



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2017

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**Peoria Park District to host second public meeting
regarding management of Peoria Park District golf system**

*Public invited to learn more as part of special session on Wednesday, August 30 at 6pm
at Noble Center for Park District Administration*

At the close of its public meeting on Wednesday, August 23, the Peoria Park District Board of Trustees directed that a second public meeting be scheduled to allow for an open discussion about the impact of the potential for private management of the District's golf system. This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30, at 6:00pm in the auditorium of the Noble Center for Park District Administration.

This continues the process that began earlier this year as part of efforts focused on the sustainability of the District's operations.

At the public meeting, staff and representatives of GolfVisions Management, Inc., the firm recommended for consideration by the Golf RFP Evaluation Committee, will be available to answer questions and additional information about the possible structure of their management plan will be discussed.

All handouts from public meetings related to this topic will be placed on the home page of the District's website at www.peoriaparks.org. Full packets from all board meetings are also posted to the website under the Board of Trustees section.

In advance of this public meeting, District staff, in conjunction with GolfVisions Management, Inc., have compiled some Frequently Asked Questions to start the public discussion as follows.

In a management situation, who funds the golf operations?

In a management agreement, the owner (here, the Peoria Park District) is responsible for funding any shortfall and/or receiving any surpluses. While cash flow from golf course operations is typically favorable during the operating season, the agreement establishes a checking account with sufficient funding from the Park District to ensure payment of invoices and payroll obligations.

Confusion can arise between management and lease (license) agreements. The agreement sought by the Peoria Park District is clearly a management agreement that identifies the Park District's financial responsibilities and preserves the Park District's role and interest. GolfVisions essentially becomes the Peoria Park District's "golf department" and administers all accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, payroll, human resources, insurance, and purchasing functions, as well as myriad other items.

How long would a contract be?

As part of the RFP process, the Peoria Park District asked proponents to base their projections and proposed scope of services on a three-year agreement with an option to renew.

Can the contract be terminated?

Yes, for cause as stated within the contract.

Who controls golf fees and charges?

The District retains control over all fees and charges as recommended by GolfVisions during the budget process. The District provides GolfVisions with "quiet enjoyment" of day-to-day course operations yet retains both ownership rights and obligations.

What is GolfVisions' primary role?

To expertly manage the maintenance, operations, food-and-beverage, and improvements of all the golf facilities through the onsite staffing established through our operational structure. GolfVisions provides experienced oversight personnel through its corporate structure and support from a designated client team to establish and execute the framework for improving the condition of the facilities, both aesthetically and financially. GolfVisions provides a laser focus to the District's golf operations based on successes achieved at comparable facilities within our portfolio and broad industry experience.

What impact will GolfVisions' management have on the facilities?

GolfVisions believes it will be favorably transparent. Special emphasis will be placed on:

- * Attention-to-detail and aesthetics, encompassing structures, golf course conditions and first impressions.
- * Staff will be further empowered and viability/sustainability of the golf facilities will be emphasized and ingrained into staff thinking.
- * Sustained effort will be made to enhance civic pride in the golf system in residents' minds and throughout the metropolitan area.

Will GolfVisions employ existing golf maintenance and operations personnel?

GolfVisions establishes the operational structure to be used for the facility/facilities and typically fills positions from existing staff. Some positions may be expanded or diminished depending on the needs of the golf system as determined by GolfVisions.

Members of the public who are not able to attend this second public meeting are invited to share their thoughts and questions by contacting the District as follows:

By phone: 309-681-2803

By email: ppd@peoriaparks.org

By mail: Emily Cahill, 1125 West Lake Avenue, Peoria, IL 61614

All questions received prior to August 30 will be answered at the public meeting.

Public stewards of nearly 9,000 acres of park and greenspace and another 185 buildings, the Park District's mission is "To contribute to a healthy and vibrant Peoria community by responsibly using our District resources to offer high quality parks and recreation experiences to those who live, work, and play in our District."