more water to the already overburdened lake. Recently, the Morningside neighborhood in Edina wanted to unburden themselves of water by dumping more water into Bde Maka Ska which would need to be handled by Lake Hiawatha. And, the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan proposes to make money through watershed credits which would let developers pay the MPRB to dump their water into Lake Hiawatha to avoid the requirement of mitigating the water on their site. The Hiawatha Park community should no longer be the scapegoat (dumping ground) for the whole watershed.

One other point to address is the MPRB's statement that the golf course is below the level of the lake and requires extensive pumping. (5) This has occurred over many years because the level of the lake has continually risen from its original level in the 1930's. The elevation of the outbound creek has risen by about 2 feet due to lack of maintenance (dredging), and the amount of water put through Lake Hiawatha has increased over the years due to more and more storm water being directed into Minnehaha Creek and onto the golf course. Destruction of the 18-hole golf course does nothing to solve this long-term problem. One person asked, "Why has Lake Hiawatha become the toilet bowl for the whole watershed?"

3.6 How to reduce pumping?

The MPRB states that the golf course requires constant pumping. This rhetoric fails to illustrate that much of the pumping is due to decisions made by public officials that have burdened this lake and golf course with more and more water.

The best example of how to reduce pumping is the project that started dumping over 60 million gallons of storm water a year into the 6th hole pond on the golf course in 2011. This water travels through the golf course and is pumped into Lake Hiawatha. Park Board documents estimate that this water constitutes about 20 per cent of the water that is pumped from the golf course. So, the MPRB could reduce the pumping by one-fifth by just stopping the dumping of this water onto the golf course at the corner of E. 44th St. and 19th Ave.S.

If the golf course is currently pumping 400 million gallons of water per year into Lake Hiawatha, stopping the dumping of this storm water onto the golf course would reduce the pumping by 80 million gallons per year with no changes to the golf course.

On the other hand, the pumping of this water is doing a service to the City of Minneapolis by handling and cleaning this storm water. So, maybe the MPRB should actually praise the golf course and give it some credit for providing this public service at no cost to taxpayers!!! (Any cost is borne by the golfers.)

4.0 Protection of homes.

Of big concern to the neighborhood abutting Hiawatha Golf Course is the protection of the low-lying homes from flooding or water intrusion. The MPRB has admitted that their modeling shows a rise of up to one foot in the groundwater under these homes if pumping (dewatering) is stopped at Hiawatha Golf Course. Groundwater modeling done by Barr Engineering for the MPRB showed that groundwater levels would go up as far away as Powderhorn Lake (approximately 2 miles away), and the MPRB would need to pump more water there. So, this proposal to stop or reduce pumping at Hiawatha Golf Course has massive repercussions for the homes and businesses in the neighborhood, and up to 2 miles away.

The plan would place pumps in the neighborhoods to pump the rising water out of the neighborhoods. Is the City of Minneapolis ready to take on this responsibility?

4.1 Lake Nokomis study. No solutions.

Residents of Lake Hiawatha have worked with residents in the Lake Nokomis neighborhood who have been suffering from water problems for the past 8 years or so. This puts into question the viability and risk of converting more dry land in the Lake Hiawatha neighborhoods into wetlands, since it is totally unclear at this time what is causing the problems at Lake Nokomis. Even a study done by government agencies did not have any new information as to the cause of these problems (11).

Upon seeing this lack of knowledge and solutions to an existing problem with water, why would the MPRB and other government agencies launch into an even larger project involving water in the community at Lake Hiawatha?

See Section 2.6 for more information.

4.2 Water modeling is for a different plan.

The MPRB makes the following statement, "A water management study of the course was completed in 2017 and the study demonstrated that water management could be improved; the pumping required to keep the golf course dry and playable could be reduced; flood-resiliency could be improved; and some traditional golf could be retained on the site." (7)

It is true that Barr Engineering performed some modeling of different pumping scenarios for the MPRB in 2017 to determine if the proposed plan could keep the nearby low-lying homes dry.

The problem is that the modeling done in 2017 was for a dramatically different plan than what is being proposed. At that time, the plan was to get rid of the whole golf course and flood the property. It appears that the currently proposed plan would elevate half of the property (a flood plain) to keep the proposed 9-hole golf course dry. We have not seen any new modeling that shows exactly how their currently proposed plan would handle the massive amounts of water that go through Lake Hiawatha and Hiawatha Golf Course while adding massive amounts of fill in this flood plain. This is a major concern of the owners of the neighboring low-lying homes who would see groundwater levels rise underneath their homes if pumping is stopped at the golf course. The MPRB states that the increased water would somehow be removed from the neighborhoods by installing pumps in the neighborhoods. They would adding two pumping systems, one at 44th and Longfellow and one at 43rd and 17th. Plus, pumping would increase at Powderhorn Lake. This is totally frightening to the homeowners. This would also move the responsibility of keeping the homes dry to the City of Minneapolis.

When CAC members asked Michael Schroeder for the engineering plans that showed how the proposed plan would protect the homes, he responded by saying that the plan was "just a concept."

Thus, the MPRB does not have any scientific data that shows how their currently proposed plan will protect the homes from water intrusion. How can anyone put their stamp of approval on a plan that is so ill-defined?

4.3 How will the filling of the flood plain affect drainage from the neighborhood to the golf course?

The proposal for the new 9-hole golf course will require massive amounts of fill to elevate the golf course above the level of Lake Hiawatha. This will fill in the flood plain which is currently lower than the nearby neighborhoods. What effect will this have on the natural drainage of water from the neighborhoods? Will it actually back up the water in the neighborhoods?

SaveHiawatha 18 has posed questions to the DNR about the proposed changes. We have received no answers to our questions at this time. You can find our questions at:
<https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/DNR-Questions-July-2020.htm>

4.4 Commissioner Becky Alpers asked about the potential water problems in the basements of nearby homes.

Commissioner Becky Alpers asked Michael Schroeder at a Board meeting presentation of Hiawatha Golf Course about the potential water problems in the basements of nearby homes.
(3)

Mr. Schroeder responded by saying that these homes were built in a dry period in the 1920's and 1930's. His intent in imparting this information is unknown, but it bears stating that his statement is misleading.

Many of these at-risk homes were built in the 1940's or later. For example:

4300 block of 19th Ave. S. - 1 built in 1914, 3 built in the 1920's, 8 built in the 1940's, 2 built in the 1950's

4400 block of Longfellow Ave. - 6 built in 1920's, 5 built in the 1940's, 1 built in the 1980's

4400 block of Cedar Ave. - 4 built in the 1920's, 1 built in 1940, 19 built in the 1950's, 1 built in 1960

And, the Park Board documents state that one house on the 4400 block of Longfellow Avenue **WILL NOT** be protected. Its basement is 2 feet lower than the nearby homes, and the Plan specifically excludes this house from flood protection.

When these homes were built is irrelevant. They currently exist and need to be protected, unless the City of Minneapolis is ready to buy them all out and demolish them so that the Park

Board can turn that property back into swampland.

4.5 Morgan Avenue residents.

We have found the Nokomis homeowners are not the only ones suffering from water intrusion. Homes in the Morgan Avenue S. neighborhood by Minnehaha Creek are also having problems with water intrusion. Public officials need to address the existing problems before diving off into other projects like the Hiawatha Golf Course project that have a potential for creating more problems.

5.0 Environmental Considerations and Climate Change.

5.1 Trees and Hiawatha Golf Course.

Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer asked about losing more trees on the Hiawatha Golf Course property due to the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. (3) One response from the MPRB said that "several trees were removed due to flooding impacts." (5)

The MPRB's portrayal of the situation minimizes their lack of stewardship of trees on the Hiawatha Golf Course over the past 3 decades. Hundreds of trees have already been lost on the property over the past 20-30 years, many to disease and the age of the trees. The golf course had a heavy canopy of trees from the 1950's through 1980's. As trees died or were removed, the MPRB was totally remiss in replacing them, especially in the past 15 years. So, the tree canopy is just a fraction of what it used to be, estimated to now be just 20%. And, the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan would get rid of more trees, just when they are needed to abate climate change and to absorb water.

Some of the existing trees are memorials paid for by people to memorialize their family members or friends. This includes a tree memorializing Park Board Commissioner Edward Solomon, one of the first Black Park Board Commissioners. These trees will likely be destroyed because of the conversion of the property to either water or the new, elevated 9-hole golf course. See the following web page for a description of the memorials on Hiawatha Golf Course. https://www.savehiawatha18.com/history/Memorials/hiawatha_golf_course_memorials_history.htm

This canopy should be restored for ecological benefits, including to help with the absorption of all of the water that is being dumped on the property.

5.2 Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek need dredging.

Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek have filled up with debris and sand from the watershed. The creek and lake are in dire need of dredging to remove all of this debris that has collected over the years.

During the lastest dry period in September there was at least 6 inches of sand in the creek bed running through the golf course. This is most likely sand from the city streets. This sand should be recovered, and the dry spell would have been a golden opportunity for the MPRB, the city and watershed to recover this accumulation of sand.

A new island is also building at the outlet of the 43rd St. pipe in Lake Hiawatha. This needs to be cleaned up.

The entrance of Minnehaha Creek into Lake Hiawatha used to be periodically dredged to allow the flow of water to traverse the south end of the lake unimpeded. This dredging has not been done for years, and an island has developed that forces the creek water up the west side of the lake and into the lake proper along with all of the creek's pollution, debris and trash.

Minnehaha Creek outbound from Lake Hiawatha has also become filled with sand, rock and debris over the years. This should be obvious considering the Low Normal lake level of Lake Hiawatha is 811 feet, whereas the original lake level in 1930's was documented by Barr Engineering as 809 feet. Lowering this part of the creek would lower the level of Lake Hiawatha and reduce the seepage of lake water back into the golf course.

All of this lack of maintenance has turned Lake Hiawatha into the current trash receptacle that it is.

5.3 How does Lake Hiawatha intersect with the rest of the watershed?

Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer asked how the health of Lake Hiawatha intersects with the rest of the watershed. The MPRB Planning Department gave statements about balancing recreation with the environment, and re-establishing the ecology of Rice Lake. (3)

This is an example of the MPRB ignoring the massive changes in the watershed that have pummeled Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha over the past 80+ years. Lake Hiawatha cannot be the answer to the problems created by the whole watershed.

MPRB Commissioner Becka Thompson asked how much water is pumped from Lake of the Isles. Mr. Schroeder said that he didn't think there was any pumping done at Lake of the Isles. Ms.

Thompson then asked where the water drains. Mr. Schroeder said that the water flows through the Chain of Lakes to Minnehaha Creek, and then through Lake Hiawatha. .(3)

This just reinforces the idea that Lake Hiawatha is everyone's dumping ground for water. A comprehensive approach needs to be taken with all communities being involved and taking responsibility for their own water and pollution mitigation. A perfect example of communities taking part of the responsibility is Richfield which has a flocculation facility to remove phosphorus from their water before it passes to Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis.

5.4 Minnehaha Creek is being destroyed.

Retired State Representative Jean Wagenius has called Minnehaha Creek an open storm sewer. We have found that Minnehaha Creek can't handle the amount of water coming through it in South Minneapolis. After the 2014 flooding, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District received a FEMA award to fix the damage in the creek running through South Minneapolis. Public officials are totally ignoring the fact that communities in the upper watershed need to mitigate their contribution of water to this creek.

5.5 How does the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan address climate change?

It is unclear to us how the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan addresses climate change other than to continue to make the Lake Hiawatha neighborhood the collection point for all of the water and pollution for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Proponents of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan state that the whole story needs to be told of why this plot of land is suffering from water inundation. They say it is because of mistakes made by the people who originally developed the property and climate change. They conveniently forget that the land in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed has been massively developed since Hiawatha Golf Course was built with Minnehaha Creek as the only outlet for the increasing level of water that needs to be evacuated during storms. They also conveniently ignore how the City of Minneapolis has directed more and more water into this park rather than build appropriate infrastructure. These are the problems that need to be solved to address climate change. This lake and park should not be expected to be inundated just so the rest of the watershed can continue to dump their water and pollution from their communities.

5.6 What happens to the existing wells on the property?

Hiawatha Golf Course has, at least, one well on the property, and possibly two. No mention has been made of what will happen to any wells on the property. If one of the existing wells is in the area that will become the new wetland, one would assume that it would need to be abandoned. What is the process to cap a well that will now be under water?

If the well has to be abandoned, must a new well be built elsewhere on the new golf course property?

6.0 Community engagement.

The MPRB made the following statement about public engagement, "The Hiawatha Golf Course Area Plan was developed through a comprehensive public engagement process spanning over two years, including guidance from a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) which developed a vision and guiding principles and prioritized plan element recommendations for the site." (7) This statement does not reflect the MPRB's actual process for public engagement on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan.

6.1 The Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

The MPRB did have a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for this Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan.

6.1.1 Creation of the CAC.

The MPRB was not going to have a CAC for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. Public pressure pushed the MPRB to do a CAC for this multi-million dollar project.

Once the CAC members were selected, the Chair of the CAC was selected by the MPRB, not the members of the CAC. Whether this is considered a normal procedure, we do not know.

6.1.2.CAC Locations.

The first CAC meeting was held at the Nokomis Community building in the gymnasium, which is in the Hiawatha Golf Course neighborhood. It was heavily attended, especially by supporters of retention of the 18-hole golf course who voiced their support for retention of the 18-hole golf course during the public comment time.

The next CAC meeting was held at the MPRB headquarters in North Minneapolis, over 8 miles from Hiawatha Golf Course, making it very difficult for people to attend. We believe that this was an attempt to limit the public input after the first meeting which had a huge representation of community members that wanted to retain the 18-hole golf course. CAC members

complained and asked for subsequent meetings to be held in the neighborhood at the Nokomis building. The MPRB stated that it is very hard to schedule a meeting in the Nokomis building.

The next CAC meeting was held at Stewart Park just outside of downtown. The CAC again asked to have it at Nokomis.

Next, the CAC meeting was held at Powderhorn Park in a tiny room that could not hold all of the people who showed up. At this meeting, where the MPRB unveiled their 3 proposals for the new golf course, many people had to listen from outside of the room and some just left. We again asked for Nokomis.

The second to last meeting was held at Pearl Park, close to the neighborhood, in the gymnasium. A huge number of people attended again, and many made impassioned pleas to retain the 18-hole golf course.

The last meeting was finally held at the Nokomis community building again, but in a small meeting room that could not hold all of the attendees. And, it was never announced by the MPRB that this would be the last CAC meeting. Many CAC members were surprised when they were told a couple of months later that no more CAC meetings would be held. Also, CAC members were told that they would not be able to vote on whether or not they supported the plan as other CAC's had done in the past. When Tyler Pederson, the project manager, was asked why CAC members weren't allowed to vote, he replied that "all CAC processes are different." We believe that the process was cut short because the MPRB knew that some CAC members would vote against the plan.

6.1.3 Exclusion of Consideration for the 18-hole Golf Course.

Prior to the CAC process, the MPRB had changed the Resolution for the Hiawatha Master Plan to require a minimum of 9 holes on the property. This included the removal of language from the resolution that prohibited "perpetuation of current uses". At the initial CAC meetings the members were told by the MPRB Planning Department that the CAC could not consider the retention of the 18-hole golf course because the title of the resolution still referenced the language that was removed from the body of the resolution. A petition was sent to the MPRB Board to remove this language from the title since it had been removed from the body of the resolution (see Appendix 3). The MPRB Board refused to fix the title of the resolution, and thus, stuck to their statement that the CAC members could not consider retention of the 18-hole golf

course.

6.1.4 MPRB Manipulation of the CAC.

It was very obvious to many who participated and attended that the MPRB was heavily trying to manipulate the CAC process in the direction that they wanted to pursue, while ignoring public feedback.

One example was a public survey that was done during the CAC process. After the survey ended, the MPRB Planning Department reported that "a few people wanted to keep the 18 hole golf course." We knew that there were more than a few people who would have expressed this opinion, so we did a public data request for results of the 2 subsequent surveys and found that there was a huge amount of public response asking for the retention of the 18 hole golf course.

6.1.5 Other Considerations.

The MPRB states, "With ecology as the "yardstick," choices favor preservation, conservation, and restoration rather than expanding past acts of disturbance or creating new development. If a proposal does not measure up to this new conceptual yardstick, the CAC and MPRB determined that it likely should not be a part of the experience of this site. While any number of uses are described, its restoration of sustainable water patterns and recreation, balanced in a new ecologically driven landscape, form the higher order goals built into the concept." (7)

Many members of the CAC never agreed to this "conceptual yardstick". This was some of the rhetoric that the MPRB tried to push on CAC members.

Concerns have been expressed that the CAC representation did not include other neighborhoods that use Hiawatha Park and Golf Course, like mid-town neighborhoods (Bancroft, Powderhorn, Bryant, Central, Corcoran) and none of the Philips neighborhoods.

6.1.6 Scheduling of CAC meetings.

The MPRB actually scheduled one CAC meeting on election day. After people complained, it was rescheduled for another day.

6.2 Lies, Misrepresentations and Manipulations.

In working on this process for over 6 years, SaveHiawatha18 has fought a multitude of lies and misrepresentations about the Hiawatha Golf Course property and the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. Plus, we have seen many manipulations from the MPRB to steer the process in the direction that they want to move. Here is a description of some of them.

6.2.1 The golf course is sinking.

This is one of the most pervasive lies about Hiawatha Golf Course throughout this process. Assistant Superintendent of Planning Michael Schroeder and the Planning Group initially stated this in public meetings in 2017 and in other publications from the Park Board. He also stated this in a Public Meeting at the State Capitol set up by Senator Torres Ray. When asked at that meeting how he knew the golf course was sinking, he stated that he knew the golf course was sinking through "empirical evidence", meaning through observation. Barr Engineering (the MPRB's engineering contractor) stated in their assessment of the property that they could not find any scientific data showing that the golf course was sinking. (Source: Feb 2017 Barr Engineering Groundwater report, p. 23, pp. 64-65, SaveHiawatha18 White Paper, Section 1.1).

As recently as February 8, 2023, Susan Du of the Star-Tribune propagated this lie by saying "The sinking golf course sits 4 feet below lake level in the Minnehaha Creek floodplain and requires constant groundwater pumping." (6) We replied to her statement by reiterating that the difference in elevation is largely, if not wholly, due to the level of the lake rising over the years, not the sinking of the golf course. MPRB documentation shows that the original elevation of Lake Hiawatha after dredging was less than 809 feet. The ordinary high water level of Lake Hiawatha is now 814 feet. This level is heavily controlled by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) through their control of the release of water through Grey's Bay Dam at Lake Minnetonka. Thus, this water level is not a naturally occurring water level. The MCWD has allowed this level to increase since Grey's Bay Dam was installed in 1979. And, the 2014 flood occurred because the MCWD lost control of the release of water at Grey's Bay Dam when the level of Lake Minnetonka overtopped the dam; it had nothing to do with Hiawatha Golf Course. Hiawatha Golf Course was just the victim of poor public policy.

Currently, the MPRB continues to perpetuate this misconception by stating that the pipe running under the golf course is slightly higher than the surrounding fairway, thus showing that the golf course is sinking. (5) Yet, we have never seen any data that shows when the pipe and

surrounding terrain where at the same level. Was it 5 years ago? 10 years ago? 20 years ago? 50 years ago? In all likelihood the MPRB cannot definitively answer this question. If they can't, their assertion is meaningless. Plus, the pipe is over 80 years old. It is likely that it has breaches in it that would allow soil to seep into the pipe, which would then be transported to the lake, thus lowering the level of the soil around the pipe.

6.2.2 The berm will break and kill golfers.

This statement was made at a 2017 public meeting meeting by a DNR employee, Joe Richter, as a reason why the 18 hole golf course needed to be closed. The statement was later rescinded by the DNR.

6.2.3 The golf course is polluting the lake.

This statement has been said all throughout this process. It relates to phosphorus pollution from pumping. Barr said that the golf course pumping, on average, contributes less than 1% of the phosphorus to the lake. (4, p. 23, SaveHiawatha18 White Paper - Section 1.5). 99% of the pollution comes from Minnehaha Creek and the Minneapolis storm sewer outfalls that dump directly into Lake Hiawatha. In fact, Hiawatha Golf Course has a pond system that was implemented in the late 1990's to provide better drainage for the golf course property. In 2012, the City of Minneapolis starting dumping millions of gallons of storm water into this pond system (estimated at about 60 million gallons in the beginning of this process). This water enters the pond at E. 44th St. and 19th Ave. S. The water then flows through the pond system on the golf course to the last pond next to Lake Hiawatha where it is pumped over the protective berm into Lake Hiawatha. This process cleans this storm water. This is a major reason why the pumping has increased from the golf course along with the elevated level of Lake Hiawatha which causes increased seepage of water back into the golf course. It is unknown how the proposed plan will deal with this water since the new golf course would take out this pond system.

6.2.4 The golf course uses phosphorus on their turf grass.

This has been a common theme used by proponents of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. Golf course practices have changed dramatically over the past 20 years. Plus, it is illegal by State

Law for anyone in the metro to use phosphorus on their turf grass without testing the soil and finding it deficient, and Hiawatha Golf Course abides by this. When we learned about this law, one of our members checked all of the bags of fertilizer in the Hiawatha Golf Course Maintenance Facility, and all but one had zero phosphorus. The sole bag with phosphorus was used on the flower beds, which is allowed by state law. So, if the phosphorus levels are increasing in the pumping, the Park Board should figure out the source, because the only phosphorus coming from the actual golf course would be latent phosphorus in the soil, or from the storm water that is dumped on the golf course by the City of Minneapolis. And, if the Park Board floods any portion of the golf course property, which is proposed in the plan, any latent, trapped phosphorus in the soil will now be in the lake.

6.2.5 The golf course is violating its pumping permits.

This was repeatedly stated by Mr. Schroeder at public meetings. SaveHiawatha18 ultimately found that the only permits the golf course had at that time were for irrigation, and they had not violated them (confirmed by a DNR employee). See Section 2.1 Pumping Permits Violations above for more information.

6.2.6 The DNR requires reduced pumping.

This was stated by the MPRB at multiple early public meetings. The DNR ultimately stated that this was not true. Also, Commissioner Bourn asked Michael Schroeder in a Board meeting, if the MPRB wanted to reduce pumping, it was only because the MPRB wanted to. Mr. Schroeder agreed. (SaveHiawatha White Paper, Section 1.3 (8), also see the article, last paragraph, <https://southsidepride.com/2019/07/01/back-to-the-20s/>)

The current pumping permit says, "Expiration - Long-Term Appropriation" and "By August 15, 2023, the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board (MPRB) is required to notify the DNR of plans to change the authorized appropriation of water currently approved under DNR Water Appropriation Permit 2015-2560 due to the anticipated modifications of land use, water sources, appropriation volumes and pump rates, the MPRB shall inform the DNR of a date when it anticipates changes at the golf course will occur." There is nothing that says the DNR has any expectation that the MPRB needs to reduce pumping. Also, see a response from the DNR to SaveHiawatha18 about this controversy: <https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/DNR-Questions-Hiawatha-Pumping-Sept-2018.htm>

6.2.7 The DNR will not allow the current level of pumping.

This was stated by the Park Board at multiple meetings and the DNR ultimately stated that this was not true. The DNR would evaluate this when a plan was submitted to them. (See <https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/DNR-Questions-Hiawatha-Pumping-Sept-2018.htm>)

6.2.8 The pumping volumes were a surprise.

Mr. Schroeder made a theatrical entrance at a 2017 meeting that we attended, saying that the MPRB had just found out that Hiawatha Golf Course was pumping much more water than they thought. Subsequent to this meeting we learned that much of the water that is pumped was dumped on the golf course by a joint City of Minneapolis-MPRB project in 2012. Plus, Dan Lais later stated in a letter to Sean Connaughty in the past year and published on e-democracy.com that the Park Board knew of the volumes of water being pumped as early as 2015.

6.2.9 The pumping of water is environmentally unsound.

The initial Barr report stated that, although energy intensive, the pumping was doing no harm. (See Section 1.4 of the SaveHiawatha18 White Paper. (8))

6.2.10 It costs too much money to pump.

This was stated in the 2017 public meetings by the MPRB staff. It caused SaveHiawatha18 to get the electricity bills through a public data request where we found out that the cost was minimal (on average about \$30 a month), and the cost is paid for by golfers (not general tax revenue). (Note: This is an update from the original SaveHiawatha18 White Paper.)

6.2.11 The golf course is unsustainable.

This has been a constant statement throughout the years by Mr. Schroeder, Commissioner Musich and Commissioner Forney. But, what does it mean? What is not sustainable? We are now 8 years out from the 2014 flood, and the golf course is back to making several hundred thousand dollars a year in profit. And, Meadowbrook Golf Course was closed longer than

Hiawatha Golf Course due to the same 2014 flooding, but is not under threat of being closed.

6.2.12 The plan will restore the property to what it was before Wirth built the golf course.

This was stated in the early CAC meetings and was a big issue. Kathryn Kelly wrote an article about it in Southside Pride. <https://southsidepride.com/2019/07/01/back-to-the-20s/> . The Planning Group claimed in the early public meetings and CAC meetings that the plan would remove phosphorus from the lake with natural wetlands, bringing the property back to the wetland it used to be. So, we researched what it meant to use natural wetlands to reduce phosphorus mitigation. The best source was EPA documents that described how to build constructed wetlands, which is the term used for these types of wetlands. The EPA documents listed criteria for creating a proper, functioning constructed wetland. This property miserably failed several of the criteria needed to have a functioning constructed wetland. Therefore, Michael Schroeder's assertions that they could rebuild a wetland on this property that would reduce pollution was a falsehood. After the newspaper article was published, Michael Schroeder stood up at the end of the next CAC meeting, and stated that the MPRB was not doing constructed wetlands, they were doing "wetland restoration". That indicated that they were not doing pollution mitigation on the property. Also, the problem with his statement is that you cannot bring this property back to what it was with the current 9-hole plan. The current plan would massively reconstruct this property to create the 9-hole golf course.

6.2.13 The new plan will reduce pollution in Lake Hiawatha.

This has been a constant theme throughout the process by the Park Board but we have found no evidence that this is true. You can read the following article about it in Southside Pride. <https://southsidepride.com/2019/05/20/the-park-board-wants-an-artificial-swamp-to-replace-hiawatha-golf-course/>. Also, see Section 2.0.

6.2.14 The new plan will protect the homes from flooding.

Two hydrologists and a retired employee of the Minneapolis Sewer Division that we have talked to had concerns about the ability of the proposal to keep homes safe. Plus, the modeling done for the protection of homes was done for the original Alternative B which is not the current plan.

The original Barr modeling study used a freeboard of 0.5 feet (the State of Minnesota requires a minimum of 1 foot for new construction projects and the EPA recommends 2-3 feet). So, the modeling did not use current standards.

6.2.15 Flood storage will not be reduced by the plan.

Michael Schroeder continues to claim that the plan will not reduce flood storage. We went around and around with him for awhile on this subject, and finally realized that we were talking about 2 different things. He is talking about TOTAL flood storage on the property. We are talking about AVAILABLE (unused) flood storage. You can reduce Available flood storage while not changing Total flood storage. For example, if you permanently add more water to a flood plain, you have not changed the Total flood storage, but you have changed the Available flood storage. And Available flood storage is what is important to the protection of the homes when water comes rushing into the flood plain. So, the statement by Michael Schroeder needs context in that the proposed changes can put the homes at more risk while not changing the total flood storage. Imagine a measuring cup that holds 4 cups of water (Total storage). If you fill it with 2 cups of water, you still have 2 cups of Available storage to hold more water. Now, add 1 more cup of water. The Total storage capacity is still 4 cups of water, but you now only have 1 cup of Available storage. This is what the proposed plan does, permanently filling the flood plain with dirt (fill) and more water, which will reduce Available flood storage, putting the homes at more risk.

6.2.16 The neighborhood supports the plan.

Some neighbors do support the plan, but many neighbors do not. The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan has created quite a rift in the community, and not just between golfers and non-golfers. Many non-golfers do not support this plan.

6.2.17 The neighborhood can accommodate increased traffic from the plan.

The MPRB traffic assessment that was published in the MPRB's 2017 Impact Assessment document (9) indicated that the neighborhood could handle the increased traffic from the original plan. That was questionable at the time due to the lack of street parking and few roads surrounding the golf course. The original traffic plan made a lot of assumptions about the use of Longfellow Avenue for overflow parking, yet the MPRB stated that they did not take into account

residents actually parking on the street. Plus, they rated Longfellow Avenue as a quiet side street, which it is not.

Now, the plan has changed and there is still a big question as to how this neighborhood will handle any increase in traffic. Add to that the new hi-rise development one block south of the Hiawatha Clubhouse on Longfellow avenue, which added over 100 new residents on that block. This residence is a perfect example of the MPRB not abiding by their own rules that limited buildings across the street from parks to a height of 2 stories. The new building is 5 stories tall. Plus, there are now semi-trucks that come up Longfellow Avenue from the new grocery store, apparently because they have trouble getting out of the neighborhood by the store, so they are traveling north on Longfellow Avenue to E. 43rd street (4 blocks away). Adding another restaurant and banquet center at Longfellow Avenue and E. 46th St. will cause this neighborhood to be even more congested.

A full traffic study needs to be done for any changes to the golf course property before any enhancements are approved.

6.2.18 If the golf course floods again, the DNR will close it.

This statement was made by a DNR employee, Joe Richter, in 2017 and was later retracted by the DNR. The DNR stated that they have no authority to close the golf course.

6.2.19 In 2014 it took 2-3 months to remove the water from Hiawatha Golf Course.

This was stated in the Planning Department's Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan Presentation to the Board - March 2, 2022 in response to MPRB Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer's question about how the water would be kept off of the 9-hole golf course. MPRB Assistant Superintendent of Planning Mr. Schroeder said that in 2014 it took 2-3 months to remove the water from the golf course because they couldn't get the water out due to the berm. Mr. Schroeder's statement is false.

- Hiawatha Golf Course was closed on June 19, 2014 due to the flood.
- The driving range was reopened **13 days** later on July 2nd, 2014, meaning the water had been pumped out of the golf course.
- Hiawatha's front 9 was reopened **36 days** after the flood on July 25th, 2014.
- The back 9 reopened on June 5, 2016. We believe that the Park Board kept the back

9 closed for, at least, an extra year so that they could get a FEMA award of \$1.1 million which was obtained but never used to repair damage to the Hiawatha Golf Course. It was spent at Gross Golf Course for a new roof and windows, and at Theodore Wirth Park for repairs there.

6.2.20 Lost revenue and repairs at Hiawatha golf course in 2014 cost \$4 million.

The MPRB has continually misrepresented the cost of the 2014 flood to Hiawatha Golf Course. Hiawatha Golf Course had minimal damage and was reopened in a short amount of time.

It is easy to calculate the lost revenue from the flood using the revenue figures for Hiawatha Golf Course published in the MPRB's annual reports. They are:

	Revenue	Lost Revenue
2013	750,812	
2014	501,341	249,471
2015	442,457	308,355
2016	764,506	
Total Lost Revenue		557,826

So, using the MPRB's \$4 million figure, that would leave the repair cost as \$3,442,174. But, the MPRB filed a FEMA claim for repairs of only \$1.1 million.

To get the FEMA money, the MPRB had to show actual expenditures to a 3rd party. By 2019 (3 years after Hiawatha Golf Course had been fully open), the MPRB did not have \$1.1 million in bills, so they exercised an allowed option of taking a 10% discount on the FEMA money before the award expired. Then, they could use the money for anything they wanted. The MPRB spent most of this money to replace the windows and roof of the clubhouse at Gross Golf Course, and for maintenance and equipment replacement at Theodore Wirth Golf Course. See the following web page:

https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/park-projects/current_projects/2019-fema-alternative-projects/

In the end, repairs at Hiawatha were minimal; grass seed and a few equipment repairs and clean up. And, the lost revenue could have been a lot less if the Park Board had not kept the back nine closed to get \$1.1 million in FEMA money, which was never used to get the golf course back in service.

So, the MPRB's assertion of a \$4 million loss at Hiawatha Golf Course is pure fiction.

6.2.21 Golf is waning as a sport.

This was stated in early presentations by the Park Board at public meetings. And, the MPRB's Impact Assessment document (9) showed waning revenues for the Minneapolis Golf Courses in the 2010's. Of course, the MPRB didn't state that much of this was due to lack of maintenance of the golf courses by the MPRB during this time frame causing less and less patronage of the MPRB golf courses. A scathing 2014 report by an independent golf consultant stated the MPRB was not taking care of or investing in the Minneapolis Golf Courses, thus reducing patronage.

6.2.22 Young people don't play golf.

This was stated in early presentations by the Park Board at public meetings. On a summer Saturday afternoon SaveHiawatha18 spent 3 hours at Hiawatha Golf Course gathering petition signatures and garnered about 90 signatures in support of retaining the 18-hole golf course. At least 80 % of the people on Hiawatha Golf Course were under the age of 40. Go to Hiawatha Golf Course anytime and you will see lots of young people there.

6.2.23 Golf is a rich, white man's sport.

This was stated in early presentations by the Park Board at public meetings in regards to the demographics that play golf to justify getting rid of the golf course. That is not true at Hiawatha Golf Course. Some call it The Diversity Golf Course because of the wide range of people that golf there. You have to understand the divisions in golf to understand how a broad national statistic does not reflect the various sectors in golf, such as public golf courses versus private golf courses. There is no question that private golf courses are extremely white, male and high income. But, combining private and public golf course statistics is extremely deceiving because private and public golfers are so different. Private golf courses greatly skew these statistics. And, Hiawatha

Golf Course serves an increasingly diverse neighborhood including Black, White, Hispanic, Asian and Native-American golfers. It also serves young and old, and wealthy and disadvantaged.

6.2.24 A 4-hole golf course plan was presented that violated the resolution.

One of the three golf course concepts presented to the CAC was a 4-hole golf course plan. This blatantly violated the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan resolution which required a minimum of 9 holes.

6.2.25 The proposed 9-hole plan will be better for golfers.

This has been a theme propagated by the MPRB since the 9-hole golf course plan was introduced. It is further propagated by supporters of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, many of whom do not golf.

6.2.26 The 9-hole plan will be a championship golf course.

This is stated in the Master Plan. But, it slipped out in April, 2022 through a Star-Tribune article that it would be an "executive" level 9-hole golf course. Executive level golf courses are not considered championship level golf courses in the golf world. Neither are 9-hole golf courses.

6.2.27 The Park Board wants citizen input.

People who have been through this process can name a multitude of examples where the Park Board did their best to stifle or ignore public response. One good example is the fact that they held all but 2 of the CAC meetings outside of the neighborhood. See Section 6.1.2 for more information about the CAC locations.

Also, here is an article about public input and the CAC. <https://southsidepride.com/2020/01/06/manipulations-and-deceptions/>

6.2.28 In initial public surveys the Planning Dept. said that there were "a few" people who wanted to keep 18 holes.

These were the statements made by the MPRB Planning Group staff at various meetings. We knew there was more support than just a few comments, which is why we made public data requests for the last 2 public surveys and tabulated the comments (which overwhelmingly supported keeping the 18 holes).

You can see SaveHiawatha18's tabulation of the surveys and the actual comments at:

August 2020

<https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/Hiawatha-Master-Plan-Survey-Results-August2020-wp.htm>

April 2020

<https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/Hiawatha-Master-Plan-Survey-Results-April2020-wp.htm>

6.2.29 In later public surveys the massive response of "We want 18 holes" was discounted as neither for nor against the plan.

This was in Michael Schroeder's Memo to the MRPB Board members for the vote on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. This was his manipulative way of discounting the huge public support for the 18-hole golf course.

6.2.30 The Black community is OK with a 9-hole golf course and some historical recognition.

The Black golfing community has repeatedly stated that they want an 18-hole championship golf course. They do not want a sub-standard 9-hole executive golf course and some historic recognition.

6.2.31 Native-Americans don't play golf.

This is more of an insinuation that has occurred since the MPRB has only brought in Native-

Americans who say that they don't support the 18-hole golf course. Although, I have heard Native-American speakers twice say that this is only their opinion and other Native-Americans may have a different opinion. After all, Native-American tribes own and operate at least 6 golf courses in Minnesota.

6.2.32 A cloud diagram of what people wanted on the site didn't include 18 holes (people were told not to write it down).

We were attendees at this meeting on April 20, 2017. We were told by the Planning staff that they knew there was a lot of support for the 18-hole golf course in the room, so we didn't need to put that down; only put down other ideas. I felt totally betrayed when I saw the Cloud diagram that was produced after the meeting which stated that this was what the community wanted on the property and, of course, it didn't have "18-hole golf course" on the diagram. This is where we learned not to follow their instructions if they appeared to be steering the response in a certain direction. The diagram appeared in the MPRB's Impact Assessment document, p. 35 (9)

6.2.33 The CAC couldn't consider 18 holes even though language prohibiting it was removed from the body of the resolution.

This issue stopped the CAC process temporarily. See Section 6.1.3 and Appendix 3 for a further explanation of this issue.

6.2.34 The Park Board pitted neighbor against neighbor.

This was stated by a resident in the April 20, 2017 public meeting. It has only gotten worse. Former MPRB Commissioner Londel French brought it up in a July 2022 meeting, asking the Park Board to stop pitting minorities against one another. See Section 11.2 for further information about this.

6.2.35 This plan has all of the necessary approvals.

One of the new MPRB Commissioners told us in November of 2021 that the plan had all of the necessary approvals. She was surprised when we told her that it had none.

6.2.36 Only high-value items (tees and greens) will need to be elevated with fill on the flood plain.

Michael Schroeder stated this in an April, 2022 Board Meeting to the new MPRB Commissioners when one of them asked how they would keep the proposed golf course dry. This is a ludicrous statement. Unless they change this plan to create a protective berm around the 9-hole golf course and implement pumping, they will have to elevate the whole 9-hole golf course; otherwise, you will have a golf course of tees and greens surrounded by water, which is not a real golf course; you will have a par 3 golf course surrounded by water with boats to get between tees and greens, and no one will play the golf course. In fact, the first two 9-hole concepts presented by the MPRB Planning Group were surrounded by so much water, a CAC member said that he was a hacker and he wouldn't even play that golf course.

6.2.37 Dredging of the outbound creek will not lower the lake level enough, so its not worth doing.

Michael Schroeder stated this in early public meetings, and MPRB Project Manager Tyler Pederson stated that the lake level could not be lowered by dredging the creek in his presentation to the MPRB Board on March 2, 2022. This is not accurate.

The MPRB's Barr Report (4, Section 8) stated that the lake level could be reduced up to one foot by lowering the level of the outbound creek. Lowering the base water level of Lake Hiawatha will reduce seepage back into the golf course, which will reduce pumping and keep the golf course drier.

Tyler Pederson also stated that the water level of the lake has always been at the current levels and that the golf course has sunk below the level of the water. That is not true. A graph in the Barr documentation shows that the average lake level of Lake Hiawatha has slowly increased since the original dredging in the 1930's (808.2 ft) to its current normal level in the 2010's (812.8 feet). The question should be why has the lake level increased and what can be done to correct this?

Also, some barriers in the outbound creek to dredging have been mentioned. One of them has been found to be an abandoned containment structure that serves no purpose anymore and could be removed.

See <https://southsidepride.com/2022/08/16/a-simpler-hiawatha-plan/> for another article about this subject.

6.2.38 This plan will rid Lake Hiawatha of trash.

This is a City of Minneapolis problem and a Watershed problem, not a golf course problem, because almost all of the trash in the lake comes from the storm sewer outfalls for Minneapolis and the Watershed. So, closing down the golf course does nothing to solve this problem. Plus, the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan says nothing about how this will be done. In fact, Council member Andrew Johnson is looking at doing a temporary catchment next year. See <https://southsidepride.com/2022/08/16/a-simpler-hiawatha-plan/>.

6.2.39 The Park Board will pay for the new golf course with profits from the Minneapolis golf courses.

The Minneapolis golf courses do not make enough profit to pay for the \$11 million cost (2019 figure), especially when they will close down Hiawatha at some point. And, the new 9-hole golf course, as soon as it is built will likely run at a loss, further reducing the money available to pay for the new golf course.

And, in the document presented to the Metropolitan Council for approval of amending the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan to the Nokomis Master Plan, it is stated that the MPRB Enterprise fund will now contribute \$20 million to pay for this plan. The Enterprise fund nets about \$1-2 million per year. This appears to be a very unlikely source of revenue for this project.

6.2.40 A partner (the Loppet?) will pay for the cross-country ski enhancements. -

The MPRB has never made a profit at winter sports, and the Loppet has been in financial trouble for the last couple of years, so where is the money coming from in a department that can't make money?

6.2.41 A private restaurateur will pay for a new restaurant through their profits over 25 years.

Why would a restaurateur pay to build this restaurant through their profits and not own it themselves? This seems totally unlikely.

6.2.42 Alternative B has modeling and studies that show it is a viable plan.

Alternative B (the name now used for the current Master Plan proposal) was presented as the plan of choice while referencing all of the modeling and studies that were done for this plan in TYLER PEDERSON'S Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan Presentation to the Board - March 2, 2022.

- The referenced studies and modeling were done for the original Alternative B which was a totally different plan than what is currently being proposed. Alternative B flooded the whole property. It had no golf course.
- The currently proposed plan would have the new "flood-resistant" and "flood-resilient" 9-hole golf course. It is totally unknown what the Park Board means by "flood-resistant", but it most certainly has to mean that massive amounts of fill would need to be added to this property to elevate it above the level of Lake Hiawatha to keep the fairways from flooding. In fact, the whole proposed footprint of the 9-hole golf course is below the level of the lake and current berm. How would this massive reconstruction of the golf course property (a flood plain) affect the residential area that currently drains by gravity into this portion of the golf course? Most assuredly, the studies done for protection of the homes are no longer valid due to this radical change in the plan.
- It needs to be noted that Park Board documents state that stopping the pumping at the golf course would affect water levels as far away as Powderhorn Lake, requiring more pumping of water there.
- And, stopping pumping at the golf course would not eliminate pumping; this plan would only move pumping into the neighborhoods at a much higher risk to the residential property. And, filling in the flood plain for the new elevated golf course will likely introduce unknown risks to the low-lying homes near the golf course and up to Powderhorn Park. Will the fill required to elevate the new golf course back up water into the neighborhoods by changing the natural flow of groundwater from the neighborhoods to the golf course? EPA guidelines for Constructed Wetlands state that any constructed wetland should follow the natural flow of water; it appears that this plan would dramatically alter the natural flow of water.

6.2.43 Alternative B (the Master Plan proposal) is much better overall than retaining the 18-hole golf course.

This statement was made by TYLER PEDERSON in his Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan Presentation to the MPRB Board members on March 2, 2022.

He stated that statistics comparing number of users and a cost/benefit analysis of the 18-hole golf course (Alternative A) versus Alternative B (the current Master Plan proposal) indicate that Alternative B is so much better overall.

This statement is misleading at best. The referenced statistics were for the original Alternative B which did not include a 9-hole golf course. They do not reflect the current proposal with a 9-hole golf course. As far as we know, no analysis has been done for the current proposal.

6.2.44 Certain elements of the golf course would be elevated above the 100-year flood level to protect them.

MPRB Assistant Superintendent of Planning Schroeder said that certain elements of the golf course would be elevated above the 100-year flood level to protect them in the Planning Department's Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan Presentation to the Board - March 2, 2022 in response to Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer's question about how the water would be kept off of the 9-hole golf course.

Originally Mr. Schroeder stated that high-value items would be elevated which usually means tees and greens. This statement was meaningless because without fairways you do not have a golf course. This begs the question of why Mr. Schroeder would not be honest and say that the whole 9-hole golf course will be elevated above the level of the lake since the proposed footprint of the 9-hole golf course is below the level of the lake. Without the berm, this new golf course would have to be elevated above the level of the lake which would require elevating over half of the current golf course property. So, how much of the flood plain capacity will be lost? And, those who want the property to go back to what it was will be sorely disappointed to find out that the property will be radically changed and reconstructed far more than Theodore Wirth ever did? Ironically, the 18-hole golf course already has some elevated tees and greens.

7.0 Equity

The MPRB touts their commitment to equity in its facilities and projects. How does this project stack up?

7.1 Violates the Metropolitan Council's Thrive MSP 2040 plan equity guidelines.

In reading the Metropolitan Council guidelines in the Thrive MSP 2040 Plan, we found that the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan ignores and violates guidelines with respect to climate change and recreational opportunities. And, the presentation to the Metropolitan Council on February 2, 2023 specifically states that this plan was started before the guidelines from the Metropolitan Council were published, so the MPRB does not need to abide by them. This appears to be an admission from the MPRB that this plan violates these guidelines.

The following was published in Southside Pride on May 9, 2021

Equity and the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan

BY KATHRYN KELLY

The Metropolitan Council has prepared a comprehensive development guide for the Twin Cities metropolitan area called Thrive MSP 2040. It “provides a framework for shared vision for the region over the next 30 years.” Part of this planning is defined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, which outlines the Metropolitan Council’s goals and strategies for the development and operation of our world-class regional parks in support of Thrive MSP 2040 goals. The Parks Policy Plan puts forward policy direction to ensure the fulfillment of outdoor recreation benefits for all residents of the metropolitan region now and into the future. How does the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan stack up with respect to the equity goals in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan?

This plan lays out several goals with respect to equity.

From the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan:

“Equity means connecting all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation

and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes and abilities so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change.”

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan violates this goal on several fronts:

1) Race and Ethnicities – This plan takes away an 18-hole golf course with over 80 years of history with the South Minneapolis Black community. It reduces the current level of service to a sub-standard level of service by reducing the capacity from 18 holes to nine holes. This affects all patrons including the Black and Hispanic communities, teens and kids, South Minneapolis school athletes and senior patrons. Community input from the Black community at Park Board-sponsored feedback sessions and public surveys was very clear that the 18-hole golf course was the community’s desired outcome.

2) Incomes – This 18-hole golf course serves a community that has a widely diverse economic base, from low-income to wealthy families. This is an extremely unique and valuable recreational resource for the City of Minneapolis and its South Minneapolis residents. It is unconscionable to take away this full-service facility from an inner-city neighborhood.

3) Abilities – The current 18-hole facility provides opportunities for everyone, from the best golfers to beginners, and from the youngest starting to play golf to the oldest golfers in the community. Testimonials from patrons of the golf course relate stories of enjoyment from golfers who would still congregate there with friends once they could no longer golf, and from a neighbor who didn’t golf but got immense pleasure from watching those who did golf; he donated two benches so others could share the same enjoyment.

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan indicates that promoting equity includes:

“Engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision-making.”

With the current plan, the Minneapolis Park Board did provide a variety of opportunities for the public to weigh in, but it became clear over time that public input was not welcomed or considered important if it did not follow the direction that the Park Board Planning Group wanted. This was particularly true of the retention of the 18-hole golf course. Public response toward the end of the Master Planning process was overwhelmingly for the retention of the 18-hole golf course, yet it was ignored.

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan says:

“While the rich and growing racial and ethnic diversity is an asset to continued economic vitality, the region has some of the largest disparities by race and ethnicity of any large metropolitan area in the nation. Importantly, these disparities and shifting demographics have implications for nature-based outdoor recreation providers.”

The Hiawatha 18-hole Golf Course is likely the most racially and ethnically diverse golf course in the state of Minnesota. The last thing that should be done in this day and age is to destroy it, or turn it into a second-rate facility. We need to cherish and maintain the successful equity assets that we already have rather than destroy them.

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan says:

“The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan strives to build upon the good work that the regional park implementing agencies have been doing to advance equity. The Council seeks to strengthen equitable usage of the Regional Parks System, which is a key theme of this plan.”

Again, the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan does just the opposite; it destroys one of the area’s best success stories in the area of equity.

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan says:

“The Regional Parks System has been designed and developed to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for all the residents of the region, with facilities and services geared to meet the demands and abilities of the general population.”

Part of any plan that will provide recreation opportunities for all residents of the region is ubiquity. Losing Hiawatha Golf Course would produce a golf desert in a large portion of the city of Minneapolis and nearby communities, affecting thousands of golfers in South Minneapolis, and especially seniors and kids who lack the ability to travel elsewhere for this opportunity.

The Regional Parks Equity Toolkit asks the following question: Which of the underserved populations identified will this project better serve?

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan will take away opportunities for equitable access to golf

as a recreational activity from people of color, seniors, kids and low-income residents, so it will provide less service to the underserved populations.

The Metropolitan Council should not approve the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan since it violates the equity goals and direction of its own 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

The following statement in the MPRB memo to the Metropolitan Council (7) is also untrue, "The Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Plan Amendment advances the Thrive MSP 2040 outcome of Livability by increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation, which enhances quality of life in the region. The plan amendment also advances the Sustainability outcome by promoting a wiser use of water and providing a more flood resilient landscape."

Everything we have seen with this planning would likely raise the groundwater levels under the neighboring houses, or dramatically change the flow (draining) of water from the nearby neighborhood to the golf course property. At risk homes will be less than 'livable' if the homes end up flooded. The homeowners don't need "nature" in their basements!

7.2 Violates the Minnesota Climate Action Plan.

This Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan violates the Minnesota Climate Action Plan with respect to equity.

South Minneapolis sits at the bottom of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed, and Lake Hiawatha is the recipient of water from 176 square miles of land. The years of heavy rainfall from 2014 to 2019 have given the South Minneapolis community a taste of what is to come if appropriate water mitigation solutions are not implemented, that is, these neighborhoods will be inundated with more water resulting in more broken infrastructure and flooded homes.



Diagram: Minnehaha Creek Watershed showing the area that drains through Lake Hiawatha - From Minnehaha Creek Watershed District web-site.

SaveHiawatha18 has led an inquiry into the current plans for water management in South Minneapolis, and we uncovered a lack of equity in water management in the watershed. The lower watershed, in particular the neighborhoods along Minnehaha Creek in South Minneapolis, bear the brunt of the water management by being the recipient of all water to the west and south of Minneapolis. Also uncovered, is a lack of scientific data on which to base the planning.

This brings us to one of the principles of the Minnesota Climate Action Plan from the Minnesota Legislature which is:

"Address social inequities. Without targeted action, climate change will make existing inequalities worse. Actions must focus on mitigating the increased vulnerability disadvantaged communities face from changing climate, and ensure all communities benefit equitably in the transition to a clean economy."

Proposed strategies in the Minnesota Climate Action Plan that could directly aid the South Minneapolis community are:

"Adaptation and Resilience. Create state and local climate adaptation plans that support tribal, county and municipal governments while prioritizing the needs of the communities burdened by pollution and cumulative climate impacts. Invest in climate resilient infrastructure statewide to withstand extreme weather events, targeting under-resourced communities."

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan would increase the burden placed on the communities in South Minneapolis, and especially the communities around Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis. This plan does nothing to decrease the amount of water that comes into these communities from the upper watershed. In fact, this plan proposes dumping more water into the Lake Hiawatha floodplain. One example of this is the MPRB's proposal to make money by issuing watershed credits. As explained to us, the MPRB would allow private developers to pay the MPRB to dump their water onto the Lake Hiawatha park so that they don't have to mitigate their water on the property that they are developing.

Another example is the proposed Edina Morningside project. Edina needs more water storage so they are proposing the dumping of more water into Bde Maka Ska on a continuing basis. This additional water then has to be handled by the communities in South Minneapolis. This is another example of communities "dumping" their problem downstream.

The MPRB needs to work with all communities in the watershed to create plans that will equitably distribute the responsibilities of water management among all communities in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed. This would alleviate the burden on South Minneapolis from being the sole mitigator of increased water levels due to the predicted increase in precipitation from climate change.

7.3 Burden on poorer communities.

The Hiawatha Master Plan puts the burden of solving climate change on the poorer communities in the watershed (South Minneapolis) by expecting the Lake Hiawatha community to continue to take on more than its share of the burden for the whole watershed. The South Minneapolis community can no longer handle the massive amounts of water and pollution that

are being dumped in this area by the City of Minneapolis and other communities in the watershed. These communities need to mitigate their own water.

7.4 Watershed credits.

Part of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan is for the Park Board to make money by issuing watershed credits to developers so that, instead of mitigating water on their newly developed properties, they can pay the MPRB to dump their water in the Lake Hiawatha park. This is the last thing that this community needs, MORE water. This community needs LESS water. This is a perfect example of the MPRB and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District allowing the dumping of water from private entities on one community to make money, hardly for the benefit of the public.

7.5 MCWD policies favor Lake Minnetonka and the upper watershed.

We found that Minnehaha Creek Watershed District policy gives priority to Grey's Bay Dam (and Lake Minnetonka) for dumping of water during high precipitation events. The weir for Lake Nokomis is kept closed when Grey's Bay Dam is releasing water. In particular, we found that this caused Lake Nokomis in South Minneapolis to flood the surrounding parkland in 2019. Nokomis residents pushed hard to get the weir opened to relieve the flooding.

Also, in 2022 Grey's Bay Dam was closed during the drought to keep water levels higher in Lake Minnetonka rather than releasing water to create more water storage in Lake Minnetonka for the next high precipitation years.

Equitable policy changes are needed in the administration of the watershed that allows release of water in the lower watershed to the same degree as the upper watershed.

7.6 Engineering a solution for equity.

An equitable plan for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed would require every community to share the burden of climate change with regards to quantity of water and pollution. For Minnehaha Creek, we have found that the creek is already overburdened with water and is being destroyed.

An engineering solution to equity in WATER QUANTITY would do the following:

- First, assess the maximum capacity of water that the creek can handle and remain healthy.
- Second, assess how much water each community is contributing to the creek.
- Third, determine how much water each community is allowed to release into the creek each year to keep it healthy.
- Fourth, determine ways to mitigate any excess water that can no longer be released into the creek by a community.

An engineering solution to equity in WATER QUALITY would put standards in place for each community requiring a maximum level of pollution that they can pass on to the next community. In other words, each community must send clean water to the next community.

7.7 Removes championship level golf from South Minneapolis.

Theodore Wirth made it a priority in the 1910's and 1920's to provide the same recreational opportunities to all residents in the City of Minneapolis. One goal was a park within walking distance of every child. When golf became popular, Wirth had the goal of an 18-hole golf course serving every part of the city. Theodore Wirth Golf Course was the first to be built which served North Minneapolis, although it was in the suburb of Golden Valley. Next to be built was Columbia which served Northeast Minneapolis. Gross golf course was built to serve Southeast and Northeast Minneapolis, although it was in the suburb of St. Anthony Village. That left South Minneapolis. Wirth built 2 golf courses to serve South Minneapolis, Meadowbrook Golf Course was to serve the western portion of South Minneapolis, although it is in the suburbs of Hopkins, Edina and St. Louis Park. The last was Hiawatha Golf Course to serve the eastern portion of South Minneapolis.

The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan would initiate the dismantling of Theodore Wirth's legacy to provide equity to all residents of Minneapolis regardless of where they live in the city. We now have even broader goals to provide equity across the whole metropolitan area. The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan would remove the opportunity to learn and play championship golf from a large population in the metro area.

The MPRB Planning Group promised that they would transport kids to the MPRB's suburban golf courses. Is this really the way that we want to provide opportunities to kids? We think not.

7.8 Equity in Opportunity.

There is a movie called "From the Rough (2011)". It recounted the story of a Black golf coach, Catana Sparks, at Tennessee State University. She took her golf team to the National Minority Golf Championship in 2005, and they won the tournament. In watching the movie, one moment is really striking. Ms. Sparks was talking to one of her players about his life growing up, and he said that every way he looked, doors were closed on him. I felt that statement so related to the current situation with Hiawatha Golf Course which resides in the middle of the City of Minneapolis. It is considered one of the most racially diverse golf courses in the State of Minnesota. The Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan is a true example of a segment of the White Community (especially the MPRB and 6 of its White commissioners) closing the door for minorities and the underprivileged to a full, white experience. Instead, they promise to give this community a sub-standard executive 9-hole golf course and condescendingly say that the 9-hole golf course will somehow be better for them. This, while the MPRB just built a new clubhouse at Meadowbrook, an MPRB golf course that resides in the heavily white and more affluent suburbs.

Now, with the 2022 "compromise," the Black community is again at risk of losing one of its cherished institutions, along with bringing back a painful history of "separate but unequal." In a Star Tribune commentary, Solomon Hughes, Jr. wrote that in the past, white communities would get 18-hole golf courses, but Black communities would only get nine-hole golf courses. How ironic that the MPRB has now voted to downgrade Hiawatha Golf Course to one of those nine-hole courses. This area of Minneapolis, which was once very white, is now becoming more racially mixed. But apparently the six white MPRB commissioners who voted to overturn the decision of three Black and two white commissioners believe that this diverse community is only deserving of a "less than" golf course.

You can read more about this history of racial discrimination in the article, "Really, another compromise?" in the Southside Pride Newspaper.

<https://southsidepride.com/2022/10/03/really-another-compromise/>

7.9 Historic nominations.

The Hiawatha Golf Course is currently part of 2 historic nominations.

The 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course is currently working through the process of being designated an historic site on the National Register of Historic Places because of the extensive Black cultural history of this golf course. On February 7th, 2023 the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Committee voted to move this application to the National Park Service. In April of 2023, the National Park Service approved the listing of Hiawatha Golf Course on the National Register of Historic Places.

The 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course is also included in the historic designation application for the Grand Rounds.

8.0 The Golf Course

In the first public meetings in 2017, the MPRB offered 2 plans to the public, a plan retaining the 18-hole golf course (Alternative A) and a plan that would totally eliminate the golf course (Alternative B). As the meetings went on, it became obvious that the MPRB was moving towards Alternative B, elimination of the 18-hole golf course. But, the reasons given by the MPRB didn't make sense to golfers.

8.1 The 18-hole golf course.

People were confused about many statements that the Planning Group made as to why the MPRB could not continue to maintain the 18-hole golf course. Among them were the golf course is sinking, the berm will break and kill golfers, the golf course is unsustainable, the DNR will close the golf course the next time it floods, the 2014 flood caused \$4 million in damage and lost revenue, the pumping costs too much money. Upon researching these issues, we found all of them to be false or misleading.

8.1.1 Why does the MPRB want to close the 18-hole golf course?

Here are some of the possible reasons why the MPRB wanted to get rid of the Hiawatha Golf Course.

- In a meeting with Kathryn Kelly in December of 2017, Commissioner Steffanie Musich's last statement to Kathryn was, "There will not be 18 holes of golf on that property." Is it Ms. Musich's personal agenda to get rid of golf in her district? (Note: At the time, the choices were the 18-hole golf course or no golf; the 9-hole golf course was not on the table at that time.)
- We found that a study done by a consultant for the MPRB in 2013 looked at why the golf courses were, all of a sudden, losing money. It stated that the MPRB was no longer investing in their golf courses, causing the golf courses to go to seed. After the 2014 flood, the MPRB started to look at selling the golf courses, in particular, Meadowbrook Golf Course, which is outside of the city limits. So, was the MPRB looking at getting out of the golf course business? The MPRB backed off on selling Meadowbrook; we are not sure why. But, Meadowbrook is in 3 jurisdictions, Hopkins, Edina and St. Louis Park. So, was it logistically difficult to sell this property?

- SaveHiawatha18 had a meeting with MPRB Commissioner Liewinski in 2017, and she said that the MPRB needed places to dump water, and Hiawatha Golf Course would be the first to go. Columbia Golf Course would be next. Yet, Columbia Golf Course was just recently upgraded for water management, and was not closed. Is this because the MPRB has had so much negative feedback and difficulty in trying to close Hiawatha Golf Course? Hiawatha Golf Course and Columbia Golf Course are the only 18-hole golf courses totally within the City of Minneapolis, so the desires of other jurisdictions did not come into play.
- The water from every city in the Minnehaha Creek watershed ends up in Lake Hiawatha. Development in the upper watershed continues and these communities need to eliminate water from their communities. So, do they need even more room to dump water? For example, in 2022 it came to light that Edina wanted to dump water from their Morningside neighborhood into Bde Maka Ska. This water would go to Minnehaha Creek and end up in Lake Hiawatha.

It has never been clear as to the "behind the scenes" reasoning for wanting to get rid of Hiawatha Golf Course, but we have found that the reasons given to the public have not stood up to scrutiny, like flooding and pumping. After all, the flood happened because the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District lost control of the water at Grey's Bay Dam in Minnetonka. Also, the increasing volumes of water entering Lake Hiawatha and the amount of water being dumped on Hiawatha Golf Course have increased the need for pumping water out of the golf course. In other words, the golf course is the VICTIM of poor public policy, not the problem.

8.1.2 Request for retention of the 18-hole golf course by the CAC and public was ignored.

The one and only CAC priority that the MPRB did not include in the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan was the request for "18-holes of golf". During the CAC process, CAC members and the public continually asked why the MPRB would not consider the original 18-hole option (Alternative A). At one point, the MPRB Planning staff indicated that they had done a design for a compact 18-hole golf course and that it was not viable. The CAC asked for a copy of the design. The MPRB Planning staff refused to give this design to the CAC members. The following e-mail was sent to Tyler Pederson, the project manager.

From: Kathryn Kelly

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:49 PM

To: Pederson, Tyler W. <TPederson@minneapolisparcs.org>

Subject: [External]Fw: Hiawatha Golf Course Property Master Plan Update: Golf Course Layout

To Tyler Pederson,

At the last CAC meeting you stated that the MPRB Planning Group had put together a new 18-hole plan for the Hiawatha Golf Course property, but you had decided against it. We, the CAC, asked to see that 18-hole plan, or any other new 18-hole plan that you might have.

You stated in your e-mail of February 14, 2020 that you will not fulfill the Hiawatha Golf Course CAC request to see the 18-hole plan that you created.

The MPRB Planning Department already has a credibility problem with many people. By withholding from the CAC the 18-hole plan that you created, you lose even more credibility.

Please agree to present the new 18-hole plan that you created to the Hiawatha Golf Course CAC. If you still decline to show the new 18-hole plan to the CAC, I will submit a public data request to the MPRB to obtain the planning documents.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kelly

The MPRB Planning Group still refused to present these plans to the CAC and public. So, a public data request was issued to the MPRB and the documents were released. When received, the documents proved to be essentially nothing. These documents are available at <https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/Compact-18-Hole-Golf-Course/compact-18-hole-golf-course.htm>

8.1.3 Other Plans / Proposals.

The MPRB says that no one has developed a solution that perpetuates the 18-hole golf course and deals with the water problems. This statement is disingenuous at best. It became obvious early on to CAC members and the public that the MPRB had no interest in maintaining the 18-

hole golf course. Their goal was to get rid of it. Only the huge public pressure has kept this golf course in service. We are not saying that the golf course won't flood again. It is certainly likely. But, the frequency of that flooding is totally dependent on future public policy. Public officials need to spread the pain and responsibility of water management to each entity that contributes water to the watershed; they should not force one small neighborhood in South Minneapolis to shoulder all of the responsibility.

A group that is independent of the MPRB, the Lehman/Komor group, put together a proposal (concept) for retention of the 18-hole golf course which deals with the water issues. This plan was presented to the MPRB Board.

The Lehman/Komor/Bronze plan would separate the creek from Lake Hiawatha but still provide overflow capacity for high precipitation and would keep pollution out of the lake (unlike the MPRB plan which would still pollute the lake and permanently retain more water in the flood plain, reducing available flood capacity).

The MPRB not only dismissed this plan, but they filed a complaint against one of the presenters.

Also, the MPRB had a competitor (Barr Engineering) do an assessment of the Lehman/Komor/Bronze plan. This appears to be a conflict of interest, asking one contractor who is vying for work on this plan (Barr Engineering) to perform a negative assessment of the plan of another contractor vying for this work (the Lehman/Komor/Bronze group). See Section 12.1.

Ironically, if the same criteria are used on the MPRB's plan, you will see that it suffers many of the same criticisms. See Appendix 1 for an assessment of the MPRB's Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan based on the Barr assessment criteria of the Lehman/Komor/Bronze Plan.

The MPRB states that the Lehman/Komor/Bronze plan proposed a solution that would have eliminated Lake Hiawatha from the 'City of Lakes' (7). It is unclear, based on what we saw of the proposal, how Lake Hiawatha would be eliminated. It only separated Lake Hiawatha from Minnehaha Creek to reduce the effect of the massive amounts of water and pollution that currently flow through Lake Hiawatha, just as Lake Nokomis is currently disconnected. As far as we know, Lake Nokomis is still considered part of the City of Lakes. It also lowered the lake level to more sustainable levels, thus making the golf course less susceptible to flooding. Another interesting point is that Lake Hiawatha is not designated as a Minnesota lake; it is officially designated as a wide area of Minnehaha Creek.

8.1.4 The 18-hole golf course and the floodplain.

The MPRB made the following statement in their letter to the Metropolitan Council, "The course is set mostly above the floodplain." (7) This contradicts other statements made by the MPRB that the golf course sits below the level of Lake Hiawatha.

All of the current golf course property is currently in the flood plain except the clubhouse knoll, and a couple of tees and a couple of greens. The FEMA damage application listed every hole, except hole number 4, as having some damage from the 2014 flood. So, the MPRB's statement belies the FEMA application.

And, the new 9-hole golf course will be built on this flood plain and will only be above the flood plain if the proposed footprint is massively filled in.

8.1.5 Irrigation of the 18-hole golf course.

The MPRB indicates that pumped water will be used for irrigation for the new 9-hole golf course(7). The MPRB has led us to believe that there will no longer be any pumping of water on the golf course property with the new plan. It will be moved into the neighborhoods. So, it is unclear what this actually means. If so, where is this pumped water coming from? Or, are they still pumping water on the golf course? This is an example of how much is unknown about this plan at this time.

And, the current 18-hole golf course already uses water from the pond system on the golf course for irrigation, so this is not a new concept.

8.1.6 Flooding.

The MPRB states: "Without a balance and without compromise, the historic resources noted in the National Register nomination are at risk of inundation or flooding - or both." (5) At the presentation to the Metropolitan Council on February 2, 2023, Tyler Pederson also stated that the flood and the pumping precipitated the need for change.

No one is saying that the golf course will not flood again. But, the current 18-hole golf course is

already resilient to flooding with elevated tees and greens. And, it could be made more resilient, for example, by elevating more tees and greens, if the MPRB has the will to make it so.

Under the proposed plan, the property, and the 9-hole golf course, is still in the flood plain, unless the plan will massively re-engineer the property.

8.1.7 Audubon Certification.

The MPRB indicated that they would obtain Audubon Certification for the new golf course. (7)

The current golf course has had certification through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf. It has lapsed at times because the MPRB has not done the paperwork and paid the fee to maintain the certification.

8.1.8 Rare Species.

The DNR's pumping permit indicates that Hiawatha Golf Course has two rare species: Blanding's Turtles and Rusty Patched Bumble Bees. There is nothing in the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan that addresses how the construction of the new golf course and wetlands will deal with these rare species.

8.1.9 Patronage of the 18-hole Golf Course.

The MPRB has made much of the decline in golf rounds at Hiawatha Golf Course during the 2010's. This was mainly due to improper and lack of maintenance to the golf course during this time causing patrons to stop patronizing the golf course. In the past few years, a new greens superintendent has brought the golf course back and the patronage has returned. And, the 47% capacity number that is referenced by the MPRB was when the golf course was not being properly maintained; this is typical of the MPRB in that they pick the number that best supports their stance. In addition, the golf course study completed in 2014 by an independent consultant was scathing to the MPRB, saying that they were doing a terrible job of maintaining their golf courses, including skipping maintenance and capital improvements, resulting in dramatically reduced patronage. (10) Before the MPRB lost interest in maintaining Hiawatha golf course, it was one of the top money making courses in the MPRB system.

8.2 The Proposed 9-hole golf course.

8.2.1 A 9-hole golf course contradiction.

The MPRB wrote why they were not including a 9-hole golf course in their proposal in the MPRB's Impact Assessment in 2017 (9, pp. 36-37). The document stated "The MPRB staff recognizes the public's interest in the creation of a nine (9)-hole golf course and investigated the potential opportunity in the context of the expected available space, the 2014 MPRB golf course strategic planning study, and golf revenues and trends. For this alternatives assessment, the MPRB staff eliminated including a nine (9)-hole golf course/driving range, a three-hole training course, or a stand-alone driving range in the recreation and enterprise concept for Alternative B for the following reasons:

- Nine (9)-hole golf courses do not have the ability to produce half the revenue that an 18-hole facility. This is because the majority of golfers that frequent golf facilities desire 18-hole golf courses and league play cannot be optimized on a nine (9)-hole course. Ultimately, nine (9)-hole courses are not a regional destination, cannot generate tournament revenue, and do not generate the golf revenue needed to make the course financially sustainable, let alone profitable. This is supported by MPRB data from the Wirth Par 3, nine(9)-hole golf course;
- A three (3)-hole training course and driving range could be included (requires 37-40 acres); however, this would likely not be operated as an enterprise feature for the MPRB, meaning it would not be generating revenue but would require costs to operate and maintain.
- Based on recent trends, a stand-along driving range is not attractive to new golfers. "

By 2020, the MPRB had been forced by public pressure to accommodate a minimum of 9 holes on the golf course property.

The following is an excerpt from Tyler Pederson e-mail to Kathryn Kelly - February 20, 2020.

"I am hoping that you and others in the golfing community will back the 9-hole option. We feel that it has the potential to be a destination spot for learning the game of golf. We'd love to

develop the first tee program, offer state of the art facilities for learning and developing skills, and attract new golfers to the sport. But we need input from the golf community to do this and be successful."

Now, the MPRB is trying to sell this sub-standard executive golf course to the golfing public, calling it a "destination spot." Which statement is true and which is false?

8.2.2 A substandard 9-hole golf course.

The proposed 9-hole golf course is not what was promised to the golfing community. When the MPRB refused to retain the 18-hole golf course they promised a championship par 36 9-hole golf course. Their memo states that "Golf at the Hiawatha Golf Course will be designed to be an inclusive and accessible nine-hole course, catering to players of all skill levels." (7)

CAC members asked the MPRB for details about this proposed 9-hole golf course, like yardages, so that we could verify the type of golf course the MPRB was proposing. They would not give us this information. But, they finally let it slip in an April 2022 Star-Tribune article that it would be an Executive level golf course, thus shorter than a normal 9-hole golf course. No one in the golf community would ever consider an Executive level golf course as a championship golf course. Also, a 9-hole golf course is never considered a championship level golf course either.

So, the MPRB's statement that this new golf course "will cater to players of all skill levels" is just plain fiction. It will cater to beginners and a few casual golfers, and will lose money.

Plus, the proposed driving range is shown to be right across the street from the homes on Longfellow Avenue (a nuisance, at best) and is smaller than the current driving range (which is heavily used).

8.2.3 The same level of golf course is just 4 miles away

The MPRB already owns and operates an Executive level 9-hole golf course just 4 miles from the Hiawatha Golf Course. This golf course is named Fort Snelling Golf Course. Fort Snelling golf course continually loses money, and thus, is supported by the other golf course in the MPRB. Plus, in the past couple of years it has been in poor condition with some fairways containing dirt

instead of grass. Why would the Metropolitan Council support creation of a second money loser just a few miles away?

8.2.4 Patronage of the Property

The MPRB says that the property will be more accessible to more people than ever before. If you look at the proposed site diagram the site will mostly be a sub-standard executive 9-hole golf course and more water; it will not appreciably create more diverse recreational opportunities because the rest of the property appears to be flooded. (5)

8.2.5 The current 9-hole layout (footprint) was not designed by the golf course architect that was hired.

The MPRB hired golf course architect, Kari Haug, to design the proposed golf course for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. At the end of the process the Golf Course architect issued a statement that the "footprint" of the 9-hole golf course that appears in the Master Plan document was not done by her. A public data request was issued to the MPRB, asking who created the design shown in the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan document. Their response was that it was done by MPRB staff and other contractors.

The following is the text of the public data response.

From: Data Request <datarequest@minneapolisparcs.org>

Sent: Aug 30, 2022 1:22 PM

To: Kathryn Kelly

Subject: RE: Data Request 2022-070

Dear Requestor,

Your data request is complete. Please be advised that the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act requires that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board provide to persons who make requests for data all public data responsive to the request but does not require the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to create responsive data that does not already exist.

Responsive data below –

“Kari Haug worked as the project’s golf course architect, conducting existing landscape and golf course assessments, photo documentation of the existing course, a safety assessment of the existing course, several iterations of conceptual hole layouts including 9, reversible 9, and 18 holes, and the layouts of the three official concept plans that were presented in March of 2019. After the conceptual work, and upon hearing several specific golf course design questions from the public, the design team and MPRB staff shifted from displaying the higher level of detail shown in the three concepts to only showing tees and fairways/greens in the preferred and final plan layout graphics.

The first three concepts showed too great of detail, including all tee boxes, sand traps, and green shapes. To achieve a greater level of flexibility, the final master plan only shows the general shapes where holes may lie in a future design. Ms. Haug’s services were not required for the final plan graphics; the design team along with MPRB staff crafted the golf course areas shown in the final plan. As with all spaces and features shown on the master plan, they are not yet fully designed, only conceptualized. Master planning is diagrammatic by nature; spaces could shift, shrink, grow, or move slightly as the design advances in subsequent design and engineering efforts.”

“The consulting team and MPRB staff collaborated on the master plan’s layout, which included space allocated to a golf course, without Ms. Haug’s firm’s direct assistance. Master planning is an iterative process that is developed over time, so her company is listed as a project team member. Specific to the final layout of the whole site, including the space allocated for the golf course, Barr Engineering and Berger Partnership are the project’s lead consultant designers, and Tyler Pederson, a MRPB Design Project Manager, was the day-to-day lead along with the Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Michael Schroeder, as a reviewer.”

**If you would like to speak with someone regarding the golf course layout, please contact tpederson@minneapolisparcs.org.*

Data Requested

I have spoken to Kari Haug who was hired by the MPRB to create the golf course design for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. She has told me that the final 9-hole design shown in the

Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan document was not her design. This public data request is requesting the name of the person or persons who produced the final 9-hole golf course design that is shown in the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan.

Data Requests

2117 West River Road | Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227

612.230.6400

In rereading the response, there is, at least, one blatant lie in the Park Board's response.

They say, "Kari Haug worked as the project's golf course architect, conducting existing landscape and golf course assessments, photo documentation of the existing course, a safety assessment of the existing course, several iterations of conceptual hole layouts including 9, reversable 9, and 18 holes, and the layouts of the three official concept plans that were presented in March of 2019."

Concept 1 of the three official concept plans was for a 4-hole golf course. Not only did it not abide by the Park Board's Resolution which required a minimum of 9 holes, but when the people attending the meeting became very upset about this betrayal, Kari Haug (the project's golf course architect) stood up and said, "I have to defend myself here. I did not design this 4-hole golf course, and I would never design a 4-hole golf course."

8.2.6 The effect on 2 cherished parks.

The proposal appears to eliminate or make unsafe two small park areas at E. 44th St. and Longfellow Ave. S. and 19th Ave. S. and E. 43rd St. that are cherished by the neighborhood. This is where the proposed golf course would be built. The park at E. 43rd St. and 19th Ave. S. appears to be part of the proposed 9-hole golf course. It appears the other park at E. 44th St. and Longfellow Ave. S. would be encroached on by the 9-hole plan, likely making it unsafe for use because of flying golf balls. It also appears to bring the golf course closer to the homes, endangering them.

Also, these are the 2 small parks that the MPRB asked to have excluded from the defined

historical site in the Historical Designation just approved by the Minnesota Historical Commission because they are currently outside of the golf course fence line. (5) But, it seems likely that these areas would be absorbed into the proposed 9-hole golf course.

A currently funded project for a bike and pedestrian trail around the golf course also affects these parks, with the trails likely running right through these parks. This trail is supposed to be designed and built in 2023-2024. Will these trails be built and then torn up later? The MPRB has stated that the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan may affect the plan for this trail.

8.2.7 Only high-value items (tees and greens) will need to be elevated on the new golf course.

At an April, 2022 MPRB Board Meeting one of the new commissioners asked how the MPRB would keep the proposed golf course dry since the current golf course property is below the lake level of Lake Hiawatha. Assistant Superintendent of Planning Michael Schroeder stated that high-value items would be elevated on the proposed 9-hole golf course.

This was a ludicrous statement because high value items on a golf course are generally considered to be tees and greens. This would create a golf course of tees and greens surrounded by water, that is, a golf course with no fairways or rough. The following diagram shows the high-value items (tees and greens) in red, and the area of the property that would need to be elevated which is circumscribed in blue on the proposed 9-hole golf course.



So, the above layout shown in the Master Plan would not be viable under Mr. Schroeder's criteria. Only par 3 holes would be eligible for this golf course, because the golf holes would need to be short enough such that golfers could reach the green from the tee (which is a par 3). Thus, you will have a par 3 golf course surrounded by water with boats or narrow raised paths to get between tees and greens. And, no one will play the golf course because it would cause too much frustration and cost due to lost golf balls, not to mention the thousands of golf balls that would end up in the lake. In fact, the first two 9-hole concepts presented by the MPRB Planning Group were surrounded by so much water, a CAC member said that he was a hacker and he wouldn't even play that golf course.

Now, the MPRB says, "Although the course will remain in the floodplain of Minnehaha Creek, it will be designed to be more flood-resilient; improving drainage, elevating all golf play spaces above the normal water levels on Lake Hiawatha, and elevating critical features above the 10%-annual chance flood elevation."(7)

Almost all of the current golf course is below the level of the lake and is protected by a berm; some areas are at least 5 feet below the normal high water level of the lake. The proposed golf course would require half of the property (9 holes) to be elevated above the lake level. What height is needed to keep fairways from flooding? Some areas would likely need to be elevated by at least 7 feet. This would require a massive filling in of this flood plain! Where is all of the water now going in a massive rainfall? Into the basements of the neighboring homes? (7)

Either the MPRB must change this plan to create a protective berm around the 9-hole golf course and implement pumping, or they will have to elevate the whole 9-hole golf course using tons of fill.

8.2.8 Effect on flood plain

Susan Du stated that "The Park Board passed a \$43 million plan last fall to reconstruct Hiawatha as a nine-hole course on the upper elevations of the property while channeling storm water to flow more naturally throughout." (6 -Star-Tribune, Hiawatha Site Up For Historic Registry, February 8, 2023) This statement is not true. The actual golf course property has very little land that can be considered "upper elevations". Also, according to the MPRB this new golf course is supposed to be "flood resilient" and will be less impacted by flooding and will recover more quickly (5).

Our understanding is that there will not be a berm to protect this new golf course. This means that the whole golf course needs to be elevated above the level of the lake, most likely to, at least, the level of the current berm which is 815.7 feet. Or, 2-4 feet above High normal which would be 816-818 feet. This would require a massive amount of permanent fill (dirt) in this flood plain to raise this 9-hole golf course ABOVE the high normal lake level (814 feet), massively reconstructing this flood plain.

Much of the proposed 9-hole golf course footprint is shown to be built on some of the lowest

parts of the current golf course property, in some areas up to 5 feet below the high normal of 814.2 feet.

How far above the normal lake level does the golf course need to be? We are not sure, but we might guess a minimum level would need to be 4-6 feet. This would require 7-9 feet of fill in the lowest parts of the proposed golf course.

Across the street from homes on the northwest side of the golf course, the elevation of the current golf course is 809 to 810 feet . The elevation of the street at E. 44th St. and 19th Ave. S. where the new 5th tee would be is measured at 817-818 feet. So this property across the street from these homes, where the 5th hole of the new golf course will be, would need to be elevated by adding maybe 6-8 feet of fill. This would be a massive reconstruction of the property with totally unknown consequences to the neighboring low-lying homes. Massive amounts of fill in that area would have the potential of blocking or rerouting all of the natural drainage that currently goes into the golf course from the neighborhood. Right now everything goes downhill by gravity from the homes into the golf course. What will happen when the property is filled in with dirt? Where will the water from this neighborhood go then?

In the same article Susan Du said, "There would be only enough room for a nine-hole course." (6) That is by choice, not by necessity. The Park Board originally wanted to eliminate the golf course altogether. LaTrisha Vetaw got an amendment passed to require A MINIMUM of 9-holes on the property. The Planning Department has CHOSEN to only include 9 holes.

8.2.9 Where will the fill come from?

Another question is, "Where would this fill come from?" One supporter of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan stated that the MPRB would dredge half of the 18-hole golf course and place this dredged fill on the other half to build up the new 9-hole golf course. So, the other half of the current golf course would be totally reconstructed also. Maybe you can ask the MPRB Planning Group if this is their plan. I was told by a civil engineer that the dredged soil would be an unacceptable type of fill for this use. See the diagram above that shows the property that would need to be elevated to create this proposed 9-hole golf course.

8.2.10 Pollution uncovered in massive excavation of property?

What pollution will be uncovered/disturbed in the massive excavation of this property to create

an elevated 9-hole golf course?

8.2.11 Fate of wells on property?

See Section 5.5.

8.2.12 Safety and Playability

The MPRB proposes putting trails for the general public through the golf course. This is a potential safety hazard for pedestrians and bikers, and would put the golfers at risk of being sued by non-golfers that are hit by golf balls. Proposals to put up nets to protect these pedestrians are questionable. Also, the entrance and exit for kayakers to the rental building runs between two golf holes which is also very dangerous.

And, this proposed layout does not look safe for golfers either. A least one pathway between holes 4 and 5 puts golfers between water and other players hitting balls in their direction which is extremely dangerous.

The 9-hole layout has at least one place where the distance from a green to the next tee appears to be almost half a mile.

Tyler Pederson told the Metropolitan Council on February 2, 2023 that the 9-hole golf course was designed to have more edges to the golf course that abut the water for habitat. The problem with this is it will make the golf course less playable (the more water, the less people want to play a golf course), and this will increase the number of lost golf balls in the water (more pollution). So, this type of design is less desirable if you want a viable golf course that people will want to play, especially beginners which seems to be the target audience for this proposed 9-hole golf course.

8.3 18 Holes versus 9 Holes, what's the difference?

A member of the Open Space and Parks Commission at the Metropolitan Council asked why all of the controversy over a 9-hole golf course versus an 18-hole golf course. The answer by a member of the Commission didn't give voice to the real reasons. There are at least 2 parts to

this issue: the difference between the current 18-hole golf course and the proposed 9-hole golf course, and the historic and current day significance of the Hiawatha Golf Course to the Black community.

8.3.1 The difference between the golf courses.

Many questions have arisen about why a 9-hole golf course is not a reasonable substitute for the 18-hole golf course.

There are different types of golf courses, and they cater to different types of golfers. Excluding Putt-Putt golf courses, you generally see the following types of golf courses based on the length of the golf course:

- Par 3 - A par 3 golf course has only par 3 holes, meaning that a golfer should be able to hit all greens with one golf shot. These golf courses, generally, cater to beginners, children, seniors, and casual golfers.
- Executive - An executive golf course has par 3, par 4 and short par 5 holes. Nine-hole executive level golf courses are 2600 yards in length or less, and are generally, more compact. These golf courses, generally, cater to the same golfers as a Par 3 golf course. Most executive level golf courses are 9 holes.
- Regulation - A regulation golf course has par 3, par 4, par 5 and, sometimes, par 6 holes. Nine-hole regulation golf courses are greater than 2600 yards in length; 18-hole regulation golf courses are greater than 5200 yards. A regulation golf course can be either 9 or 18 holes, and caters to all levels of golfers.

The MPRB has stated that the proposed 9-hole golf course would be an 9-hole executive level golf course. They have also stated that it will be a "championship" level golf course. Executive golf courses are not considered championship level golf courses, so the use of that word was only meant to deceive people.

So, why do so many people find the proposed 9-hole golf course unacceptable? As stated above, executive level golf courses are short in length (therefore, not challenging) and they are of low interest to the majority of golfers. Most golfers will go elsewhere. It is like asking a baseball player to play TEE-ball.

The current 18-hole golf course is considered a Championship level 18-hole golf course. This is

mainly due to the length of the golf course, and to some degree, the difficulty of the golf course. 18-hole golf courses can cater to all levels of golfers due to having multiple sets of tees to provide shorter or longer lengths to the holes for different levels of golfers.

8.3.2 The significance of Hiawatha Golf Course to the Black community.

The Black community in Minneapolis and St. Paul has been playing golf at Hiawatha Golf Course since it opened in 1934. It was the first MPRB golf course to formally end discrimination against Black golfers in 1952. And, it has served the Black community in South Minneapolis for decades. It hosted the Bronze Tournament in its heyday through the 1970's into the 1990's. As Harry Davis, Jr. has stated, it is an historic Black institution in the City of Minneapolis that is beloved by the black community. In the past, the black community has seen their neighborhoods disappear for freeways like the Rondo neighborhood in St. Paul and the 1st Avenue S. neighborhood in Minneapolis. The destruction of this full-service golf course in South Minneapolis is another slap in the face, especially since 6 white MPRB commissioners voted to approve this downgrade after 3 black and 2 white commissioners voted against the downgrade. Adding insult to injury is that the black community knows that the reasons given for this downgrade are disingenuous at best.

9.0 Other Amenities

Throughout this process other proposed amenities have come and gone. Many people have pointed out that many of the proposed amenities already exist at Lake Hiawatha (fishing dock, ice skating....) or at Lake Nokomis (boat rentals, restaurant,bike trails,...) so why does the MPRB want to take away a unique amenity, the 18-hole golf course, that is the only one in the neighborhood.

At the Parks and Open Space Committee meeting for the Metropolitan Council there was discussion about why this plan is even before the Metropolitan Council because it is for a golf course, an Enterprise facility item that should not receive funds through the Metropolitan Council.

Tyler Pederson, the project manager for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, stated that it would include other general park features, so it could qualify for "some" funds through the Metropolitan Council.

There were several things wrong with Tyler's statement regarding the General Fund features. Some of these General Fund items are duplicates of features already in the Nokomis-Hiawatha Parks, some can be built elsewhere in the park, some are too dangerous to be built within the golf course property and the sheer quantity of buildings to be built on this property is totally unrealistic.

We can categorize the features that are promised as follows:

9.1 Enterprise Fund items.

- 9-hole golf course
- Cross-Country skiing - The available land for cross country skiing will be cut in half with the new plan
- Cross-country ski stadium area - Where would this be and would it be a building?
- Snowmaking system - This is proposed to be built right across the street from homes and a brand new 5-story apartment building, and has been a point of contention with homeowners in the neighborhood due to potential noise pollution. This would likely

violate laws regarding excessive noise, and thus it could never be built in the proposed area.

- New golf clubhouse (pro shop) - One already exists. But, a golf specific building may not be built due to the number of buildings proposed on the very small clubhouse knoll.
- Main park building (Restaurant?) - This building has been called a restaurant all throughout this process, thus it would be an Enterprise Fund item. In the document submitted to the Metropolitan Council this building is now portrayed as a “park building.” Why? Is this to mislead the Metropolitan Council into thinking it is a General Fund amenity so the MPRB can get money from the Metropolitan Council? Lake Hiawatha already has a park building for this park on the east side of Lake Hiawatha. Also, there are 2 commercial restaurants, 2 coffee shops and an ice cream shop just a block away from this proposed restaurant, and an MPRB confectionary is just a few blocks away at Lake Nokomis. Why does this park need another restaurant? Plus, this may not be buildable due to the fact that the number of proposed buildings for this very small clubhouse knoll are not likely to fit.
- Expanded parking lot and outdoor patios with fire pits - It is unlikely that the small knoll can accommodate the three proposed buildings plus an expanded parking lot and a new patio. There just is not enough room, especially considering that the plan would bring the lake to the bottom of the knoll, requiring new lakeshore set-back requirements. Plus, the increase in traffic is unsustainable for this neighborhood.

9.2 General Fund amenities that duplicate existing ones, or that could be built outside of the current golf course.

- A fishing dock - This duplicates one that already exists on Lake Hiawatha that has been there for decades. They don't need another one just a few hundred yards away.
- Picnic area - This duplicates a large picnic area just a few hundred yards to the east of the golf course, and a small one by the golf course clubhouse. They don't need another one.
- Several canoe/kayak launches and racks - These already exist at Lake Nokomis and on the east side of Lake Hiawatha near the Hiawatha Park Building and beach outside of the golf course. Plus, the proposed launch near the golf course clubhouse would be unsafe at the proposed location due to its proximity with golfers and flying golf balls.

- Observation tower - It appears that this would be on the current 13th tee. They could build this right now on the unusable tennis courts that are in disrepair just about 30 feet from the 13th tee outside of the golf course.
- Partial closure of the golf course for other events - This could be done with the current 18-hole golf course today. Plus, closing just a few holes on a 9-hole golf course would likely mean the closing of the whole golf course since people would not pay to play 4-5 holes.

9.3 General Fund items that already exist today.

- Preserved parks on the northwest side of the site - These 2 parks already exist and are cherished by the residents. It is questionable whether they would remain since the proposed golf course layout appears to encroach on these parks. The proposed golf course would be much closer to one park such that the park would become too dangerous to use. Some golf balls already come into this park. The new plan would move the golf course even closer and just exacerbate the problem.
- Sledding area - People can already do this on the 18-hole golf course, so this is nothing new.
- ice skating loop on the expanded lake - Nobody skates on Lake Hiawatha now. Why would they do so in the future, especially considering it is a shallow lake with a high volume of water moving through it which makes it unsafe. Plus, there is already an ice skating rink on the northeast corner of the park (just outside of the golf course) which has been there for decades, and there is ice-skating at Lake Nokomis a few blocks from the south end of the golf course.

9.4 General Fund Items that are unlikely to be built.

- A looped trail around the lake [on the existing berm] - The memo to the Metropolitan Council states that "A loop trail around Lake Hiawatha is included in the plan amendment." (7) The MPRB is talking about the berm that protects the golf course from flooding. This is very questionable. When this process started in 2017 the MPRB and a DNR representative told the public that the berm was unstable and it could burst at any time and drown golfers. The DNR backed off this statement. Now, the MPRB proposes to keep this berm with water on both sides (making it less stable) and use it for a pedestrian path. This General Fund item is unlikely to be built because the berm might

actually become unstable with water on both sides.

9.5 General Fund items that are unsafe to build within/near the golf course.

- Lake house - This Lake House would be at the bottom of the clubhouse knoll and rent out kayaks and canoes. Ingress and egress would require people to paddle right between 2 golf holes which makes this a very dangerous location due to flying golf balls. Also, it would be built right next to the new lake edge which would require a variance because it would violate set-back requirements. It would, also, be at risk of flooding. This rental is already available at Lek Nokomis where general park users congregate today.
- Paved trails for bicycles and pedestrians, natural surface trails for pedestrians, bridges and/or boardwalks - Most of these trails would go right through the golf course property which is extremely dangerous due to flying golf balls. The MPRB admits that people would likely need to be protected by nets. These trails should not be mixed with golf, especially on a small piece of property like this one.
- Fat biking on groomed trails and Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha - This seems to be counter to the MPRB's statements that this property would be returned to nature. This item would be unsafe if done within the golf course footprint.

9.6 Are there any General Fund items in this plan that need funding?

When you really look at the proposed "new" General Fund amenities you see that many are duplicates of other amenities that already exist, or they can be built in the park area outside of the golf course, or they cannot or will never be built on the property. This is just a smoke-and-mirrors wish-list to try and get unwarranted public funds for this project from the Metropolitan Council. This property should not be included as a property that comes under the auspices of the Metropolitan Council or any other public entity that disburses taxpayer money. It needs to remain an ENTERPRISE ONLY property.

10.0 Cost

10.1 How much has already been spent for an idea / Concept?

As of August 20th of 2021, the MPRB had spent

\$893,995.59

for what the Planning Department has called "a concept." All of this money has come from the MPRB's Enterprise Fund, about half from golf course revenues and the other half from a development fund in the Enterprise Fund. (Source: Two MPRB Public Data Requests). This, while the golf course budget for Hiawatha Golf Course is minimal and the staff scrimps to maintain the golf course. Also, people in the neighborhood look in dismay at the lack of upkeep on the edges of the golf course (trees and bushes growing into the fences, lack of gardens, etc...). But, the shoestring budget does not provide for enough staff to maintain these items.

How much more money will the MPRB spend on this project?

10.2 A cost of \$80 million (2023 dollars)?

The memo to the Metropolitan Council says that \$43 million would be required in funding for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan; \$21 million would come from the MPRB's General fund and \$21 million would come from the Enterprise Fund. (7) Other documents state that the Master Plan would be \$42 million (-25% to +50%). So, it would be anywhere from \$31 million to \$63 million in 2019 dollars. With current inflation it could be as much as \$80 million in 2023 dollars (and growing).

Even with the stated figures from the MPRB, where are they going to get the money from the General Fund considering the hundreds of millions of dollars they are proposing for all of their other projects. And, the Enterprise Fund only nets 1-2 million dollars a year, so at the highest

figure of \$80 million, it would take the Enterprise Fund, at best, about 20 years to raise the necessary money to garner its half of the \$40 million required. There is no way that the MPRB is funding this project with their own money."

10.3 Existing amenities are falling apart!

The MPRB proposes spending tens of millions of dollars on a project that is so ill-defined and has much public opposition, all while they don't maintain the current amenities that they have. For example, tennis courts around Lake Hiawatha are in abysmal shape with the exception of one set of MPRB tennis courts that are maintained by a private tennis club through an arrangement with the MPRB. When those good courts are used by the tennis club, other residents have no decent place to play tennis.

Many people feel that the MPRB should take care of their existing amenities before spending tens of millions of dollars on a project like a new golf course.



Tennis Courts 2 blocks east of Lake Hiawatha at E. 46th St. and 30th Ave. S.
Is this a tennis court that you would patronize?

10.4 Taxpayer funds for a golf course?

The MPRB is looking for taxpayer funds to build this new facility. They say that this new facility will contain a mixture of General Fund and Enterprise Fund amenities, thus they should be able to obtain some money to support the General Fund items. As stated in Section 9.0, according to the documentation presented, it is unlikely that there will be any significant General Fund amenities on this property.

This also appears to be a potential quagmire for public agencies as to how to slice and dice this

property to only fund General Fund items and not fund Enterprise Fund items.

Considering all of the poor public engagement, the total lack of solid engineering, the many lies and misrepresentations about the need for this project, and the high potential cost of the project, this project should not receive any taxpayer funds or positive consideration from other public agencies.

11.0 Public Policy and Ethics

11.1 Barr assessment of Komor concept plan was a conflict of interest.

The Lehman/Komor/Bronze group presented a concept plan to the MPRB Board of Commissioners that would retain the 18-hole Hiawatha Golf Course and deal with water problems on the property. After the presentation, the MPRB had Barr Engineering do an assessment of the Lehman/Komor/Bronze plan. The resulting document was very negative towards the Lehman/Komor/Bronze plan. This assessment was a conflict of interest. If this project proceeds, Barr Engineering and the Lehman/Komor /Bronzegroup could be competitors for the contract to provide engineering services. Therefore, Barr Engineering should never have vetted another competitor's proposal, and their assessment is suspect.

Based on public data requests received from the MPRB, Barr Engineering has received a lot of money from work they have done on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. As of September 10, 2020, the MPRB had spent \$893,995.59. Of that amount, \$556,727.31 was paid to Barr Engineering (or 63% of the total expenditures). This shows why Barr Engineering should never have vetted a plan from another competitor.

11.2 Pitting groups against each other.

Throughout the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan process the MPRB has pitted different groups against each other.

11.2.1 Community members against community members.

At the end of an April 2017 public meeting, a resident of the community got up and stated in dismay, "This process is pitting members of the community against each other." This was at a meeting where 10-12 community members were seated at each table, and the participants were told to put down ideas (other than "18 hole golf course") for potential uses to the property.

11.2.2 Golfers vs non-golfers.

During the same April 2017 public meeting, a golfer and a non-golfer almost came to fisticuffs over a discussion about golf. At one point, the non-golfer said that he did not play golf, and his children would never play golf. Throughout the rest of this process, this tension between golfers and non-golfers has continued.

11.2.3 Blacks vs Native-Americans.

For the last couple of years, as the Black community has pushed for the saving of the 18-hole golf course, the MPRB has done little to nothing to try and defuse the pitting of Native-Americans against the Black community. Former Commissioner Londel French twice appeared before the MPRB and asked the Board to stop pitting minority groups against each other.

11.2.4 Compromise?

The MPRB's mantra for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan as a compromise misses the point of what a compromise really is. Both sides need to get something useful. You do not have compromise when the side that is currently giving up a full-service facility is getting something that is essentially useless to them in return, while the side that is getting something new is stating that the replacement facility will be better for the losing group. As someone famously said, it is like putting lipstick on a pig.

And, some people worry that this is a bait-and-switch by the MPRB to ultimately get rid of golf on the site. These people believe that the 18-hole golf course will eventually be closed, and the MPRB will never get the money or approvals to build the 9-hole golf course, and golf will be gone from the site.

11.3 The Votes, with the Last Vote violating Robert's Rules of Order?

First vote.

Before the first vote by the full board we believe that the proponents of the plan at the MPRB knew that the plan was at risk of being voted down. So, amendments were added, trying to throw bones to the Black community to get the Black commissioners to vote FOR the plan. One of the items was to rename the Hiawatha Golf Course after Solomon Hughes, Sr., a Black professional golfer. On April 7, 2021, the Ayes barely prevailed (4 Ayes, 3 Nays, 1 Abstention, 1 Absent), but the proponents on the Board were informed that the vote had failed because the City of Minneapolis charter required 6 Ayes to rename a piece of property. Therefore, the plan did not pass.

Second vote.

The Plan was brought up for a second vote on July 21, 2021. At this meeting, the renaming of the Hiawatha Golf Course Clubhouse was separated into a stand-alone resolution. We believe that this was done because the original addition of this item to the plan was not a heartfelt recognition of Solomon Hughes, Sr. and his contributions to the City of Minneapolis, but it was an attempt to garner the votes of the Black commissioners, in particular, LaTrisha Vetaw, who had abstained in the first vote. And, we believe that they didn't want to just drop it, because that would show the renaming for what it was, an attempt to garner votes. And, they knew that they could not get 6 votes. The renaming of the clubhouse passed on a 9-0 vote. The vote on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan failed on a 4 Ayes - 5 Nays vote. The plan went down again.

Dedication of the Solomon Huges clubhouse.

In August of 2022 the MPRB was ready to formally rename the Hiawatha Golf Course Clubhouse to the Solomon Hughes, Sr. Clubhouse. But, they apparently didn't want to have a big crowd. The formal ceremony was not advertised by the MPRB, not even through their E-mail notification system. It was "Invitation Only." We believe that this was because they did not want to honor Solomon Hughes in August and then vote to destroy this same clubhouse in the following month of September when they voted on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan for

the third time.

Third vote.

In 2022, the MPRB had a new set of Commissioners, and the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan was revived. In April of 2022, the vote to move the plan out of the Planning Committee failed. One of the Commissioners on the Planning Committee voted No because she wanted more time to understand the plan.

In August of 2022, the Planning Committee again voted to move the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan to a full board vote, and succeeded.

On September 7, 2022, the full MPRB board finally passed the proposal with 6 Ayes and 3 Nays. But, this was not without another controversy. An outstanding question was whether the Board had violated Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order states that an item can be reconsidered ONCE. That happened on July 21, 2021, and the plan was voted down. To reconsider an item twice it must be "materially" different, which means it has substantial differences from the last vote. We do not see any substantial differences in the plan from the first reconsideration to the second reconsideration. So, it is questionable whether this vote was even legal by Robert's Rules of Order.

11.4 Abene complaint against Komor - Dismissed

Andy Komor, a Vice President and Professional Engineer with Pace Engineering in California is a water quality specialist, designer, and engineering manager for reservoirs, treatment plants, desalination systems, and other interesting and unique water-related infrastructure projects in California, Arizona, New Orleans, and beyond.

Mr. Komor read a story about Hiawatha Golf Course and the water issues with it, and realized that his background as a civil engineer working on similar projects was a good fit for him to design a concept solution, which he did. Mr. Komor grew up in Minnesota and golfed at Minneapolis golf courses including Hiawatha.

So, Mr. Komor worked with the Lehman Group and the Bronze Foundation, putting together a concept for the Hiawatha Park property that would retain the 18 hole golf course and deal with the water issues.

Meg Forney allowed the Lehman/Komor /Bronze group to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners. During the presentation, Commissioner Abene asked Mr. Komor if he was licensed to do business in Minnesota as a Professional Engineer. (He is licensed in California). Mr. Komor replied that he was appearing on his own behalf as a citizen. And, he had checked with his legal counsel who told him there was no problem with this.

Prior to the presentation to the Commissioners, Mr. Komor had applied for a license to work in Minnesota, and it was in progress. But, the MPRB filed a complaint against Mr. Komor with the Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID which regulates architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, geoscience and interior design professionals in the State of Minnesota. The complaint was dismissed. Mr. Komor is now licensed to work in the State of Minnesota.

11.5 President Meg Forney appointed herself to the Planning Committee for one night.

A MPRB Commissioner who was a proponent of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan was absent from the scheduled vote to move the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan out of the Planning Committee in August of 2022. The absence of this member may have resulted in a 2-2 tie in the vote to move the Plan to a vote by the full MPRB Board, thus preventing the Plan from moving on. So, President Meg Forney appointed herself to the Planning Committee at the beginning of the Board meeting for that night. Doing this allowed her to vote for the passage of the Plan out of the Planning Committee. While it appeared that this was within her rights as President of the Board, it was considered by many to be just another manipulation by the proponents of the plan to get it approved.

12.0 Conclusion

12.1 What problems does this plan solve?

We have not found any problems that this plan addresses and solves. If anything, this plan presents a huge risk of making existing problems worse, and introducing new problems. These problems are mainly from the reconstructing and filling in of the flood plain that is of immense importance for protecting the Lake Hiawatha community.

This plan also seems to be directed towards relieving other communities in the watershed of their responsibility for helping to solve the water problems (quality and quantity), especially with impending climate change. It continues to treat Lake Hiawatha and Hiawatha Park and Golf Course as the "toilet bowl" for the watershed.

And, then there is Minnehaha Creek. Retired Representative Jean Wagenius called Minnehaha Creek an open storm sewer. The 2014 flood ripped up Minnehaha Creek, and FEMA money paid to have the banks of the creek restored. This is a perfect example of how the creek is overburdened with water, that is, Mother Nature is trying to widen the creek to handle all of the water that is inundating the creek. That is the problem that needs to be solved rather than trying to make Lake Hiawatha a bigger repository for all of this.

Any money allocated should be for solutions that UNBURDEN the Lake Hiawatha community!

12.2 What Is the point of the project?

We see no point in pursuing the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan. It destroys a heavily used, unique community resource, the Hiawatha 18-hole golf course, that serves a widely diverse community. The historic aspects of this institution are also deserving of preservation.

Any government agencies that are looking to be involved in this project need to ask MPRB Commissioner Musich and MRPB Assistant Superintendent of Planning Schroeder why they continue to pursue this project over so many objections from the community and from other politicians, and especially after it was twice voted down by the previous MPRB Board of

Commissioners. This project is a massive folly of the highest order.

12.3 Questionable Level of Support for the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan?

Regarding the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, shouldn't you ask yourself why?

- Of the 18 MPRB Commissioners who have voted on the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan, 8 voted AGAINST the plan.
- ALL of the Black MPRB Commissioners voted against the plan.
- Mayor Frey of Minneapolis would not endorse the plan.
- Minneapolis City Council Member, LaTrish Vetaw, does not support the plan.
- The Star-Tribune Editorial Department came out against the plan.
- The Cultural Landscape Foundation opposes the plan, putting Hiawatha Golf Club on their Landslide list. <https://www.tclf.org/>
- SaveHiawatha18, a group of patrons and neighbors of Hiawatha Golf Club, opposes the plan. <http://www.savehiawatha18.com>
- The Bronze Foundation opposes the plan. <https://bronzefoundation.org/>
- The Coalition of 100 African-Americans opposes the plan.

Also,

- The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Committee approved the nomination for listing the 18-Hole Hiawatha Golf Club on the National Register of Historic Places (January 17, 2023).
- The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Commission approved the nomination for listing the 18-Hole Hiawatha Golf Club on the National Register of Historic Places (February 23, 2023).
- The National Park Service added Hiawatha Golf Club and Clubhouse to the National Register of Historic Places (April, 2023).
- The Hiawatha Golf Course and Clubhouse are included in the Grand Rounds nomination for listing on the National List of Historic Places.

APPENDIX 1 - Application of Barr Assessment Criteria of Bronze-Lehman (Alternative 6) Plan to the MPRB's Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan.

by Kathryn Kelly

Much has been made of the Barr assessment of the Bronze-Lehman Plan; in other words, how Barr tore apart the plan as not feasible or too vague. So, I used the assessment criteria of the Bronze-Lehman plan to make an assessment of the Park Board's Master Plan. Here it is:

Page 1: Regarding construction of berms, the report says that there are no cross-section details of berm and no potential geotechnical issues related to constructing the berm on the lake bottom.

The Park Board Master Plan retains the existing berm for a pathway around the lake. Originally, the Planning Group said that the berm was unstable and could break at any time and drown golfers. Now, it is part of their plan, yet there are no details in the plan that show "cross-section details of berm and any potential geotechnical issues related to retaining the berm on the lake bottom" with water on both sides of it.

Page 1: The report says that there are no methods to reduce seepage through the berm.

The Park Board Master Plan does not state the methods that they will use to keep their berm from disintegrating with water on both sides.

Page 1: The report says that there are no dimensions or elevations provided for the north channel.

The Park Board Master Plan has not provided a grading analysis that guarantees that the water flowing from their proposed, daylighted pipe at 43rd St. and 19th Ave. will flow in the right direction, that is, away from the homes. This lack of specifics is stated in a 2017 Barr Engineering report.

Page 1: The report says that there are no details about methods to reduce trash collection and

floc addition.

The Park Board Master Plan does not provide any details about methods to reduce trash collection either. And, it does not even mention or consider phosphorus mitigation by the use of floc, a standard method today to eliminate phosphorus from water. It is currently being done by Richfield to clean water flowing into Lake Nokomis.

Page 2: The report says that there are no details about the "toe drains".

The Park Board Master Plan does not provide any details about the drain tiles/pumping of water from 44th St. and 19th Ave. that currently drains into the golf course ponds.

Page 2: The report says that there are no details provided related to golf course improvements.

The Park Board Master Plan does not provide any details about the 9-hole golf course and how it will be constructed to not flood in a flood plain.

Page 3: The report says that there are no details provided related to golf course improvements.

The Park Board Master Plan does not provide any details about the 9-hole golf course and how this it will be constructed to not flood in a flood plain.

Page 3: The report says "Minnesota Rules explicitly prohibit the placement of fill in MnDNR public waters for the creation of upland area. The construction of the berms throughout Lake Hiawatha would result in significant fill within a public water for the creation of upland area."

The Park Board plan would require tons of fill to elevate the 9-hole golf course (half the current golf course property) above the level the of the lake. This amount of fill would be so much more than the fill required for the berms under the Bronze plan. So, under this stated criteria, if the Bronze plan would not be permitted, then the Park Board plan certainly wouldn't be permitted under Minnesota State law.

Page 3-4: The report says "Both the MnDNR and the MCWD have rules that explicitly prohibit the placement of fill in mapped floodplains without the creation of compensatory storage. At

the magnitude of the fill proposed by the construction of the berms and improvements to the golf course outlined in Alternative 6, it is unlikely that the project will be able to demonstrate that it can develop the required compensatory storage."

Again, the Park Board plan would require tons of fill to elevate the 9-hole golf course (half the current golf course property) above the level of the lake. This amount of fill would be so much more than the fill required for the berms under the Bronze plan. So, under this stated criteria, if the Bronze plan would not be able to develop the compensatory storage, then the Park Board plan certainly wouldn't be able to develop even more compensatory storage. And, the 18-hole golf course enhancements are no less vague than those for the 9-hole golf course. We have been told by whoever runs the Facebook page, HiawathaMPLS, that the Park Board Master Plan would dredge out part of the golf course and use the fill to elevate the new 9-hole golf course, thus offsetting the need for compensatory storage. This concept would, possibly, not change the "total" flood storage, but it would change the "available" flood storage. The golf course's currently available flood storage, which is below the current level of the lake, would now permanently be taken up by water and fill, and would be unavailable for a catastrophic flood. So, the Park Board's plan is unlikely to be permitted.

Page 4: The report says "With the reduction in the overall floodplain storage volume and the disconnection and channelization of Minnehaha Creek and the north channel, the project will not be able to demonstrate it meets a no rise condition."

The Park Board plan would reduce the overall flood plain storage by elevating the 9-hole golf course and increasing the level of the lake. The Park Board plan has given no information about how it will meet this "no rise" condition. The Bronze plan would actually lower the level of the lake to provide overflow storage. This is not true of the Park Board plan. Plus, we need to be clear about the fact that the Park Board plan, while not reducing total water volume in the flood plain, does reduce available flood plain storage by permanently using flood plain storage for water all year long that is not used today (that is, the flood storage currently available on the "dry" golf course.)

Page 4: The report says "During this interim period, the MPRB secured a temporary dewatering permit from the MnDNR with the understanding that the MPRB was pursuing a plan to reduce pumping at the Hiawatha Golf Course and primarily limit pumping for the protection of homes in the surrounding area but not the dewatering of the golf course."

The above statement is untrue. The MnDNR has stated that they have no defined level of pumping that they will allow or not allow. They have publicly disavowed the above statement. They are waiting for a plan from the MPRB and they will review it once it is received. Also, as far as the permit being temporary, the actual permit does not have an end date; for "Expiration Date" it says "Long-Term Appropriation", in other words, there is no expiration date at this time.

Page 4: The report says "It is unclear if the MnDNR will grant an appropriations permit for permanent (long-term) dewatering at existing rates."

The statement is actually correct. The MnDNR has not taken any stance on whether they will or will not approve any particular level of pumping.

Page 4: The report says "With Alternative 6, the impacts to wetland would be significant and would likely require the purchase of wetland bank credits to offset impacts which can come at a significant cost (\$80,000 to \$120,000/acre is not uncommon in the Twin Cities area) within this area/watershed. Depending on the wetland impact area, there may not be enough wetlands credits available within the local area/Minnehaha Creek watershed which could result in a higher mitigation ratio and cost (3:1 or 4:1 for wetland bank credits to wetland impact area.)"

This statement does not make any sense to me. Under the Bronze plan the golf course would still be a golf course, and some parkland would be changed to wetland, that is, the new channels. The lake would continue to be the same, just at a lower elevation. So, how are you losing wetland area? I don't get it.

Page 4: The report says: For comparison, the concept from the master plan would result in the creation of significantly more wetland area than impacted and mentioned the potential to pursue the creation of a wetland bank which could generate revenue.

The name of the MPRB represents Parks and Recreation, not Parks and Wetlands. We seem to be forgetting that we want recreation in the City of Minneapolis. Instead, the above statement is saying that making money by allowing developers and others to dump their water in the Lake Hiawatha neighborhood is more important than recreation. When did the Park Board turn into a money making entity at the expense of their citizens?

Page 5: The report says "Projects requiring federal (USACE) permits or federal funding will

need to meet Section 106 requirements. The claim with Alternative 6 is that it will preserve the cultural landscape of Hiawatha Golf Course by keeping the course 18-holes. However, the proposal may include significant changes to the current course's design, layout, and feel compared to the original layout."

The changes to the 18-hole golf course are nothing compared to changing it to a sub-standard "executive" 9-hole golf course. So, the concerns about meeting Section 106 requirements are even more of a concern with the Park Board's Master Plan.

Page 5: The report says "Alternative 6 will significantly alter the size, shape, and appearance of Lake Hiawatha which is also very likely to be considered part of the historic cultural landscape."

The changes in the Park Board plan would alter the size, shape and appearance of Lake Hiawatha at least as much, if not more, than Alternative 6.

Page 5: The report says "There was no acknowledgement of the Dakota community and its history during the presentation of Alternative 6."

This can be added to the Alternative Plan 6.

Page 5: The report says that water will seep through the berms in the Bronze Plan under certain conditions.

Barr stated that the channel can be lined to inhibit seepage. Plus, what is going to keep the berm in the Park Board Master Plan from seepage and disintegration?

Page 5: The report says "there is mention of reconfiguring/raising the golf course, but no details have been provided."

The Park Board Master Plan proposes a 9-hole golf course that will not be protected from flooding by a berm which will require adding tons of fill to the property, but the plan gives no details as to how this will be accomplished.

Page 6: The report says, "with regards to the impact of lowering Lake Hiawatha to 810.0 ft MSL, as part of the 2017 assessment, a groundwater modeling scenario was run with Lake

Hiawatha at 810.3 ft MSL and the reduction in pumping was limited (30% lower than for existing conditions) but was still a very significant rate due to the regional groundwater inflows and ongoing seepage with the lake being higher than the lowest areas of the golf course.

Since when is a 30% reduction not a substantial reduction that should be considered? And, if it is not enough, maybe it is time for the City of Minneapolis to stop dumping water on Hiawatha Golf Course and into Lake Hiawatha. Instead, the city should build appropriate storm sewers to handle the water instead of continuing to damage Hiawatha Golf Course, Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek.

Page 6: The report says "Although limited technical information related to the proposed toe drain system was provided, it is likely that the toe drain will collect and pump significant amounts of water (potentially similar to the existing ponds and pump system), and likely more than was indicated during the Bronze Foundation's presentation. Additionally, when there are flood flows in Minnehaha Creek and water spills over the berm into Lake Hiawatha, raising it to elevation 815.0 or above for a potentially long duration, it will increase head and in turn increase seepage to any toe drain and this collection system will need to be sized accordingly."

Some of this just begs the question of why we are trying to handle all of this water in Lake Hiawatha. It is obvious that this lake and golf course are being abused by the whole watershed. The Komor plan, at least, tries to address the problem of too much water being dumped into this park by lowering the level of the lake back to what it used to be, and providing more "available" flood storage for a catastrophic event. The Park Board's Master Plan does nothing to provide more "available" flood storage for a catastrophic event. In fact, the Park Board's plan would take away "available" flood storage for a catastrophic event.

One concept that needs to be addressed (about which I went around and around with the Planning Group) has to do with "total" flood storage versus "available" flood storage. Mr. Schroeder will talk about "total" flood storage which is the total capacity to hold water at a particular elevation in the whole lake. I talk about "available" (unused) flood storage, which is the total capacity of storage that is unused, meaning it is available to take on water during a catastrophic event. The "available" flood storage is what is important to homeowners, not "total" flood storage. The Komor plan would lower the lake level, creating more "available" (unused) flood storage. My understanding is that the Park Board's Master Plan would not lower the lake level. Yet, it would turn half of the golf course into part of the lake. Since the "golf

course" part of the lake would be connected to the old lake, the water level over half of the golf course would be the same as the level of the lake, meaning that half of the golf course area that is now "available" storage would become "permanently used" storage, thus reducing the amount of "available" storage in the park. This is what Schroeder won't tell you, and this is what is totally concerning to me. Plus, filling of the remaining floodplain with fill to create the new 9-hole golf course would further reduce the available flood storage because it would fill part of the "available" flood plain with dirt. Now, through Sean Connaughty's group I was told that the Park Board's plan is to create the elevated 9-hole golf course by using dredged spoils from other parts of the current golf course. This is exactly what Theodore Wirth did to create the 18-hole golf course, And, interestingly enough, the Planning Group and supporters of the Park Board's Master Plan have been continually crucifying Wirth for doing this. Now, they are planning to do the same thing! But, they claim that this will not lose flood storage. This is partly true. This plan may not lose the "total" flood storage capacity, but it will lose some of the "available" flood storage capacity because of 2 factors. 1) The lake level will not change, so the newly created area from dredging will be permanently lower than the lake level, and will be permanently filled with water (thus, less "available" storage). 2) Elevating the other parts of the golf course above their current levels would fill currently "available" flood storage with dirt, also reducing the currently "available" flood storage. Again, this could be catastrophic to at-risk homeowners in another 2014 flood. In the 1965, 1987 and 2014 floods, the water (which is now 4-5 blocks away) came within 50 feet of our homes. When they use up massive amounts of "available" flood storage, how much further into the neighborhoods is that water going to go?

Page 6: The report says "The toe drains would collect both lake water seepage (through and under the berm) and regional groundwater – similar to the existing system except that the toe drains will not likely be able to maintain the groundwater elevations beneath the golf course, as they currently are being maintained by pumping from the pond system. The ponds are a surface expression of the water table."

I don't currently have any comment on this.

Page 6: "As proposed, Alternative 6 will result in fill in FEMA-mapped floodplain."

This appears to be speculation on the part of Barr. And, as stated above, the Park Board's Master Plan will require massive amounts of fill to create the 9-hole golf course in a flood plain. How much fill? We don't know because the Planning Group has given no details.

Page 6: "As proposed, Alternative 6 will very likely have negative downstream impacts on Minnehaha Creek in the form of higher peak flows and higher flood elevations."

Both plans have to evacuate the same amount of water from Lake Hiawatha, and the outbound creek is the throttle (and the Park Board's plan does absolutely nothing to reduce this throttling of water). And we need to remember that the flow of water through the creek and into Lake Hiawatha is not free-flowing and changing based on precipitation; the level is highly controlled by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District by controlling the amount of water coming into the creek at Grey's Bay Dam and through the Nokomis weir. But, the Park Board and Barr fail to mention this. So, in my opinion, some of this talk about flow and bounce is rather a moot point. The most critical factor that I see is, How much "available" flood storage is there to protect the neighborhood and park from a catastrophic flood.

Page 6: "Alternative 6 essentially disconnects Minnehaha Creek and the north channel from the storage available in the lake until the creek bounces to elevation 815.0 ft MSL. This disconnection will increase peak discharges and bounce in the creek downstream of the lake for smaller, more frequent events which leads to concerns about downstream flooding, channel stability, and erosive impacts on the stream channel banks and stream bed."

Again, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District controls the amount of water coming into the creek at Grey's Bay Dam and through the Nokomis weir which controls downstream flooding. And, currently, Minnehaha Creek is being torn apart by the huge amounts of water that are discharged through it. The Park Board Master Plan does nothing to solve this problem either downstream or upstream. Plus, this really begs the question that SaveHiawatha18 has been asking all along. Why is all of this water being sent downstream to Lake Hiawatha just to tear up a lake and creek and neighborhood that can't handle it? When are public officials going to become serious about REALLY fixing this problem by determining that all cities in the watershed must bear their responsibility for the excess water, and start mitigating their contribution of water to Minnehaha Creek? I would say that any plan that tries to deal with this problem just at Lake Hiawatha is just dealing with the symptom's of the problem. And, again, with no changes upstream, all of the water has to go through the community downstream of Lake Hiawatha, so neither plan changes that reality.

Page 7: "Based on assessment of Minnehaha Creek flow data and long-term lake level data, there can be long periods with sustained flows of 150 cfs to well above 250 cfs that last for durations of weeks to months on Minnehaha Creek."

Actually, these flows do go through the rest of the narrow Minnehaha Creek, so why is it problematic to continue the creek at the same width while bypassing Lake Hiawatha? If the water can flow through the creek in the neighborhoods to the north of Lake Hiawatha, this water should be able to flow through the same size creek while bypassing Lake Hiawatha.

Page 7: "The FEMA-modeling used to establish the flood-plain elevation and mapping for Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek assumed the starting elevation of the lake was at 809.8 feet MSL, so from a flood elevation modeling standpoint, this is not 'new storage' that is available if Minnehaha Creek were lowered to elevation 810 ft MSL."

Again, they are talking "total" storage. It is true that this does not create more "total" storage, but it does create new "available" storage because this area will not be permanently filled with water. And, "available" storage is the most important criteria in a flood plain for flood events, not "total" storage.

Page 7: "The estimated footprint of the berms separating Minnehaha Creek and the north channel from the lake will be significant and will reduce the surface area of the lake for available flood storage by an estimated ~10-15%."

This statement needs clarification. Are they including in their calculations the area of the two channels that also hold water or just the resulting lake. The capacity of the channels to hold water needs to be included in their calculations to accurately determine the gain or loss of "available" flood capacity. Also, they should balance this against loss of flood plain capacity due to the new 9-hole golf course in the Park Board's plan.

Page 7: "When water does overflow the berm at elevation 815.0 ft MSL into Lake Hiawatha, the only way to draw the water levels down would be the proposed toe drain. This drawdown of water levels in Lake Hiawatha would be very slow, limited by the seepage rate into the toe drain."

How fast should this drawdown be considering that all of the submerged watershed is still

draining through Lake Hiawatha? It will be as fast or as slow as necessary to keep from flooding the neighborhoods in the outbound creek. And, the Park Board's plan has zero ability to control the amount of water going into the outbound creek from Lake Hiawatha. And let us remember that the 2014 storm was a result of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District losing control of the release of water at Grey's Bay Dam; it was not a problem of too much water at Lake Hiawatha. So, this, again, begs the question of how do we really solve this problem in a comprehensive way that stops the abuse of Minnehaha Creek, Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis.

Page 8: "The Alternative 6 concept provides limited water quality treatment volume for flows from Minnehaha Creek and the 1,000-acre watershed to the north. This system will be more of a narrow ditch system and will essentially be sending pollutants mostly untreated downstream to the lower portion of Minnehaha Creek and the Mississippi River."

I will ask the question; Why is Lake Hiawatha and the Hiawatha neighborhood being asked to clean up all of the pollution and trash from the whole watershed? Best practices say, "Mitigate at the source!!!" All communities should be CLEANING their water before they dump it into Minnehaha Creek!!!! Then, Lake Hiawatha would only need to be responsible for dealing with the nearby surface water that comes into the lake. Richfield has taken a step to reduce the phosphorus being sent to Lake Nokomis from their community. Let's move in that direction and require communities to clean their water before dumping it into Minnehaha Creek. Then, this "ditch system" will be sending much cleaner water downstream!

Page 8: "The concept mentions trash and floc addition to both Minnehaha Creek and the north channel."

The statements by Barr appear to be speculation as to how this will be done by Alternative 6. So, without details from the Bronze group, this paragraph doesn't really provide any vetting of Alternative 6.

Page 8: "Raising berms on the west side of the lake to prevent flooding of the golf course and construction of a berm between Minnehaha Creek and the Lake will impact areas of key existing habitat identified through the master planning process."

The berms are already there on the west side of the lake, so how is possibly increasing their elevation a little going to affect existing habitat? And, the delta is an accumulation of sand and

dirt and debris and pollution and trash that has built up over the last 15-20 years because the Park Board stopped dredging out this accumulation. How much pollution is actually there now? Just take a look at what is there and you will see the garbage dump that it is.

Page 8: "The Master Plan would result in the creation of more wetland area than impacted area, in essence recreating the historic Rice Lake, with the ability to create a wetland bank. "

The Master Plan does more to disrupt the historic topography than recreate it. Dredging of the golf course to create an even higher golf course landscape totally changes the topography of the property from the original landscape. And, does this neighborhood really want to be a wetland bank? According to Tyler Pederson, this means that developers can pay the Park Board to dump their water into Lake Hiawatha rather mitigating the water on their site as required by law. I do not want that to happen so that we can be the recipient of even more water and pollution. Leave our neighborhood out of this stupid plan!!!

Page 9: "Feedback heard in the master planning process was that the golf community valued Hiawatha as a place to learn to play golf, that was affordable, that was inclusive and allowed players of all levels of play, etc. This was reflected in the proposed master plan, which also opened areas of land for other types of users.

The proposed 9-hole golf course is not what was promised to the golf community. It has recently come out that it would be a sub-standard "executive" 9-hole golf course. This level of golf course serves a miniscule part of the golf community as is evidenced by the revenues at Fort Snelling Golf Course (an executive level golf course). It is like asking baseball players to go play TEE ball. The proposed 9-hole golf course is a bait and switch to golfers. And, I don't see any major areas of the property that will be opened up to other users; the Park Board Master Plan just provides a golf course and more water.

Page 9: "Based on our understanding of the concept, we would not expect the concept to be less than the master plan proposal and may even cost more."

This statement is pure speculation. And, it is coming from an organization that is also competing for hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue if they are awarded contracts to design and implement the Park Board's Master Plan. Do you really think that they would say the Alternative 6 is better and would cost less? This is a TOTAL conflict of interest!!!

Page 10: "These new berms [in Alternative 6] could be placing 20-40 feet of new material over soils that cannot hold these loads and may continue to have ongoing settlement issues."

The same could be said of the Park Board's plan of piling tons of dredged spoils and new dirt on parts of the existing golf course to create this new 9-hole golf course. And, the Park Board plan would likely pile much more dirt and soil onto parts of the golf course than that required for the berms with exactly the same potential consequences.

Page 10: "Alternative 6 appears to require reconstruction and reconfiguration of most of the existing golf course into a championship 18-hole golf course. There is likely significantly greater cost for these modifications when compared to the cost of the development of the 9-hole option identified in the proposed master plan."

This statement is just pure speculation. Without knowing what improvements would be proposed for the existing 18-hole golf course, Barr cannot back up this statement. And, the 18-hole golf course is already considered a championship level golf course. The cost all depends on what improvements would be proposed for it.

It is also interesting that a company that is vying to be hired to create the Park Board's plan, Barr Engineering, is hired by the Park Board to tear down the plan of another contractor vying for the work. This is a huge conflict of interest; no reputable agency would hire one contractor vying for the work to tear down the plan of another contractor vying for the work. They would hire a contractor that has no skin in the game to do an analysis of all proposals.

APPENDIX 2 - Excerpts from the Diamond Lake Management Plan - October 2009.

Pearl Park and Diamond Lake were created in the same manner as Hiawatha Park and Golf Course by dredging, filling and redirecting water. As you can see in the following excerpts, more and more land, and thus water, has been directed downstream into Lake Hiawatha. Why is it a surprise that Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha are suffering from too much water?

Page 3 - "Today land surrounding Diamond Lake is almost completely urbanized but the lake was once part of an interconnected series of lakes and wetlands that drained to Minnehaha Creek. By 1913 Diamond Lake Road had been constructed between Diamond Lake and Pearl Lake. By 1916 Pearl Lake and the east arm of Diamond Lake had become marshes. During dry years Diamond Lake temporarily went dry.

"In 1937 Pearl Lake was filled with excess dirt from the municipal airport, the south end being built up higher than the north to accommodate baseball fields. At that time Diamond Lake had no open water and was filled with cattails. Development of the storm sewer system in 1940 with drainage going into Diamond Lake resulted in dramatic fluctuations of the water levels in the lake in 1941 and 1942. In 1942 a drain pipe was laid underground from the northeast corner of Diamond Lake to Minnehaha Creek to relieve the large water fluctuations. In 1991 The MPRB sought and received a permit from the MN Department of Natural Resources to raise the level of the lake by setting a weir in the drain pipe between the lake and the creek."

p. 5 -
1937 - Diamond Lake is dredged. Dredge spoils are combined with excess material from MSP airport construction to fill Pearl Lake and a wetland east of Diamond Lake. The fill creates Pearl

Park and Todd Park. The Pearl Park drain is installed to prevent flooding in athletic fields.

1940 - The City of Minneapolis begins installing the storm sewer network

1941 - 800-acres of land drain to Diamond Lake through storm sewers.

1942 - The WPA begins project to control water elevations in Diamond Lake because of widely fluctuating water levels caused by stormwater influx. The WPA constructs the outlet to Minnehaha Creek at 820.1 msl. Pearl Park now drains to Minnehaha Creek.

1960's - Interstate 35W constructed. Hard surface area draining to Diamond Lake increases.

1980 - An MPRB draft management plan estimates the Diamond Lake watershed now estimated at 669 acres.

1991 - The MPRB reconstructs weir structure in WPA pipe, and sets outlet elevation to 822.0 msl.

2000 - The 60th Street and 1 st Ave Pond (Lake Mead) constructed to treat stormwater prior to discharge into Diamond Lake.

2005 - A MnDOT project on HWY 62/35W interchange begins. The project includes reconstruction of the large storm sewer outfall in the northwest corner of the wetland. The project will add water quality ponding to treat stormwater prior to discharge to the wetland.

p. 17 - 2009 calculations using ArcGIS and recent orthophotos by the MPRB estimated the area of Diamond

Lake to be approximately 50 acres. Observations from the MPRB sampling from the 1990's through the

present estimated the maximum depth at Diamond Lake from 1 to 6 feet depending on the season and

recent rainfall conditions. The MPRB sampling notes that much of Diamond Lake is less than 1 foot deep.

The wetland outlets north to Minnehaha Creek through a semi-elliptical clay pipe. The outlet elevation is

controlled by a weir located inside of the pipe upstream. The elevation of the weir is 822.0 feet msl.

Stormwater enters Diamond Lake at nine piped locations.

p. 21 - When the I35W/Hwy 62 project is completed the Diamond Lake watershed will increase to 963 acres

(just over 1.5 square miles). The final configuration of the project will change land use totals as shown in

Table 2. The amount of highway drainage will increase slightly compared to non-highway

drainage
(highway drainage increases 3%). (Barr, 2009)

APPENDIX 3 - Letter to the Minneapolis Board of Commissioners, April 4, 2018 Requesting Resolution Change to Allow Consideration of an 18-hole Golf Course.

To the Minneapolis Park Board of Commissioners,

I am formally requesting that the Minneapolis Park Board of Commissioners amend the title of Resolution 2017-243 to conform to the changes made to that resolution on October 4, 2017.

At the first Hiawatha Golf Course Community Advisory Committee meeting on March 28, 2018, the committee members were told that they could not consider "perpetuation of current uses" of the Hiawatha Golf Course property as stated in the CAC Charge of Resolution 2017-355. The reason given was because the Title of Resolution 2017-243 still references the "reduced pumping scenario" even though the language was struck out of the Resolved portion of Resolution 2017-243 on October 4, 2017.

In fact, the title of Resolution 2017-243 contains the exact language that was struck from the Resolved portion of the resolution on October 4, 2017.

This appears to be an omission by the previous Board of Commissioners, and needs to be rectified by the current Board of Commissioners so that the Hiawatha Golf Course CAC can fulfill its Charge as stated in Resolution 2017-355.

Please amend the title of Resolution 2017-243 before the next meeting of the Hiawatha Golf Course CAC on April 30, 2018.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Kelly
Hiawatha Golf Course CAC Committee member

SOURCES

- (1) Environmental Protection Agency - A Handbook of Constructed Wetlands**
- (2) Environmental Protection Agency Booklet - Constructed Wetlands Treatment of Municipal Wastewater**
- (3) QUESTIONS FROM THE MPRB COMMISSIONERS - The 2022 Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan Presentation - March 2, 2022. The Planning Department of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board gave a presentation to the Planning Committee on March 2, 2022 about the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan.**
- (4) MPRB Report: Feb. 2017 Barr Engineering Groundwater Report commissioned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)**
- (5) MPRB Draft Letter to the Minnesota Historic Commission Regarding the Nomination of Hiawatha Golf Course for listing on the List of National Historic Sites for its Black Cultural History**
- (6) Star-Tribune, Hiawatha Site Up For Historic Registry, February 8, 2023, by Susan Du**
- (7) Memo to the Metropolitan Council requesting the amendment of the Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan to the Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan. February 2, 2023.**
- (8) Hiawatha Golf Course. The Saving of an Institution, by SaveHiawatha18, published in 2019 https://www.savehiawatha18.com/commentary/WhitePaper/WhitePaper_SaveHiawathaGolfCourse_Final_1.pdf**
- (9) Hiawatha Golf Course Area Water Management Alternatives Assessment - Impact Assessment, July 2017**
- (10) Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - Golf Course Operational and Financial Consulting Review, Presenting a 10 Year Vision As of January 2, 2014, by Golf Convergence, Castle Rock, CO.**

**(11) Lake Nokomis Area Groundwater & Surface Water Evaluation, April 2022 - MCWD,
Stantec and University of Minnesota**

Revisions

March 11, 2023 – Section 2.3 – Removed duplicate sentences. – Section 6.1.2 - Some duplicate language removed. Added Section 12.3, Throughout – Fixed typographical errors.

March 17, 2023 – Updated Section 6.2.20 and Section 9.

March 19, 2023 – Updated Title Page, Section 6.2.28 – Added links to public survey results.

June 7, 2023 – Updated Section 1.3.1 and 7.9, fixed typographical errors.