

**Appendix B – Belle Park Golf Course
Post-Analysis Consultation Comments**

REVIEW OF SERVICES PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION
Wednesday, February 23rd, 2005
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour
'TRANSIT CHARTERS'
'CHILD/YOUTH RECREATION DAY CAMP PROGRAMS'
'BELLE PARK GOLF COURSE FACILITY''

Review of Services Task Force Members Present

Councillor Ed Smith, Chair
Councillor Beth Pater
Councillor Bittu George

Review of Services Project Team Members Present

Sheila Hickey, Director, Strategic Initiatives and Corporate Communications
Jeremy DaCosta, Project Manager
Sharon Fitch, Project Office Assistant
Laura Seiffert, Communications
Cheryl Mastantuono, Community Services
Bert Needham, Community Services
Kim Leonard, Planning & Development Services

Members of Council & Staff Present

Acting CAO Denis Leger
Malcolm Morris
Councillor Meers arrived for Belle Park

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

Belle Park Golf Course

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm
Approximately 27 members of the public present

The Chair introduced the members of the Review of Services Task Force and Project Team to the members of the public.
The Chair read the recommendations to the members of the public.

Delegations/Comments:

1. George Lepage
I have been golfing at Belle Park for a number of years. You say we were \$133,000 in the red in 2003. How much are we being subsidized? How much would we have to increase our fees to break even?
2. The \$133,000 is a lot less than what was reported at the first meeting, then it was in the range of \$200,000. Can you explain why it went down?
3. I find it hard to understand why we're quibbling about \$133,000 for a whole year when a rink was put in behind City Hall for 4 days of hockey and at what cost?
4. George Raime
If we raise the money, are you going to use that money to fix up Belle Park or use the money to fix Lake Ontario Park?
5. When do we expect to have answers? This polluting problem is not at the expense of the golfers, is it?

6. Charlie McDermott
The only problem I have is language. The talk of the City competing with the private sector sends out a negative message.
7. Kevin Cross
I have been a member over 30 years. I speak on behalf of all the seniors at our course which is the majority. I have never before seen a group of people congregate at 7 am each morning, coming by city transit, their own cars. The T's are clogged each and every day because they want to be – it's affordable. Increase the fees to breakeven. Our driving range is far inferior. But my main concern is the recent Supreme Court ruling on the City's environmental liability – its important because the conditions are not going to go away. You have to compare apples to apples, we're the worst. The staff do a tremendous job with what they have. You hear a bit of grumbling but not a lot. You're getting a great deal. It would be easy to make \$133,000 year after year. I've said there are lots of ways, ie. walk-ons – people who don't pay – have someone check at the greens to make sure people have paid. Simple business practices that could bring this course to a break even point. Belle Park would not be a hindrance to the taxpayers. The Ministry of the Environment want Belle Park to go away – cap it and plant trees and there's the native burial ground on Belle Island. I've been there 30 years and I've never heard of the natives getting into an uproar over the island. The SE end of the island, that's the bone of contention. Is the whole island a sacred burial ground? Cosmetically, if push comes to shove and they get the golf course off their island – that, with the MOE, where does that leave us? How much is the City going to fight for us? No secret that McBurney Park is a native burial ground and there's no problems there.
8. Vern Watters
Back to the \$133,000 – if we stop operating, would the City be up \$133,000? I think we're looking at the wrong figure. Let's find out what the correct figure is.
9. Ken Cross
I've been a member for 5 or 6 years. I too looked at the internet proposal. Its affordable golf for the golf environment we're playing in. Belle Park is about a 10 on the scale – it's not up to par with others but the price is affordable. I'd be willing to take an increase. Increase the daily and weekend fees for the public to come in and use the facilities. The City could be subsidizing seniors – it's a meeting place for seniors to come and play golf. You see the comradery and enjoying themselves. So would the City be willing to pay a subsidy for the seniors? Does the City subsidize the hockey arenas? The big thing is \$133 for a total membership – I don't see how you could increase enough with such a small membership to get your \$133,000. Maybe you don't need as many students and staff – they're not always busy. You might want to look at the HR issue. We're spending more on wages than the course. My stance is the City take a step back and consider how much are we willing to subsidize seniors.
10. Carol Maracle
I'm from the Tyendenaga reserve. With regard to the burial site – I'm sorry, I just arrived so I probably missed this. The burial site is on one of the greens – how will that change the golf course?

I'd like to make a comment on the fees, page 45 of the report, make comparisons with our fees to others. The report says fees are lower but only marginally. If you're looking at raising money on fees, you're not likely to do that. So the point is, as a Task Force, focus on other things that can bring in revenue – banquet facilities, ladies night, etc. and get rid of the dump stigma – it would bring in more tourists.

11. Gord Love

How much costs would be included in the costs of for example parks? Nobody is interested in the lands because of the environment – the golf course could probably bring in more dollars – nobody wants it anyway.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Murray Hall

BELLE PARK G. C. MEETING --

PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR-- FEB. 23/05

KEN McGUIRK AND HIS BELLE PARK CREW DO AN ADMIRABLE JOB BY MAKING BELLE PARK AS PLEASANT AND PLAYABLE AS POSSIBLE.

THEY MUST BE AS FRUSTRATED AS THE MEMBERS ARE WHEN THEIR DESIRE TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AND THEIR JOBS ARE MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE LIKES OF MAW FLETCHER, THE SIERRA CLUB, ACTIVIST GROUPS AND THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES.

THE CREW DOES A FINE JOB OF TRYING TO MAKE A "SILK PURSE OUT OF A SOWS EAR" SO TO SPEAK IN SPITE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

THE MEMBERS AND VISITORS PLAY OUT OF HOLES, LIFT CLEAN AND PLACE TO AVOID THE PARTS OF OLD TIRES, ROCKS, BROKEN GLASS, SCRAP METAL AND SO ON. WE APPARENTLY ACCEPT THE FACT IT IS AS GOOD AS IT CAN BE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE RETURN EACH YEAR WITH OUR BATTLE SCARRED CLUBS TO ENJOY THE COMPANY OF OUR FRIENDS, THE EXERCISE, THE WILD LIFE, AND SCENERY.

ACCORDING TO THE BMA REPORT, THEY CONTACTED 16 MUNICIPALITIES THAT OWN GOLF COURSES. I AM SURE THEY WERE UNABLE TO FIND A COURSE AMONG THE 16 SAMPLE GROUP THAT THEY COULD TRULY COMPARE TO BELLE PARK.

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BELLE PARK AND THOSE CONTACTED. FOR EXAMPLE:

*** OF THE 16 G.C.'S CONTACTED I BELIEVE ONLY THREE OR FOUR ARE LOCATED ON LANDFILL SITES. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE STABILITY OF THE OTHER LANDFILL GOLF SITES. OUR SITE IS VERY SENSITIVE AND, AS YOU KNOW BELLE PARK IS STILL SUBJECT TO LITIGATION.**

*** MANY OF THE SAMPLE COURSES LISTED IN THE BMA REPORT HAVE:**

**YEAR ROUND BANQUET FACILITIES
A RESTAURANT
LIQUOR LICENSE
PRO SHOP
TEE OFF TIMES (NOT AT B.P.)
REASONABLE FAIRWAYS
REASONABLE TEE BOXE
TO NAME A FEW DIFFERENCES**

SOME HAVE:

BEEN CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES IN THEIR PREVIOUS OWNERSHIP.

ACCORDING TO THE BMA REPORT, WE HAVE A CAFETERIA. I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS BUT IT GENERATES REVENUE OF \$16,506. THIS FOOD SERVICE INCOME IS ONLY 6% OF TOTAL REVENUE.

IT WOULD APPEAR THE FOOD SERVICES AREA COULD BE A FINE OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE REVENUE IF WE COULD ONLY FIND THAT BLASTED CAFETERIA.

I WONDER HOW THE B.P. NUMBERS COMPARES TO THE 16 OTHER COURSES SURVEYED.

BELLE PARK IS OFTEN REFERRED BY THE LOCALS TO AS "THE DUMP".

HOW COULD BMA HONESTLY COMPARE BELLE PARK TO THE 16 OTHER COURSES.

UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO IMPROVE:

THE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP RATES

IMPROVE THE TEE BOXES & FAIRWAYS

ADD BANQUET FACILITIES

ADD FOOD SERVICES

FIND ADDITIONAL WAYS TO INCREASE REVENUE

ERASE "THE DUMP" STIGMA

WE ARE NOT A THREAT TO ANY PRIVATE GOLF COURSES. WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO ATTRACT A LARGER TOURIST INTEREST EITHER.

I CANNOT SPEAK FOR OTHERS BUT AN INCREASE IN FEES SEEMS TO BE IN ORDER.

BELLE PARK WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO NEED SUPPORT FROM THE TAXPAYERS OF KINGSTON UNTIL CHANGES ARE MADE TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS, PLAYERS AND INCREASE REVENUE.

I HOPE THAT THE BMA PHASE ONE REPORT WILL HAVE SOME POSITIVE IMPACT ON COUNCIL AND SHOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO HAVE A FACILITY LIKE BELLE PARK THAT IS FILLING A NICHE WITHIN EASY REACH OF OUR CITIZENS.

| YEAR | SENIOR RESTRICTED ANNUAL FEE | % CHANGE |
|------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1991 | \$130.00 | |
| 1992 | \$165.00 | 26.92% |
| 1993 | \$180.00 | 9.09% |
| 1994 | \$200.00 | 11.11% |
| 1995 | \$215.00 | 7.50% |
| 1996 | \$225.00 | 4.65% |
| 1997 | \$251.00 | 11.56% |
| 1998 | \$251.00 | 0.00% |
| 2000 | \$287.00 | 14.34% |
| 2001 | \$287.00 | 0.00% |
| 2002 | \$287.00 | 0.00% |
| 2003 | \$294.00 | 2.44% |
| 2004 | \$300.50 | 2.21% |
| 2005 | | |

**City of Kingston
Review of Services
Telephone Enquiry Form**

Internal - Ext. 4322 External - Ext. 4323

Date Telephone Message Received: February 23/05

Internal [Staff] Enquiry External [Citizen] Enquiry

Message [Verbatim] Name: [if provided] Mr/Mrs/Ms Not provided

I'd like to leave a message in regard to Belle Park Fairways and maybe just make a couple of points. I think the amount listed as benefits in the list of expenditures seems to be quite excessive. Also I think we should be careful of restricting amenities that make our community attractive particularly to people who might consider retiring here. And also I think the proposed rink behind City Hall will cost much more to build and maintain than any other recreational projects and who knows how long its appeal will last. I think these points perhaps should be taken into account in regard to Belle Park Fairways and thank you very much for your attention.

If message contained a question, and the call was returned, response given:

Call returned by: _____ Date: _____/04

DaCosta, Jeremy

From: Webtech
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2005 2:24 PM
To: ReviewofServices
Subject: ROS WEB COMMENT - Belle Park Fairways

The following comment was posted February 16, 2005, 2:24 pm

Service: Belle Park Fairways

Name : George Ho
Address:
:
E-mail :

Remote :

COMMENT:

Excellent report on the Belle Park Fairways. The recommendations as drafted are fair and very well reasoned out. Balancing community concern for and against a municipal golf course, I think the recommendations are well considered and represents what I believe to be a majority consensus.
I applaud the work that has been done and believe this review will strenghten the service and the indispensable role Belle Park Fairways plays in our community.

Sincerely,
George Ho

DaCosta, Jeremy

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2005 8:59 AM
AM

To: ReviewofServices

Subject: Belle Park Golf Course

I wish to indicate that Belle Park golf course is a vital part of the services provided to the residents of the City of Kingston and is a major facility for the health and welfare of its senior citizens. Any change to this most important facility would be a mistake and the repercussions would be long lasting to those on limited means.

2/7/2005

DaCosta, Jeremy

From: Webtech
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2005 9:59 AM
To: ReviewofServices
Subject: ROS WEB COMMENT - Belle Park Fairways

The following comment was posted February 3, 2005, 9:58 am

Service: Belle Park Fairways

Name : John McLean
Address:
:
E-mail :

Remote :

COMMENT:

I am not sure what constitutes self sustaining, but if it means that membership dues, and or green fees would be raised to be equal or near equal to the surrounding courses, then you will be providing inferior services for a similar fee in the area. there is no resturant services, course marshals, fairway maintencance, (weed control, level tee blocks, filling of holes etc).

I fees are anywhere near what other courses are charging, I will go to those courses.

DaCosta, Jeremy

From: Mike Scrutton m]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 4:19 PM
To: ReviewofServices
Subject: Belle Park Fairways Golf Course

I would like to state that I am in favour of keeping the golf course as it has been over the last few years . I and my family use this facility often and I have found it to be a place where people without the resources required at private clubs ie. sniors and children can learn the game and possibly take it to the next level. Located in the city it is available by public transport or bicycle and is a wonderful place to meet for a game or practice at the driving range. Without this facility a lot of deserving people will be denied affordable recreational and beneficial exercise. I hope this service can be maintained without too much of an increase in fees as a lot of the patrons are of lower or fixed income.

Thankyou for the forum Mike