

City of Port Townsend Golf Course Comment Log

Comment	Date	Comment Via	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
618	5/3/2023		<p>A DIFFERENT VISION I have seen all the consultant proposed options for the golf course and read many of the public comments. While, according to the consultant, 74% of respondents to the survey supported alternative or hybrid uses of the golf course, the lack of creativity and imagination in regard to those alternative uses is disappointing. These options are just rehashes of old ideas, nothing new, nothing directed toward solving our most pressing and urgent issue. An opportunity missed. It is, as a friend recently said, “designed for the haves, not the have nots” It is clear to me that additional open space and parks are of small concern when weighed against the lack of housing in our city. One of the most cited reason that people move here is the abundance of outdoor recreational activities and natural beauty. Of all of the answers to your survey the most telling are the responses from high school students. The next generation of adults in our community want to see affordable housing on this land. That is their number one choice for both the golf course and Mt. View. How can we ignore them? It is time to listen to the children. They are rightfully and urgently concerned about whether they will be able to live here. We have a responsibility to at least provide some opportunities. Our legacy so far is not very admirable. The entire golf course needs to become a planned residential community, embracing a variety of housing styles and sizes, types and levels of affordability, multiple concepts in a park like setting. Converting publicly owned property into housing can remove the cost of land from the equation while still preserving the opportunity for home ownership and affordable rentals. There could be clusters of tiny homes adjacent to cooperatively owned and managed multifamily apartments located near community gardens and playgrounds; townhouses, duplexes and cottage housing connected by walking trails; boarding houses with community kitchens could serve the needs of many single folks. One avenue to accomplish this could be the creation of a Public Development Authority whose mission would be to develop housing consistent with a matrix of criteria. The Authority could convene a design competition with a significant prize to create a model housing community with integrated health care, social services, child care and elder support. The development criteria that would need to be met are aesthetics, affordability, diversity of housing types and styles and being built as close to net zero as possible. Further criteria would relate to the selection of potential residents weighted in favor of such things as; need, and local residency, diversity and equity, local employment and ability to participate in construction and development. It seems to me that within our great community we have many individuals with the talent and expertise to visualize and contribute to the development of a project of this nature. We need to mobilize this energy. This, then, is not just a different kind of vision for the golf course it is also a call to action. While we do not doubt the great and good intentions of our elected government and their dedicated staff who are working toward solutions for our housing crisis, we the people need to be willing to stand up and assume our roles as leaders. We cannot accept limited options in the development of this resource. Thinking and acting “outside the box” is required. It is time to recognize that the lack of housing is an existential crisis for the city of Port Townsend. It is time to be bold and truly creative.</p>	Your vision document was forwarded to me, and I want to thank you for taking the time to write and send it. I have sent it along to our planners and they will consider it. Thanks again for being active and engaged in the community!
619			<p>Further criteria would relate to the selection of potential residents weighted in favor of such things as; need, and local residency, diversity and equity, local employment and ability to participate in construction and development. It seems to me that within our great community we have many individuals with the talent and expertise to visualize and contribute to the development of a project of this nature. We need to mobilize this energy. This, then, is not just a different kind of vision for the golf course it is also a call to action. While we do not doubt the great and good intentions of our elected government and their dedicated staff who are working toward solutions for our housing crisis, we the people need to be willing to stand up and assume our roles as leaders. We cannot accept limited options in the development of this resource. Thinking and acting “outside the box” is required. It is time to recognize that the lack of housing is an existential crisis for the city of Port Townsend. It is time to be bold and truly creative.</p>	
620	4/11/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>There are so many other BETTER places to build affordable housing rather than the golf course. People come from out of state and try to turn our town onto a city. The nice open spaces keep disappearing because people keep building on them. The golf course should just stay how it is without people trying to build on it, so just leave it as it is! Find somewhere else to cityfy!</p>	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
621	4/12/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>Please leave the golf course the way it is. The city and surrounding area have more hiking, biking and open space than most towns already.</p>	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

622	4/12/2023	PT Golf Online	The golf course uses too much water, excludes other members of the public, and is underutilized. Other options would be very much welcome.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
623	4/15/2023	PT Golf Online	I'd prefer for the space to cease using public funding for golf. Ideally, it can remain a green space but one that is less resource dependent, with a focus on native species (as opposed to high maintenance "golf turf/grass". Golf offers very little to the youth of our town and there are many other, more beneficial ways that space could be used- walking trails, a quality dog park, environmental education, etc. Thank you.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
624	4/21/2023	PT Golf Online	Simple golf course solution? Eliminate holes 5 and 6 and the range, freeing space for other uses; turn hole 1 into a short par 4 and a par 3; turn hole 4 into two par 3s. Improve all greens & bunkering.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
625	4/26/2023	PT Golf Online	We citizens of the City of Port Townsend and would like to comment on the envision golf course options. On examination of the different options put forward Concept 2a A Space for Nature makes the most sense to us. we are unable to attend either the meeting at Fort Worden Commons or the virtual meeting on May 1st so would like to make sure our votes for that concept are noted. We are especially interested in preserving the prairie and the pond, both important natural areas.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
626	4/26/2023	PT Golf Online	When talking to neighbors about what we should do with the golf course, everyone wants to modify it for the benefit of Port Townsend. We agree on that. Coming to a consensus of just what that entails is of course the problem. Most of the suggestions are plans about how to improve the land for the benefit of the human activity they have the greatest affinity to. However the land needs to be considered also. After all, it is part of Port Townsend too. This afternoon I walked around the golf course a bit for the first time. I was not sure where I could walk so it was a little tricky as I did not want to interfere with the golfers fun. My first suggestion would be to have defined walking trails so people could walk around and get to know the land, the views and the plants. When more of us know the land better I think we would come up with more thoughtful ideas of what future we would like to see for the golf course. While walking, I thought about the Natives who used to portage their canoes from the Straits to the Bay overland. How did they do that? There is no longer a water connection to the golf course land. Kah Tai Lagoon looks good from a distance, but it is stagnant. The golf course is kind of stagnant too. This connection needs to be re-established so the land can be what it needs to be and then perhaps we can figure out future development that will benefit all Port Townsend.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
627	4/26/2023	PT Golf Online	I attended the open house on April 26. Thanks very much for helping the community participate in the process. I was leaning toward option 2a, but after seeing the self-serving attitude and hearing the vocal minority supporting option 1, my wife and I now support going straight to option 3. I am not sure why option 1 is still on the table, as it ranked No. 7 on the survey and did not make it at all in the high school survey results.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

628	4/27/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>Question was: Would you like to entertain new uses for the Golf Course? Answer was interpreted that this meant that other uses were wanted. I know for one that this interpretation is not how I interpreted the question. I wanted options to be entertained..heck, who knows with certainty what is the best use for the property in terms of community needs let alone aspirations. Nonetheless, as of now based on foreseeable costs and the possibility of other uses being located elsewhere, I now vote to keep it as it is aside from finding a new manager and opportunities for a private investor to improve the property for golf and other community efforts. An architect by inclination is biased toward changes and innovation..they are architects! I find that taking us on the car lot and showing us just 4 spruced up cars and not addressing the cost including maintenance, and a formal "business plan" is unfair. It is especially unfair if other options for "transportation" are not provided that do not require buying a "new" car. While possibly "politically" correct to ask High School students what they want...give me a break. This is a complex issue and why assume that they are "prepared" in any way to determine best use for the collective community. A son of mine, quite bright, capable, and responsible was eager to leave Port Townsend while he was in High School, but two years ago, in his late 30s moved back with his family and was most thankful for what the community offers. For weight to be given to what High School students want or vote for..makes no sense. While political issues benefit from democratic input, there are complex issues based on expertise, experience, wisdom, historical precedents, financial realities, shared values, that warrant professional expertise and discretion. While I think it is wise that the City Council oversee city employees and community planning to be consistent with community values and well-being, I'm okay with professionals, not high school students or those most vocal to come to the best decision. Lastly, if one focuses primarily on the "volume of useage" one might miss the value of a public service. For example, it would be silly to base the police budget or allotment of resources based on the number of citizens who directly interface with or benefit from police activities. What numbers of residents use dog parks? What numbers use the pickle ball courts or the swimming pool? Obviously, having access to a service even if it involves a minority of the population can be a benefit for</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
629	4/28/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>I think it would be great to include a conservatory, a flower garden and a native plant garden. A nice example of a conservatory is here: https://www.volunteerparkconservatory.org/. The conservatory can be a real oasis during our long, cold, dark winters.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
630	5/1/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>First, thank you for putting so much information out there regarding the potential fate of the PT Golf Course. I golf there weekly on Tuesday mornings with the PT Women's Golf Club. Our club has been following the 'Envision' events and we very much appreciaate all your hard work. We naturally are in favor of preserving the property as a golf course in as much as possible. I just want to inform you that I have talked to many others, who have not been following the events as closely. They are both golfers and non-golfers and they overwhelmingly support keeping the golf course, be it hybrid or not. However, many of them are totally confused by how exactly to "vote" for their preference on line. Therefore, I doubt you'll acquire an accurate survey of everyone's view. I wish I had a solution to offer. Just wanted to let you know what I have been observing. Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
631	5/1/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>Okay, you have my attention now. I just learned that the qatáy prairie at the golf course is NOT part of the "options" vocabulary. This is a historic, culturally significant plot of land and must be emphasized and protected. Will appreciate your efforts to put this as a central part of what needs to be preserved.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
632	5/3/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>No housing development whatsoever on the property, Do not let housing get a foot in the door. Do not request proposals. Keep green space - reduce extent of golf course (OK to eliminate driving range and make course 9 holes, and put in trails and picnic areas.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

633	PT Golf Online 5/3/2023	<p>For the proposed 6 units of housing for the Zoned Golf Course property, I had the idea of, rather than allowing a private developer to come in, build, and sell these homes, how about if the City donated the property, or worked with Habitat for Humanity to build these 6 units. That would help to ensure that these units are 'AFFORDABLE' housing - which is what the community asked for to be built on this property. It would also help to keep the homes going to 'local' people who will pick up a hammer and participate in the building rather than those folks lined up from out of town with cash who could buy up any new housing at top dollar. The homes our community has asked to be built on the Golf Course Property were 'affordable homes for our local workforce'. That would be approximately \$350,000 or less (to buy), or some kind of rental units at \$1,000 a month or less (that's affordable rent in the City considering the high cost of City utilities). Remember, our Health Department's 2019 Survey indicated that our town has a lower than average medium income for WA state. Primary concerns of teens and seniors alike in this survey were poverty and the increasing unaffordability of housing in Jefferson County. Allowing 6 new homes on that property to be bought up for top dollar cash to more newcomers to town would absolutely be a defeat of purpose and a slap upside the head to all who've fought for these homes to be built at this location.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
634	PT Golf Online 5/3/2023	<p>I have seen all the consultant proposed options for the golf course and read many of the public comments. While, according to the consultant, 74% of respondents to the survey supported alternative or hybrid uses of the golf course, the lack of creativity and imagination in regard to those alternative uses is disappointing. These options are just rehashes of old ideas, nothing new, nothing directed toward solving our most pressing and urgent issue. An opportunity missed. It is, as a friend recently said, "designed for the haves, not the have nots" It is clear to me that additional open space and parks are of small concern when weighed against the lack of housing in our city. One of the most cited reason that people move here is the abundance of outdoor recreational activities and natural beauty. Of all of the answers to your survey the most telling are the responses from high school students. The next generation of adults in our community want to see affordable housing on this land. That is their number one choice for both the golf course and Mt. View. How can we ignore them? It is time to listen to the children. They are rightfully and urgently concerned about whether they will be able to live here. We have a responsibility to at least provide some opportunities. Our legacy so far is not very admirable. The entire golf course needs to become a planned residential community, embracing a variety of housing styles and sizes, types and levels of affordability, multiple concepts in a park like setting. Converting publicly owned property into housing can remove the cost of land from the equation while still preserving the opportunity for home ownership and affordable rentals. There could be clusters of tiny homes adjacent to cooperatively owned and managed multifamily apartments located near community gardens and playgrounds; townhouses, duplexes and cottage housing connected by walking trails; boarding houses with community kitchens could serve the needs of many single folks. One avenue to accomplish this could be the creation of a Public Development Authority whose mission would be to develop housing consistent with a matrix of criteria. The Authority could convene a design competition with a significant prize to create a model housing community with</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

integrated health care, social services, child care and elder support. The development criteria that would need to be met are aesthetics, affordability, diversity of housing types and styles and being built as close to net zero as possible. Further criteria would relate to the selection of potential residents weighted in favor of such things as; need, and local residency, diversity and equity, local employment and ability to participate in construction and development. It seems to me that within our great community we have many individuals with the talent and expertise to visualize and contribute to the development of a project of this nature. We need to mobilize this energy. This, then, is not just a different kind of vision for the golf course it is also a call to action. While we do not doubt the great and good intentions of our elected government and their dedicated staff who are working toward solutions for our housing crisis, we the people need to be willing to stand up and assume our roles as leaders. We cannot accept limited options in the development of this resource. Thinking and acting "outside the box" is required. It is time to recognize that the lack of housing is an existential crisis for the city of Port Townsend. It is time to be bold and truly creative.

635

5/7/2023
PT Golf
Online

I totally support keeping PT golf course as is and putting money into updating and upkeep. It's not only used by locals, but also by the high school team. I believe it's a draw for some people visiting the area!! PLEASE don't turn it into a dog park or walking trails! We have enough of those!!

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

636

5/9/2023
engagept.cit
yofpt.us

I have been told that the current golf course no longer requires or uses any City water for irrigation. I was told that instead, all irrigation water is now coming from a recently provided well. Is this true? If so, is this well on site: Is this level of water usage sustainable for our local water table? Thank you for your help with my questions and concerns.

You inquired about the water usage and cost at the Golf Course. The addition of the well has helped financially, but the city still spends about \$30,000 a year in water. Links provided include the irrigation usage, and then the city's cost overall (including costs for water). I hope this information is helpful.

637

5/12/2023

For the proposed 6 units of housing for the Zoned Golf Course property, I had the idea of, rather than allowing a private developer to come in, build, and sell these homes, how about if the City donated the property, or worked with Habitat for Humanity to build these 6 units. That would help to ensure that these units are 'AFFORDABLE' housing - which is what the community asked for to be built on this property. It would also help to keep the homes going to 'local' people who will pick up a hammer and participate in the building rather than those folks lined up from out of town with cash who could buy up any new housing at top dollar. The homes our community has asked to be built on the Golf Course Property were 'affordable homes for our local workforce'. That would be approximately \$350,000 or less (to buy), or some kind of rental units at \$1,000 a month or less (that's affordable rent in the City considering the high cost of City utilities). Remember, our Health Department's 2019 Survey indicated that our town has a lower than average medium income for WA state. Primary concerns of teens and seniors alike in this survey were poverty and the increasing unaffordability of housing in Jefferson County. Allowing 6 new homes on that property to be bought up for top dollar cash to more newcomers to town would absolutely be a defeat of purpose and a slap upside the head to all who've fought for these homes to be built at this location.

Thanks for the email. Great idea. I will pass it along to our designers. I really do think this was the intent, but perhaps they can be a little more explicit! Have a good day.

638	5/7/232	<p>email;</p> <p>There are very few times when decisions can shape a community's life for generations to come. In New York City, such a moment came in 1853 when city leaders decided to dedicate 775 acres right in the middle of the city for Central Park. In Portland, Oregon, in 1948, visionary leaders set aside 5,000+ acres overlooking the city and river for Forest Park. Both bold moves shaped these cities and benefit countless generations. The decisions we make about the future of the Port Townsend Golf Course will shape our community for years to come. We currently have a time-worn, 9-hole golf course sorely in need of upgrades that serves, by its own statistics, only a small portion of our citizens. For months, City staff and elected officials have engaged citizens from all walks to get their input into what we think should happen to this beautiful greenspace. They've conducted town halls, Zoom meetings, a stakeholder committee, in-person and online surveys, meetings with interested groups, email campaigns, etc. Kudos to them for asking citizens what we want. So far, more than three-quarters of citizens want to: 1) preserve this valuable greenspace; 2) offer amenities like trails, bike paths, dog parks, an amphitheater, sports courts and affordable housing that serve many more citizens than those who currently benefit. Some of the most telling survey results come from Port Townsend high school students. All of them wanted affordable housing included in the plan. None suggested golf is a good use for this space. If the Port Townsend Golf Course project is to truly be a legacy project, we must plan for tomorrow's citizens, not just those of us here today. Golfers shouldn't be left out, including the high school student golfers. Just 15 minutes away, Discovery Bay Golf Club offers gorgeous, 18-holes with prices comparable to Port Townsend's Golf Club. There's no reason we can't think boldly and create Port Townsend's own Central Park. Thank you for your good work and for caring about our beautiful town.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
639	5/8/2023	<p>Hi Carrie - I've been away for a bit and catching up on the planning for golf course and Commons possible changes. Is there any discussion of incorporating a children's playground?. The recently installed one at HJ Carroll Park is so nice. I play Pickleball, but frankly, I don't have any problem getting court time, so I don't think we need more courts (if we do, it is a need for indoor courts for winter/rainy weather). :)</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
640	5/8/2023	<p>email</p> <p>I'm writing about Golf Course Option 2--specifically, removing the driving range. The most important use of a driving range is teaching. Without a driving range how do you teach new golfers? Not by playing the course, because beginners hit balls all over the place. New golfers are learning to hit a ball 1.68" in diameter hundreds of yards. They need a nice, safe downrange. And they need to hit a lot of balls. We learn physical movements by repetition, and a driving range is where new golfers get that repetition. Without a driving range the golfing community is seriously handicapped in teaching new golfers and growing the sport. Then there's the revenue loss. Besides the revenue from charging for each bucket of balls there is the fact that lessons could no longer be offered. No income for golf pro, no new customers for the course...Option 2 may look good on paper, but it would be disaster for the future of the golfing community. There has to be a place to learn the sport and we have one. Why take it away when it is so essential to the health of the sport.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
641	5/12/2023	<p>I have looked at the survey on possible uses of the golf course property several times, and have been unable to complete it. Why? Because it doesn't address the "elephant in the room", the need for affordable housing in our city. The consultants seemed to have missed the most important possible use of this space – for additional housing for the people who work here and want to live here. I saw only a few housing units projected in these alternatives. The area may not be zoned for housing now, but it's the city that designates zoning, and any of these 53 acres could be re-zoned. Leaving additional housing out of the picture and proposing only park-like solutions completely misses the point. Yes, I'd like to see some walking trails and yes, I'd like to keep the pond and the wildflower prairie, but I don't see how creating our version of New York's Central Park is the best use of this entire space. Please don't squander this once-in-a-generation opportunity to do this right.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

642	6/10/2023	<p>I am writing to express my concern with your intense focus on the Golf Course and the Pool. These are existing structures...and like most of PT, they are aging. I am of the opinion that infrastructure is more important than the golf course/pool focus. We need safe water and sewers throughout our town, we need safe streets (the potholes/ineffective filling of them), and we need affordable housing. I feel you have wasted a lot of time and money (various studies) with the Golf Course/Pool issue -> time and money that could better be used to address the above mentioned infrastructure and housing issues. Golf and the pool are necessary for exercise and pleasure...but NOT a the expense of safe water/sewer/streets/affordable housing.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
643		<p>Please take a moment to re-think your intense drive to satisfy the few loud voices about Golf and the pool. Think about the rest of us who feel your priorities should be elsewhere...but we are the quiet ones who don't stand up and make noise. Personally, the politics of the US is noisy and beyond divisive enough for me and therefore I shall not be a noisy resident of this beautiful but aging town. Please stop the deferred maintenance that is so necessary for our town to truly thrive. Think about the people who live here, work here and want to raise families here (as they are the replacements for our aging population).</p>	
644		<p>Thank you for allowing me to quietly express my concerns.</p>	
645	6/22/2023	<p>PT is supposedly an Art Community. Not sure why we call ourselves that. Big ugly wooden stumps are considered art. You already have art. That is the Golf Course. No, I don't golf. I shudder to think how you will mess up that beautiful site. It will look like Cherry Street Apartments. Half done. You have no money but want another pool for a select group. You had a pool that you built, couldn't maintain and gave it to the YMCA. Now you want another one. Rather than try to appease a few, just stop. The city has a poor record of doing anything professionally. You would be wiser to do nothing and use what little money you have and fix what is broken. Money paid by Port Townsend residents. You can never appease a few loud obnoxious demanding people. As a city council member you weren't voted in to have your name on some plague. You were voted in to fix things that are broken.</p>	
646	6/25/2020	<p>Thank you for your email. I watched the video and saw nothing about the golf course as noted on your email subject line. Where can I find out what's happening with the golf course?</p>	<p>You can find complete information at www.cityorpt.us/envision.</p>
647	6/23/2023	<p>Here is a vision of what our cousin village across the Strait, Victoria, has accomplished in a formerly declining city park. The Uplands (which I used to visit yearly prior to the pandemic border closure) comprise an area slightly larger than our golf course acreage. This recovery of heritage began 30 years ago, behind one dynamic woman with a vision. I contend that we can achieve this in a similar manner, behind an organized mostly-volunteer effort AND retain golf on the property, along with enhanced public access as is being proposed. And it won't cost \$millions to achieve, nor require copious irrigation, soil amenities, and the like. It is about selectively protecting and enhancing the best Nature on the property and modestly investing in a steady multi-decade upgrade—just as Victoria has achieved brilliantly since 1992. This is literally a homegrown potential outcome for our community's future. We use the existing botanical resources of the protected 1.4 acres of qatáy (kah-tai) prairie (est. 1986) as the seed bank to generate (or regenerate) planting material to gradually recreate selected portions of the pre-Discovery landscape, which stretched from Mountain View to North Beach prior to settlement. Students from schools as near as Port Townsend High School could learn and participate in such a re-creation of the ancestral landscape of their town. Consider the benefits, the very modest cost, and the opportunity for a truly 'homegrown' environmental achievement. The greatest outcome would be: a living demonstration of the prehistoric heritage of the land we inhabit; continuing enjoyment of the recreational uses of the land as practiced for 100 years; and new opportunities to better care for and utilize the land for coming generations.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

648	6/25/2023		<p>Just to follow-up on the below: It has been confirmed that Port Townsend Golf Course is the oldest course in the state of Washington still occupying its original site. Because of its historical presence and cultural significance, it should be preserved. There are experts who are willing to give a presentation regarding this, if you'd like. Let me know. Thanks again. I've had further conversations with the regional golf historian. Here are his thoughts about having a property given historical designation: "Because Port Townsend has so many historical buildings, the town must have a criteria for designating a building for historical status. The golf course would be viewed as a building/property, and the same criteria would apply. Also there must be historical architects working in Port Townsend or the area, who a property owner could hire, to complete the necessary paperwork to gain historical designation for the property." It would seem that, if the city wanted to, a pathway exists to have the golf course be given historical designation status, which would then bring other positives to the city – funding, revenue, tourism, jobs, activities for youth, continuation of the city's heritage, continuation of the social/charitable-fundraising aspects of the golf course, etc.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
649	6/15/2023	engagept.cit yofpt.us	<p>My water bill contains a couple of pages correctly describing the terrible condition of the streets and other infrastructure and lamenting the lack of funding to deal with these problems. Simultaneously, the City rolls out a \$45 million dollar pool proposal that we'll be asked to pay for and talks about housing affordability? Something's not adding up, but thank you for admitting that the infrastructure and housing problems are real and that we're going to have to pay for all this. I realize that there is a large contingent of folks dreaming about a pool who don't seem to understand where the money comes from and all the other demands for the same pot of money so I get why the City has to have this discussion. The dream about a pool can't be discussed in a vacuum without talking about all these other needs.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
650	6/27/2023	engagept.cit yofpt.us	<p>I note that there are now two housing sites proposals on Redwood St & the adjoining "Blackberry Trail. A bait & switch seems to have occurred in this public process. An audience of some 300, meeting on Jan 11,2023 at Fort Worden Commons were told there would be no housing built on the side of the GC. Mayor Farber seconded this assertion. I stopped paying attention after this because that was my main concern. Protect the green space of the golf course. Now we are presented with two options both of which include 42-44 housing units to be built on Redwood St. Further the proposal would seem to necessitate paving over the trail to give access to the proposed 36 units, not to mention knocking down the most densely forested land on the boundary of the course. This road would create a shortcut for all driving down Cherry enroute to San Juan through the existing cut de sac of Redwood. This is outrageous! These building plans were not included at all in the public process. They have only emerged now in the 9th inning of the public process. We have notified all 92 homes in our Schoolhill Neighborhood as well as alerting one & all on Nextdoor to this sleight of hand. City Council members can expect some increased mail. Isn't it convenient that a final vote is to be made in the middle of July when many residents are away from home on vacation?</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
651	5/16/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>I believe I missed the deadline for the on line questionnaire . Is it still possible to do this ?</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning</p>
652	5/20/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>Our town is losing bird and critter friendly trees and shrubs rapidly because of all the infill construction. Let's landscape for native plants and trees, so that the birds and bees can continue to live here too.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

653	6/1/2023	PT Golf Online	Hi, I hope that the path that we move forward with on the golf course does not involve putting up new structures on the land where the golf course is situated. Having this beautiful, large parcel available for parks, trails or continued golf usage are all great options. The land is a real asset to this community and should be kept undeveloped. I think we need to think a little further ahead than our immediate needs and think about what people in Port Townsend might want from this space 50 or even 100 years from now. As the city grows, the preservation of this central park space could become an important feature of our town. Affordable housing, the aquatic center, and other potential development projects can and should be sited elsewhere.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
654	6/20/2023	PT Golf Online	I support keeping the golf course on the property. Please make sure we keep it as is.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning
655	6/20/2023	PT Golf Online	Item 1: I have participated recently in the City of Tacoma Food Forest development. In this respect, I suggest the southeast corner of the golf course opposite the bike facility be considered a food forest. this area is fallow and other areas near the pool are possible. Item 2: I suggest the Sedges or other grass species used in the U.S. Open at University Way, Tacoma be used for reseeding the golf course. A significant reduction in water requirements will result. Furthermore, the pesticide burden should be reduced. Item 3: Mowing requirements must be reconsidered. Cost/benefits of taller grass versus current practices.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
656	6/21/2023	PT Golf Online	keep golf course. No unnecessary spending, we have more than enough parks. Fix the sewers, sidewalks and roads. City should not sell land for housing development. Let the public vote on these decisions by ballot.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
657	6/22/2023	PT Golf Online	After reading an article beginning on the front page of The Leader today about the various options for this space, I feel the "hybrid golf course", "space for nature" or "Central Park" concepts are more closely hitting the mark of what the city could use and what most residents and visitors would benefit from. My family and I have recently relocated from the Willamette Valley/Corvallis, Oregon area where we enjoyed two adjoining parks that offered over 400 acres of wooded trails, disc golf course, kids playgrounds, youth and adult sports fields and picnic areas ON A DAILY BASIS. There were dirt trails, wood chip/bark trails and concrete paths all interconnected. We were able to enjoy all of it while pushing a stroller too after welcoming our first child into the world! Great space(s)! Here are two links for reference: https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/parksrec/page/willamette-park-natural-area https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/parksrec/page/crystal-lake-sports-fields As dog owners, the best part for us was that it/they were dog friendly and during the Winter months Nov - March the entirety of the park(s) was/were offered as an "OFF LEASH" park to dogs! Thanks to everyone involved in this project and all other projects like it. We appreciate everyone's efforts. Thanks too for reading!	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
658	6/22/2023	PT Golf Online	I have attended two of the public meetings and reviewed the proposals. I am in favor a Hybrid Option. My second choice is Central Park Plan.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning
659	6/22/2023	PT Golf Online	I like the Central Park idea. Seems like it would provide the most benefit to the most people. As I understand it, the golf course cannot support itself without a significant capital investment which, given the waning popularity of the sport, seems a questionable use of public resources. And although a "compromise" (like the hybrid model) sounds appealing, it may be just kicking the can down the road if the golf course component proves unsustainable in the future.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
660	6/22/2023	PT Golf Online	The survey form mentioned in Open house #3 from Groundswell cannot be accessed. The URL given on this page and on the form from the table at the meeting does not work yet.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning

661	6/23/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>I attended the third open house and have several observations and a few conclusions. The presentation indicated initially that there was a consensus and the stakeholder committee would be recommending the hybrid plan to the council. The presenters appeared to pitch the hybrid approach (which incidentally seems to closely mirror David Heins' recommendations in his analysis and report) by repeatedly using a phrase similar to best alternative for the most people. During the Q and A period, I asked the Groundswell representative whether he had any data, projected or otherwise of the number of people for the various uses. He said that there was none and later after the formal session told me that such an analysis would be too expensive. So I concluded "best alternative for most people " was not grounded in any data. A participant that had attended previous meetings indicated that the actual consensus was that two plans would be presented at the third open house, the hybrid plan and a central park and that in fact there was no concensus on which approach to take. Several individuals who appeared to favor the golf course indicated that removal of the driving range to accomodate new locations for holes 5 and 6 would be a serious drawback i.e. a driving range seemed to them to be essential to a golf course for practice and warm-up. Participants asked a variety of questions seeking clarification of details of the two proposals and the conversation (somewhat mysteriously to me) became quite heated, particularly during the show of hands as to who supported each of the two options. Very few hands were raised for either options (single digits). So my takeaways were that in fact there was no consensus toward a single solution arising from the stakeholder process, and that there was no projected use data for either of the alternatives. From a 40+ year career in product development which includes experience with two startups, I have seen many designs fail for lack of understanding who the users are, what their needs are, and how big the user base is. It appears that the hybrid approach seeks to mollify a vocal group of golfers, and the general population while not doing a great job for the former, and an unknown/unestimated benefit for the general populus. Were one to consider allocation of land area to users by class, it seems that with the hybrid plan, a disproportionate amount of the land benefits golfers vs general population that might use a park. The central park proposal with</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
662			<p>with the hybrid plan, a disproportionate amount of the land benefits golfers vs general population that might use a park. The central park proposal with amphitheater seemed to me more attractive and most likely to benefit that greater number of users. Until an attempt at projecting number of people by use is done, an expensive decision stands to be made based on thin information and essentially hunches albeit informed by a dedicated group of people who've clearly done a lot of work and want to be done with it. I do not agree with Groundswell that such a projection would be terribly costly. It is very common when engineering solutions to make such estimates by analogy or other means and given what's at stake am a bit dismayed that such work hasn't been attempted. The Groundswell rep told me something interesting sort of as an aside, that despite attempts at outreach, the general population avoids meetings such as these, preferring to vote in the comfort of their anonymity. He lauded PT residents for relatively high involvement in the process (which in my opinion and observation has yielded indeterminate and un-founded results). His comment makes me wonder whether putting the two alternatives to a formal vote by the residents might not be a bad idea. Thanks for your consideration.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
663	6/23/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>I was unable to attend the meeting this week, but I wanted to submit my support for the hybrid plan, as opposed to the Central Park or simply updating the existing golf course (primarily due to the direct cost to the City for the later).</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
664	6/24/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>I am not a golfer. Keep the golf course. It is the only alternative that makes any sense at all.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
665	6/24/2023	PT Golf	<p>I would like to see the golf course remain a golf course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

666	6/25/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>I attended the meeting at the Fort Worden Commons this past week. I am concerned that the stakeholder group has not really reached consensus on what direction to proceed based on the disagreements among the stakeholders themselves during the meeting. My strong preference is for the golf course layout to remain as it is. It should be treated as a historic property. I don't believe the city needs to rob Peter to pay Paul. Specifically many of the amenities identified in the hybrid plan could be located elsewhere in the city. The first is the walking trails. Besides the city already having plenty of walking trails that are not heavily utilized they should be looking at creating a loop path around Kai Tai Lagoon. Fixing Kai Tai is a much higher priority than the golf course. Every person I have talked to is literally afraid to walk in there. The land is fill and should not be treated as some form of sacred land that can't be developed for human enjoyment. Open spaces need to be created so that people don't fear what is around the corner. The millions of dollars being discussed for the golf course site would be much better utilized at Kai Tai. Affordable housing should be located off Rainier Street near Discovery Rd. The city should partner with Washington State to leverage facilities at Fort Worden. A comment was made about the need for a performing arts center. The city could rent out the auditorium (old blimp hangar) at Fort Worden monthly or more frequently if needed. It would be much less expensive than building and maintaining their own. Any amphitheater should be near the water downtown and not near neighborhoods who would be impacted by the events held there. Again this would be a perfect fit for some of the Kai Tai open space including a park with pickelball courts and a dog park. My hope is that the city focuses their efforts on Kai Tai and sees the golf course for the jewel that is needing only a little polish.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
667	6/26/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>As a resident of Port Townsend, I am strongly opposed to the proposal to eliminate or substantially reduce the golf course. While I do not play golf, I have observed that the golf course has been and continues to be used regularly by average working class people who deserve the city's support. I would support some changes such as the "golf park" hybrid as proposed by PT Golf and Friends. With a 433-acre destination state park within the city limits, the last thing we need is a new "Central Park" (Concept #3) or "Space for Nature" (Concept #2a).</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
668	6/26/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>As reported, there are as many as 10 different plans for the current golf course. A golf course, I've observed, used regularly by many PT residents even in its current condition. I am a 11 year resident of PT and have enjoyed this magnificent area with all the natural beauty it has to offer. This includes the 433 acre urban park at Fort Worden. The proposals for the "Central Park" or "Space for Nature" seem redundant when we already have all of that for no more than the price of a Discover Pass. I'm in favor of supporting the things we already have and restoring and revitalizing the current golf course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

669	6/26/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>I thought the golf course drama would work its own self out. The original premise for its review was it's a financial drain on city coffers. From what I knew, it was running at minor deficit and maintained by a largely volunteer grounds crew. To change this formula in any way would take MORE money. It's already a golf course, already maintained, already beautiful and historical. My hunch is most residents are ambivalent about it. Which also made it a status quo site. If the majority wanted another use and were willing to raise taxes or pull from city pet round-a-bout and art projects then so be it. But as I've read more about meetings there are small groups of "stakeholders" which divide people into blocks and takes away from the individual resident input. I would imagine the golf leagues (men's & women's), the HS golf team, casual players are likely what would be called stakeholders. But how it got attached to pool as evidenced in a Leader article, I'm confused. What does one have to do with the other? Seems like a false equivalency. As with all things Port Townsend community culture it can get "deeply weird" (2021PTHS Valedictorian speech). Most towns install Pickleball courts and those who like to, play. The course is 58 acres of land. How is the Port Townsend Pickleball League a stakeholder? Pickleball courts are very small and could be built on a small patch. 58 acres is likely 50,000 pickleball courts. Then there's Central Park utopian fringe. Well, it actually sounds cool.. But, maintaining a 58 acre park would be very expensive and I would imagine it could present some unique security and squatter challenges. When I chose PT as home in 2002, I chose based on natural beauty, Fort Worden, North Beach, Chetzemoke Parks.. and a couple golf courses. Really nothing else aside from very reasonable housing prices at the time, if you can believe that. I guess I'd ask, if we already have 3 crown jewel parks and beaches, why are we going after the golf course? My tenure here has been off and on but I've taught my kids golf and how to drive (cart) on the course. I've been impressed with the scratch golfers turned out by PTHS golf team. I've been impressed with the crew that maintains the course on a shoestring. It's a challenging sport and an allegory for life. When it gets difficult you learn how to persevere and do better. I see a hybrid "compromise" with "stakeholders" as the contrived narrative. Doesn't that require MORE money?</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
670	6/26/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>Leave the golf course as is. We already have pickleball courts, a dog park, walking and biking trails, parks for play and civic plazas. A splash pad water play area? Seriously? 4.4 million will go a long way to fixing the city's deteriorating streets and infrastructure needs. Let the golf course continue to be the one green spot in town guaranteed not to be ruined by development.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
671	6/27/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>Very much in favor of the proposal for the Central Park concept. The town needs a civic center for ALL not just for a select few, ie golfers.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning</p>
672	6/28/2023	PT Golf Online	<p>Can you direct me to the images of the original four options for the golf course, and also for the updated two current options? I can not find them currently the City website. I believe they are only included in some meeting or open house presentation that is NOT easy to find. These are not listed in the "Materials for Review" list, and a website search for "golf course options" does not seem to be very helpful either.</p>	

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6/26/2023

Dear City Council, Having participated in the public process about repurposing the golf course, I urge you to make a bold, visionary decision to repurpose it to the Central Park option. I think about the long-ago decision that Christine Gregoire made for a tunnel versus replacing the old Viaduct in Seattle. That was a contentious, emotionally fraught time, complete with a stakeholder process that was unable to produce consensus. Gregoire made the hard decision, and the tunnel now has opened up more connections between downtown and the waterfront than ever before. Port Townsend's 2020 PROS plan clearly reflected the public's desire to review usage of the 59 acres now occupied by the golf course. The 10-month process that will culminate in a few short weeks has been robust and inclusive. The stakeholder group itself seems unlikely to reach consensus on presenting one plan, and the fervor with which the golfing community has presented its case might make it seem as if the community is divided. I believe that these past 3.5 years demonstrates that the community wants alternative uses. A full 42% of people who gave input over the past 10 months want the Central Park option, versus 33% for a restored golf course. The hybrid options also demonstrate a desire for alternative uses. As a citizen, I have experienced the golfers' public campaign to be disingenuous and manipulative. In many ways, I understand this: they are in a defensive posture, trying to save something they value and fear they will lose. This is a time of grief and anticipated grief. However, their use of language to remake reality is at best, confusing: Yard signs that proclaim "save our *open* space". That is disingenuous. Yes, a golf green *looks* open, but it is not actually open to the public. Signage around the edges makes this quite clear. A *hybrid* plan presented to the stakeholder group on June 8. It's actually not hybrid, but squeezes a couple of amenities in around the edges. It does not shrink the footprint of the course, nor does it allow trail walking during golf hours. Comments about lack of clear data from the golf course vendor being the city's fault because they didn't hold him accountable. The golf course is historic and deeply embedded in the town's culture. In fact, it's the *land itself* that historic (camas prairie, for example, and Hastings Pond). The land has always been meant for municipal purposes. A golf course is not the highest of possible municipal purposes, and in fact does not meet the majority of the stakeholder group's decision making criteria. The golf course is historic and deeply embedded in the town's culture. In fact, it's the *land itself* that historic (camas prairie, for example, and Hastings Pond). The land has always been meant for municipal purposes. A golf course is not the highest of possible municipal purposes, and in fact does not meet the majority of the stakeholder group's decision making criteria. For a long while I was leaning toward a hybrid option, I think out of trying to respect what the golfers have to lose. Now, however, I realize: I don't think we citizens should be held hostage to the golf course. I have always thought that it's a deeply troubling and inequitable use of the land: to take that much land offline from being *always* open to the *entire* town and direct its usage to house a private golf course is de facto exclusive. If this were a blank slate of land, I am sure--given the robust public input--that a golf course would not rise to the top of this town's collective desires. Please do not delay this decision. Please do not direct that this large, beautiful property be dedicated primarily to golf and thus exclude the majority of this town. Be bold enough to see into the future beyond today's vocal minority. There is no better time to make this decision and put this controversy to rest, but moreover to create a crown jewel legacy for this town that creates open, equitable access for all. Thank you for listening.

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Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

675	6/27/2023	<p>I was traveling and missed the last public meeting. I see we are now down to two options: These look good, except I notice that more housing has been added, along the east diagonal, which was not present in any of the previous iterations. I support more housing, but the location is perplexing to me. There is no road access and none is depicted. It's the steepest portion of the park, which was previously depicted as the most difficult and expensive to build on. And it also is currently the best wildlife/bird section, being mostly thickets and copses of alders and conifers. Surely housing along San Juan would be easier and less impactful. It seems inappropriate to add such a significant new element at this late stage, as it was not subject to the rigorous public comment earlier. Are there more details about this component?</p>	<p><i>Thanks for writing. I appreciate your comments and we'll wrap those into the public process/log of input for council to consider. To your question, the main thrust for more housing came from the #1 top priority of our local schools when we asked them what their preferences were. You might also be aware that we are truly struggling with a major housing supply and affordability issue and this is one of the City's top priorities (see more here - or even watch here). The mock up/designs are not final designs but for illustrative purposes; there is not currently any major project being developed as this would take quite a lot more thinking, planning, and community engagement.</i></p>
676	6/28/2023	<p>I have a couple of question and concerns that were impossible to capture in the mini-survey. So, I decided to contact you directly. The 36 unit housing area proposed for the natural wooded area between Cherry and Redwood Streets took me by complete surprise. There has been NO discussion of this throughout the golf-course envisioning process. In fact, the first time I and many other residents became aware of it was in the maps contained as part of the survey. The only previous mention we can find is in your strategy group's June 22, 2023 .pdf (3 days after the mini-survey was launched?!). There, we find that the very first mention of obliterating that wooded area is contained in the "preferred alternatives" buried back on page 13. Where is the analysis for this "preference"? With nothing more to go on the the minimalist maps used by the strategy group, the new proposed housing would appear to have several problems:1) It is located on land zoned "municipal use only." At one of the public meetings early in the year, Mayor Faber made very clear no housing could or would happen on such lands; 2) It would completely obliterate the largest contiguous natural area on the property, a 3-acre swale densely wooded with thickets, deciduous and coniferous trees. This is despite the fact that the public has shown a clear preference for natural areas and habitat restoration, not habitat destruction. This section is actually one of the best pieces of mixed-deciduous woodlands in town, and home to nesting Willow Flycatchers and Black-headed Grosbeaks, species which are rare nesters within the city limits. 3) It poses considerable logistical hurdles. There appears to be no dedicated through-street from Redwood, and C Street runs through a pond. Also, the area includes some of the steepest slopes on the entire parcel. The city has labeled the area as extremely costly to develop and "would require extensive and costly earthwork."4) The area has very poor road connectivity. A connection to Cherry would create a steep road joining a blind curve. Even if you have the money to condemn some portion of adjacent properties, simultaneous connection to Redwood would turn a small residential street into a shortcut for vehicles going from downtown to North Beach. Neither option is good for this number of units.5) It would eliminate an important pedestrian trail that is the main link between Happy Valley/North Beach and Uptown/Downtown, which currently enables people and bikes to avoid</p>	<p>Thanks for writing. I appreciate your comments and we'll wrap those into the public process/log of input for council to consider. To your question, the main thrust for more housing came from the #1 top priority of our local schools when we asked them what their preferences were. You might also be aware that we are truly struggling with a major housing supply and affordability issue and this is one of the City's top priorities (see more here - or even watch here). The mock up/designs are not final designs but for illustrative purposes; there is not currently any major project being developed as this would take quite a lot more thinking, planning, and community engagement.</p>

677	6/30/2023	<p>As a Port Townsend resident, I have followed with interest the decision process regarding the Golf Course property. There has been an admirable effort to gather input and hear opinions and ideas throughout the very open proceedings. Until now. The most recent on-line survey "Port Townsend Golf Course Open House 3 - Online Questionnaire" presents two (apparently final) options. Both options include "housing" along the west side of the property (Cherry/Walker Streets). At what point was housing discussed earlier in the decision process? It is presented now as if it was thoroughly vetted and considered during public discussions over the last many months...but it really hasn't been at all. The general impact, size, and location of the housing (as presented) has not been a part of the process. It comes off as if there is a special agenda being sprung on the public at the last minute. Why? I have heard that a survey conducted amongst High School students identified housing as a priority. Has that been the case in the multiple other surveys and comments from the public? My recollection is that Nature and Habitat were priorities for most. No one can dispute the need for additional housing options in Port Townsend, and it may well be that the Golf Course property should include some sort of residential construction. BUT: an open review of such a project should include consideration of multiple issues regarding a housing project: size? location? single-family? Low-cost apartments? In particular, the location of any housing should be considered. That would not seem to be the western edge of the property. Here's why: The western edge of the property is currently the only remaining natural habitat and wildlife corridor on the property. In previous surveys, the public has made it clear that nature and habitat restoration are the #1 priority. Why, then, would housing be placed in an area that requires removal of the only existing natural habitat on the property? Surely there are other locations on the property that could be utilized for a housing project. There is room on the proposed Central Park model for both retaining the natural habitat (that currently exists) and new housing. There is simply no need to put these two priorities in conflict. Please find somewhere else on the Golf Course Property to create new housing. The western edge of the project is not the logical location. Please cast my vote for the Central Park model, but with housing moved to somewhere else that preserves the existing</p>	<p><i>Thanks for writing. I appreciate your comments and we'll wrap those into the public process/log of input for council to consider. To your question, the main thrust for more housing came from the #1 top priority of our local schools when we asked them what their preferences were. You might also be aware that we are truly struggling with a major housing supply and affordability issue and this is one of the City's top priorities (see more here - or even watch here). The mock up/designs are not final designs but for illustrative purposes; there is not currently any major project being developed as this would take quite a lot more thinking, planning, and community engagement.</i></p>
678		<p>The western edge of the project is not the logical location. Please cast my vote for the Central Park model, but with housing moved to somewhere else that preserves the existing natural habitat.</p>	
679	6/30/2023	<p>Can you please present me with or point me to a detailed graphic and explanation of what the hybrid golf plan consist of. I have found pictures of it with dots all over it and too small to read in some of the presentations. I'm sure you must have something better, perhaps a map in vector format.</p>	<p>sent copy of graphic</p>
680	7/3/2023	<p>As we approach the date you will be voting to choose an alternative for the golf course, I must share my frustration regarding the choices presented by the City's Envision team. I'm deeply disappointed by adding a large housing area on the one remaining undeveloped section of the golf course, which you never previously discussed with the public. Both final options now incorporate this housing development, disregarding green space. I'm disappointed both by the new plan and by your lack of disclosure. During previous meetings, it was explicitly stated that housing was not part of the alternatives. However, at the last meeting, a small section of housing on Redwood Street was unexpectedly introduced. All of a sudden, an additional 36 units have been included in the final selection without any community discussion. It raises valid concerns about construction and traffic implications. Where is the vision of maintaining green space in the middle of the town? I find this behavior on your part to be questionable and lacking in transparency. Initially, the city showed a commitment to engaging in open discussions about the golf course. I am left wondering what has caused this unfortunate shift in approach.</p>	<p><i>Thank you for your email, Thomas. The consultant proposals are visioning ideas that do not control what the end result of this process will turn out to be. That decision rests with the Port Townsend City Council, who will be taking up the issue at our meeting on Monday, July 17. That said, the addition of further housing in the potential plans for the site came from two sources: (1) the overwhelming priority of youth (school-age) respondents to dedicate some of the land of the golf course to affordable housing, and (2) at the last council touch-point, many of us voices an interest in seeing more housing incorporated into the visioning process, in part because of the desires of the young members of our community who will have to live with our decision. This does not mean that any decisions have been made, only that we are (and will be) wrestling with the complex web of interests, concerns, and opportunities that exist with regard to the golf course land.</i></p>

681	7/5/2023	<p>I applaud Robert Horner’s magnificent design offering for use of the golf course space.I’ve lived, worked and volunteered in PT for 34 years and love my community more each day. While not a golfer, I find my soul, psyche and body nurtured by the the nature of the golf course. On my daily walks by the area, I love the way my mind wanders to the sights of friends golfing away, birds singing the glories of the day and the sky shifting from moment to moment. I simply love the golf course. After viewing Robert’s imagined site, my mind wanders toward walks along the boardwalk and pond, residents digging away in our community garden, happy residents perched within homes they otherwise couldn’t afford, golfers encouraging little white balls into their directed holes. Oh yes! I also imagine a big smile on Chief Chetzemoka’s statue, obviously counted with the use of his former domain.I can’t wait to sit at the expanded restaurant and taking in a concert, so much to be excited about!Let’s work real hard to make Robert’s ideas a reality! Thank you for all of the work you’ve given to this project!</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
682	7/3/2023	<p>As the voting day approaches for selecting an alternative for the golf course, I am sharing my disappointment regarding the options presented by the City’s Envision team. I am particularly disturbed by the sudden inclusion of a large housing area on the last remaining undeveloped portion of the golf course, which has never been revealed to the public before. Both final options now feature this housing development; you have no choice but to select a vote for the 36 units, leaving no space for green areas. Pretty slick how you managed this. In previous meetings, it was explicitly stated that housing was not part of the alternatives. However, at the last meeting, a small section of housing on Redwood Street was introduced unexpectedly. As part of the final selection, 36 units have been included without any community consultation.This decision contradicts the idea of utilizing the property for green and open spaces. It also raises concerns about construction, parking and traffic, let alone no environmental impact study, just to name a few. I must express my dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency displayed here. Initially, the city appeared committed to engaging in open conversations (what a farce) about the golf course. I am left wondering what has caused this disappointing turn of events.</p>	<p>The consultant proposals are visioning concept drawings that do not control decision-making regarding the future of the golf course land. Instead, that decision rests with the Port Townsend City Council, who will be taking up the issue at our meeting on Monday, July 17. That said, the addition of further housing in the potential plans for the site came from two sources: (1) the overwhelming priority of youth (school-age) respondents to dedicate some of the land of the golf course to affordable housing, and (2) at the last council touch-point, many of us voices an interest in seeing more housing incorporated into the visioning process, in part because of the desires of the young members of our community who will have to live with our decision. This does not mean that any decisions have been made, only that we are (and will be) wrestling with the complex web of interests, concerns, and opportunities that exist with regard to the golf course land.</p>

7/3/2023

I sent the following comments 20 minutes later than the 2 hour prior to meeting requirement. In case it did not get included in the minutes of the 7/3/23 meeting minutes, I am sending my comments to the General Council email address. Thank you for your consideration. For the Council's consideration., July 3, 2023. Considering the following, it is apparent that the changes in the golf course contained in the Consultant's Hybrid plan are counter to the best interests of the City. 1) This City has more miles of easily accessible trails than any City of its size that I know of. Trails winding across the open spaces of the fairways seem ridiculous. 2) The dog park can be put in any number of places (the space west of the current park including the defunct tennis court, the east end of KaiTai park, etc) 3) Since there is to be a children's play area associated with the pool complex, what is the need for another on the golf course property across the street? 4) The hybrid plan developed by golfers (drawn by Mr. Horner) would provide for trails, bird overlook, puttputt golf, and an amphitheater with movable stage without changing - in any significant way - the layout of the Course or loss of the driving range. However, the most important consideration for the Council is the appropriateness of the expenses that would be incurred with adoption of either option for changing the golf course proposed by the consultants. Initial cost of the changes would pale in comparison to the long term costs of maintenance. The Council is sworn to ensure fiscal integrity and long term stability. Neither of the proposed options are fiscally responsible. Accepting the cost of unnecessary changes to the land now occupied by the Course other than some work to improve the playability (estimated at \$450M to 500M by David Heine, but later raised without reason or logic to 1.3mm by Mr. Jones...) is just more indebtedness that the City can ill afford when contemplating multimillion dollar expenses for the planned Pool complex, paying down the Carmel building fiasco, the ever expanding crumbling of the roads, and the maintenance and improvement needs of the water and sewer systems. Please leave the Course as it is, allow the golf manager to maintain the land, and place other City needs and desires elsewhere.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

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7/3/2023

Unfortunately, your response only raises more questions for me. First, you assert that housing is the #1 top priority of our local schools. I'm sure that it true, but I think it's important to know how the question was posed. If it was on the golf course mini survey, then of course they said housing. There was no other choice! The student "preference" for housing on the golf course might be more persuasive if the question was posed on a questionnaire much larger in scope. Were the students given the opportunity to evaluate the many different parcels owned by the city? Could they voice their preference that open fields on streets be developed before forested areas? Did you ask them if parks should also be built upon? How about converting some government buildings into housing? And did you ask them how much housing is enough? Until that happens, there is nothing persuasive about a student vote that there should be housing on the golf course property. (And if there was such a more expansive questionnaire posed to the students, why has the entire town not been given the same opportunity to answer those larger questions?) Regarding their indicated preference, I understand the students' frustration. When I filled out the survey, I started out thinking that I preferred the Central Park concept. But when I saw that housing was included in both, I decided to vote for the golf course to ensure that there is another voice in the discussion. It wasn't my "preference", but the structure of the survey left me concerned that even though the Mayor and city staff have said there will be no housing built on golf course property, there are still plans to build houses on golf course property. Finally, I listened to you on Brewocracy last week, and I heard you say that there was nothing random about the choice of where the proposed developments were placed, even though they were only for "illustrative purposes". Notwithstanding the students' "preference" for housing on the golf course, why was that particular site picked for a 36 unit housing development? Your "not random" assertion implies that the housing project was intentionally put on the trail. Candidly, a dart thrown at the map would make me feel better about the choice. I would like to know more about the process in deciding to put the mock up/not-final-designs in that particular spot. Mr. Mauro, I can understand how difficult the struggle to address the housing problems has been and continues to be. I sympathize and understand that more housing is needed. But you work

I'm writing in request for information regarding the large housing development that has been included during the final stage of the public envisioning and comment period for the golf course project. My questions are two fold - 1) Why was this extensive housing cluded only in the final drafts of the plan recommendations to city council, and not on the table for discussion and public comment from the earlier stages of the envisioning process? 2) Do you share my concern for how this appears to cast a negative image on efforts to romote transparency and good faith dealings within the public process? A primary concern of mine is the direct contradiction this implies to the statements made by city staff at the open house meetings that the city would not be seeking re-zoning of the currently zoned Public Open Space that is the city's golf course property. My opinion is that we need our elected officials, public servants, and bureaucrats to stand behind their words now more than ever. If a statement regarding the lack of intention to re-zone P/OS for housing was made in error, can it be addressed candidly, and clarified or corrected? I am an ally and supporter of efforts to lower cost of housing and for promoting means for working class families and individuals to own homes within city limits. That being said, a secondary concern of mine is that the push for publicly funded sponsoring of affordable housing is getting far ahead of its self with the proposal to re-zone public open space for housing without first proving a working model of how that may shake out. Please be laser-focused on pulling off Evan's Vista project in a fair and successful way, and salvaging, and turning around the Cherry Street Housing project before taking the extreme step of re-zoning public open space. I will ask that the additional housing that is proposed on the currently zoned P/OS portion of the golf course property be deleted from both of the final preferred alternative proposals to city council. Also, I will hope that any re-zoning of P/OS be carefully considered, put up for public discussion/debate and decided by city residents via ballot. Thank you for your consideration on this.

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7/5/2023

The additional housing in the consultant proposals was the result of City Council asking why so little weight was given to the stated preferences of the youth who responded to the surveys regarding the golf course, with Port Townsend High School students rated "affordable housing" as their #1 priority for the future of the golf course land. Some members of Council asked to see what options might exist for adding further housing to the land. This does not mean any decisions have been made, only that there are ideas being discussed and considered. Council's decision will be on the 17th.

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7/4/2023

After the meeting last nite I pondered the message that was sent to Council. I have concluded the most important take away from the meeting was the curious no show of Council constituents who favor City Park, or dog park on the driving range, or play area, or a myriad of trails to nowhere. They simply didn't bother to show up and voice their desires. So, why is that? The meeting was adequately advertised, plenty of lead time for people to plan to go. Curious and telling. There is only one logical reason for their absence. They really don't have any skin in the game. Most of those who mused about packing every favorite activity into the golf course simply don't share the passion, or investment in their ideas as do the golf community, and non golfers who share their love of the existing open space, and the opportunities for young and old to enjoy the game and its health benefits. It is my belief that the single greatest mistake the consultants made in their assessment is their disregard for the energy behind the dots on maps and votes done with the click of a finger on the keyboard. I would guess that if the City Park idea were eliminated, Council would scarcely hear a peep out of the majority of those who voted for it. It would be more like a shrug and "oh well" response. Not so for those golfers and non golfers who support the existing golf course. Council's decisions must consider the level of commitment of its constituents and the forever loss of a beloved Course against a poll of the citizenry that is no more representative of the city's best option for the golf course than if they had asked passerbys on a street corner to give an opinion. I truly hope the decision made by Council will honor the legacy and great potential of the oldest golf course (that has remained in place) in the State.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

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I have been watching and occasionally involved with the Golf Course planning process for the last 3-4 years. We should now be at the point where there is a final decision. To my dismay, the Envision committee for the Golf Course sent out a mini-survey that pared the choice to two options: the Golf Course, or Central Park, but that included completely new housing developments in both options. In correspondence with various city staff and council members, it appears that they and the architect were convinced that they needed to insert a 36-42 unit housing developments because housing is the #1 top priority of our local schools. So, there is this new monkey wrench thrown into what could have been a relatively straightforward process for deciding what should happen to the golf course and the underlying land. I have little doubt that housing is the top priority of our students. But I question what conclusions can be drawn about where to build housing based on a simple preference relating only to the golf course. There are many other parcels that can be built on in Port Townsend, and for a true sense of student preferences, they should have understood that those are options as well. For example, - Were they shown the many different parcels owned by the city and asked which ones should be developed? - Were they shown the planned housing developments, their sizes and locations, already approved by the city? - Could they voice their priorities, such as open fields on streets should be developed before forested areas? - Did you ask them if parks should also be built upon? If so, which ones? - How about converting some government buildings into housing? If none of those larger questions were asked, then OF COURSE the students preferred to build on the golf course. Given only one option, you take it. No single piece of property owned by the city, including the golf course, should be viewed as a necessary component to satisfy the need for housing. With regard to the golf course property, notwithstanding Mayor Faber's protestations, there are many people who heard him and his staff say that no housing would be built on land with deed restrictions for "municipal purposes". There was no clear statement forthcoming on which land those restrictions applied. And so, the discussion about the future of the golf course proceeded without any clarity. Indeed, I personally let the planning process run its course because of my understanding that the housing needed for our town would be built on the many other pieces of property languishing around town, and not on the golf course property. I consider it our Central Park, regardless of whether it is shared with golfers. I guess I was foolish to trust statements by city staff that housing was not "on the table" for the golf course. Now, according to Mavor Faber, it wouldn't

Thank you for your email, Susan. I assure you I did not say that the deed restrictions on the golf course land preclude housing. Instead, I stated that *thus far* it had not risen to the top of priority lists from community surveys that I had seen, and as a result I did not anticipate that Council would move toward including additional housing on the golf course land. Thereafter, some members of Council responded to the level of student interest additional affordable housing on the golf course land and requested to see additional housing options included in possible options. This does not mean any decisions have been made. The end result remains an open question, additional housing or not, and Council will take up the decision-making process on the 17th. Every permutation of every possible plan for the future of the golf course has "but what about x, y, or z?" possibilities. The job of the Council will be to determine what might best fit our community's needs and wants, and balance the various interests that exist. Thank you again. I am CCing Carrie Hite to capture your comments in the record. I'm not sure I'm able to get into the detail here of the meeting dynamics/framing with the students, but I hear your perspective and concerns. On lack of transparency, I'll respectfully disagree. This process, staff, and I have been transparent through and through. I invite you to continue to be part of the process as it unfolds and, like we're committed to doing, keep an open mind for the best long-term interests of the greater community.

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7/5/2023

I want to speak about the golf course property, but I cannot be present at the July 17th meeting. My comment to the City Council, City staff, and fellow residents of Port Townsend is a plea: a plea that you open up this entire large public property to the everyone. We need the Central Park option. There is plenty of evidence that access to the natural environment and green space enhances our lives physically and mentally. With less mowed grass, and with more native shrubs and trees, this green space can become true "green lungs" for this part of the town. We will need that as surrounding private property gets developed. Let us take advantage of this amazing opportunity now. We can make this town better by opening up this property to all residents and visitors. A park here will provide hundreds of residents with the easy non-motorized access to green space that is not available to them now. A park here will reduce car trips for near by residents and improve their daily lives. At the same time this large open space can, and should, include special amenities with some parking for those living further away. There is space here for more nature: native plants, birds, and small animal habitat to enrich the area, and also for trails, active play space, a space for music and performances, picnic areas, and food vendors. These 50+ acres can become an amazing spot for relaxation, exercise, and fun, while they give us cleaner air and healthier wildlife. I hope we can all envision this: walking and running trails throughout, a bit more parking along San Juan and on the south end, and perhaps a modest accessible playground. The community gathering space on the plan could start as a simple space for 2-3 food trucks on weekends, some picnic tables, and a set up for bean bag toss and other simple outdoor games. I hope we do not waste this amazing opportunity to keep Port Townsend healthy, and make all parts of town beautiful places to live. I will take a moment to speak to the golf lovers. I do hear that you love to play golf here, or even love just knowing that there is a golf course here in town. But please try to understand that your game is very specialized, and cannot appeal to many of us. So we are shut out, told by messaging and clear signs that this 55+ acres of public property is for golfers only. The numbers are real, it is a fact that this course is often empty or under used even in fine weather. Please try to understand that those of us that cannot relate to hitting that little white ball have a right to enjoy this property is for golfers only. The numbers are real, it is a fact that this course is often empty or under used even in fine weather. Please try to understand that those of us that cannot relate to hitting that little white ball have a right to enjoy this property. Council members, please choose the Central Park option. This is a historic decision that can improve Port Townsend form many years to come.

7/6/2023

Editor, Port Townsend Leader: WHOA! Isn't it time to take a few deep breaths and hit the pause button on the Port Townsend golf course stakeholder scoping process? Apparently, the plan has been whittled down to three alternatives, at least one of which could compromise the course so severely as to effectively end its' existence as such. However, there is a beautifully produced presentation of a plan that would benefit all of the stakeholders. Let's call it the "golfers' plan" and it includes compromises from golfers, benefitting all the other stakeholders and would allow the course to continue as such. Many non-golfers also love having our own little Central Park, and we would happily continue to so, as well. All of us stakeholders, including the contracted consultants, and the City Council need to give the "golfers alternative" plan the respect and thoughtful consideration it deserves, and this needs to happen before a final decision is made that could effectively doom Port Townsend's sweet little municipal golf course.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

7/6/2023

I hope to hell I am wrong, but doesn't it appear that the deciders have already decided the fate of the Port Townsend golf course, in spite of any and all voices raised in inquiry, opposition and protest? The proposals put forward as alternate fixed choices are each flawed in the extreme, and lack focus and foresight. In the drive to satisfy each of the competing factions clambering for a piece of the pie, the proposed hybrid solutions present a hapless hodgepodge that will end up ruining a precious community asset forever. As it sits today, the foremost feature of the golf course is that it is OPEN SPACE. It is land still open to the sky, unencumbered for the most part by pavement and buildings, untrammelled by cars and trucks, free from hustle and bustle of crowds and commerce. It is still relatively wild, compared to the surrounding city. Consider how rare this actually is, OPEN SPACE, and how valuable, increasingly desperately vital for our collective peace and sanity, as well as for the creatures who must share the shrinking spaces still not given over to intensive human use. Consider also how our children, and their children, will need OPEN SPACE to support and refresh their lives. Do our current desires really rule, to the degree that we are willing to forever commit to extracting more OPEN SPACE from the shrinking store? As long as the golf course is one of the few remaining gems of open space remaining in our midst, might we want to at least pause for reflection and contemplation of the future, and possibly postpone the decision for a generation or two? Can't we kick this particular can down the road a piece, take a collective breath, and look for alternatives that would lessen our impact on our common home? I submit that the highest and best use of the golf course property is to remain as OPEN SPACE. Whether the land is then devoted to golf, or parkland, urban forest, or some other natural culture makes perfect sense, but to cover it with pavement, aquatic center, parking lots, pickleball courts, housing, or any other intensive use seems shortsighted and thoughtless, akin to a kind of cultural suicide. I have enjoyed golfing at the Port Townsend Golf Course for three decades. I have spent many hundreds if not thousands of hours there, in all seasons and weathers. I have seen and absorbed the minor and major changes in the land, the trees, the condition of the course, the birds and furry critters that dwell there. Owls, geese, quail, eagles, osprey, coyotes, fox and many more, some rare, are resident and depend on the

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

I have bathed in the endlessly changing light, felt the sun and wind and rain, delighted in the constantly changing parade of clouds, walked the sloping contours time and time again, watched the seasons come and go. Picked blackberries around the perimeter, plump for pies. Worried about the invasive scotch broom and poison hemlock. Seen the fall of poplar limbs in windstorms. Planted a memorial pine tree for a fallen friend. Enjoyed the friendship and comfort of easy relations with fellow golfers, laughed and loved and cursed the damnable Game of Golf. I consider myself and my fellow golfers, as well as the wild creatures that depend on the golf course land, as serious and devoted Stakeholders in the fate of the golf course property. The plain-faced reality that our knowledge, love and appreciation of the property has been spectacularly under-represented, under-appreciated and discounted in the City process is a travesty. To ignore the input of those most intimately acquainted with the property, aware from years-long close communion with the space and its needs, moods, assets and glories is inexplicable. A Simple Solution: I would like to propose a simple solution to the immediate, short term, and possible long term state of the golf course: Sell the Cherry Street Debacle. As a vivid demonstration of the abject record of the City's efforts to produce affordable housing, the Cherry Street Floated-in and Flubbed apartment building on Cherry Street needs no introduction or explanation. Sell the damn thing, immediately, as-is, on the open market to the highest bidder. Earmark the funds from the Cherry Street Debacle sale, to be used exclusively for improvements to the golf course. No ifs ands or buts. No siphoning off money for another downtown sculpture or a pickle ball court. Golf course improvements ONLY. Call for proposals for a new lease on the golf course operations, of a term no shorter than ten years, so a prospective leaseholder can invest and plan appropriately. Structure the lease such that innovations in management of the course are mandatory. Changes in operations might include: In keeping with a desire to make the golf course property more inclusive and available to non golfers, why not consider the example of St. Andrews of Scotland, widely heralded as the home of modern golf, and close the course on Sundays to golf, and open it to the public. There are periods in winter when the course is unplayable that may work also. Special days or times for

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7/7/2023

I understand that there is a well intentioned effort to facilitate affordable housing and this is the reason for including it in the concepts. The concern and confusion I share with others is why the housing proposed on the currently zoned P/OS area of the project was included so late in the process, noting that this is in contradiction to statements made by staff at the 4/26 open house regarding zoning issues. I attended the April 26 open house either correctly or incorrectly thinking that the 4 draft proposals were essentially fully developed in concept - meaning all major components of the design had been fleshed out and included - ready for public discussion/debate and polling to eliminate the least favorable. During this open house the question was asked by an attendee "why isn't more housing being included in the drafts?" A staff member clearly answered this question stating the zoning of most the golf course property doesn't allow for housing but the portion of the property that is zoned for housing has it included. They went on to state that although there is a periodic re-zoning process on the horizon, the City has no intention of re-zoning golf course, and it would be difficult (and probably contentious?) to do so. This statement directly addressed my concern and the concern of others in my neighborhood who were at that meeting, so my comments were withheld. The other point I want to address is the optics of inserting this significant and contentious component 6 months into a 7 month long public engagement process. At best it looks like some error on the administrative end has occurred (by not getting this onto the table during the first half of the process and allowing it to be published only weeks prior to vote by Council), at worst, frankly, it looks like a bait and switch or some form of manipulation. I'm not inferring this was the intention, rather, I think its important to note this is how it looks to many community members. There are a ton of other reasons to lobby for not re-zoning public open space for housing, but, I thought it was off the table, as addressed by staff at the meeting, and clearly this wouldn't be necessary (due to the obvious restrictions outlined in PTMC Chapter 17.24 along with statement made by City staff). It seems clear that the action of re-zoning P/OS for housing is on the table. Can anybody shed light on what to expect in that regard? I.e., when will a binding decision be made regarding specific locations for housing development on P/OS portions of the

Thanks for writing. I appreciate your comments and we'll wrap those into the public process/log of input for council to consider. To your question, the main thrust for more housing came from the #1 top priority of our local schools when we asked them what their preferences were. You might also be aware that we are truly struggling with a major housing supply and affordability issue and this is one of the City's top priorities (see more here - or even watch here). The mock up/designs are not final designs but for illustrative purposes; there is not currently any major project being developed as this would take quite a lot more thinking, planning, and community engagement.

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7/9/2023

In the very last minutes of the very last Golf Course Stakeholder's Meeting on July 6th, a new 'modified' plan for the Central Park Option was brought up (Andy's Plan - includes mini-golf/putt putt). An unofficial poll of the 8 members present in the room out of 21 members voted to present this 'modified' option going forward to the Parks Board and Councilmembers - not all 8 approved. In all fairness, there should have been a poll, also, by Carrie and the Consultants to bring forward the 'modified' Hybrid Plan - Robert Horner's Design, to the Parks Board and Councilmembers. All who have learned of Horner's Hybrid option since it was presented (2 Stakeholder meetings ago and at the Open House) thought it was the best Option they've seen so far, as it has so much to offer in new amenities for the community, BUT, also keeps the historically famous design of the Golf Course - which maintains the course's integrity instead of reducing it's appeal. Even some stakeholder members pushing for Central Park said they'd feel much more appeased by Horner's Hybrid Plan than the Consultant's Hybrid Plan made up. It's an obvious WIN-WIN Plan. As was clearly stated by Carrie, the two options made up (Hybrid/Central Park) are NOT set in stone. They are ONLY 'concepts'. Councilmembers have the power to ask the Consultants to adjust/modify their Hybrid Plan to accommodate so much more of Horner's Plan - in spite of Consultant Chris's statement that it's too late in the Master Planning Process to consider Horner's modifications. Just as, it's in the Councilmembers' power to ask Consultants to adjust/modify their own Central Park Plan to accommodate Andy's Plan. Let's keep this fair~ And please ... do NOT let the Aquatic Facility somehow slip onto the Golf Course property at the very last minute for any kind of reason, what-so-ever!!

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

7/8/2023

Please consider these comments for the Park Board meeting on July 11, 2023. I write with regard to a last-minute addition to the golf course envisioning effort -- to both of the "preferred alternatives" -- of a significant housing project located on top of the largest remaining patch of natural habitat on the parcel (along the east side of the property). This seems to pit nature and housing, two of the public's top priorities, against each other, even though both the natural area and the housing project each constitute a small proportion of the total parcel area. This proposal was never subject to public review and comment and was never part of any previous alternative or map presented to the public. Because it appears on both preferred alternatives, the public can only vote "for" it. In addition to noteworthy zoning, road access, and slope issues, **locating the housing here would destroy the largest remaining natural habitat on the property**, a 3-acre swale densely wooded with thickets and a wide array of deciduous and coniferous trees. This section is actually one of the best pieces of mixed-deciduous woodlands in our entire city. The presence of Long-tailed Weasel, and nesting Willow Flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Swainson's Thrushes are all indicators that this is high-functioning deciduous riparian habitat. Perhaps no better illustration comes than that of the chickadee-- they require over 6,000 caterpillars to raise a nest of chicks. They primarily get these caterpillars from native alders, birch, and bitter cherry trees. Because all three of these tree species are present in this woodland, both Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees successfully raise chicks here annually. As someone who was involved with habitat restoration for most of my career, I can tell you that creating this habitat from scratch (e.g. from a golf course) would take at least 30 years, plus cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Keeping it, and expanding it to connect it with the willows around the pond, would be the most logical -- and economical -- approach to habitat restoration on the golf course parcel. Destruction of this habitat could jeopardize the city's attempts to get partnering funds for the park from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program or Dept of Ecology's Environmental Restoration Grants, not to mention other non-governmental habitat restoration grant sources. I ask the Parks Board and the city to protect this natural area, and to explore other locations for this housing development, and subject them to proper public review and comment. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

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6/30/2023

As a Port Townsend resident, I have followed with interest the decision process regarding the Golf Course property. There has been an admirable effort to gather input and hear opinions and ideas throughout the very open proceedings. Until now. The most recent on-line survey "Port Townsend Golf Course Open House 3 - Online Questionnaire" presents two (apparently final) options. Both options include "housing" along the west side of the property (Cherry/Walker Streets). At what point was housing discussed earlier in the decision process? It is presented now as if it was thoroughly vetted and considered during public discussions over the last many months...but it really hasn't been at all. The general impact, size, and location of the housing (as presented) has not been a part of the process. It comes off as if there is a special agenda being sprung on the public at the last minute. Why? I have heard that a survey conducted amongst High School students identified housing as a priority. Has that been the case in the multiple other surveys and comments from the public? My recollection is that Nature and Habitat were priorities for most. No one can dispute the need for additional housing options in Port Townsend, and it may well be that the Golf Course property should include some sort of residential construction. BUT: an open review of such a project should include consideration of multiple issues regarding a housing project: size? location? single-family? Low-cost apartments? In particular, the location of any housing should be considered. That would not seem to be the western edge of the property. Here's why: The western edge of the property is currently the only remaining natural habitat and wildlife corridor on the property. In previous surveys, the public has made it clear that nature and habitat restoration are the #1 priority. Why, then, would housing be placed in an area that requires removal of the only existing natural habitat on the property? Surely there are other locations on the property that could be utilized for a housing project. There is room on the proposed Central Park model for both retaining the natural habitat (that currently exists) and new housing. There is simply no need to put these two priorities in conflict. Please find somewhere else on the Golf Course Property to create new housing. The western edge of the project is not the logical location. Please cast my vote for the Central Park model, but with housing moved to somewhere else that preserves the existing

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

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Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and

7/10/2023

We have some serious concerns about some of the ideas proposed for changing the use of the golf course land. The golf course area may look to some people like land waiting to be developed. To us it is welcome open space and wildlife habitat and it is part of the charm of this small rural town. We would like for it to be maintained as an ecologically friendly golf course, open to the public at low cost. There seems to be no reason to get rid of an historic community golf course that serves working class folks. Facilities for other activities can be placed in other locations. We have specific concerns about some of the proposals. We are homeowners on Redwood Street and we have, for 15 years, observed the wildlife here: migrating birds, resident birds (including eagles and herons), squirrels, deer, raccoons, coyotes, rats, insects, salamanders, frogs, bats and more. These animals are all part of this local ecosystem. We watch many pedestrians and bicyclists come by, on their way to or from the trail through the woods making their way around town without using cars. This is part of the charm of this rural town... this is valuable to our community. Building a road from Redwood to Cherry Street would not only eliminate this welcome patch of wildness but it would remove an important trail for non-motorists. It would also create another awkwardly angled intersection at Cherry Street, and channel more cars through an already awkwardly narrow intersection at Redwood and F Streets. We oppose the building of said road. Also in the newest version of alternative plans is housing development. While we are not against more houses per se, building 6-8 houses along the west side of Redwood Street (near the pond at the north end of the golf course) would be on or very close to wetland and would undoubtedly affect the ecosystem in that area, via direct pollution and disruption during the building process, and via the use of potentially toxic materials. In addition, the elevation is quite low and the sewer is uphill from those sites. How would those sites be properly drained? This valley is named Spring Valley for a reason: the town's original source of fresh water is right here. The golf course pond and a small pond near the end of Beech Street are fed by the spring. One of the houses nearby must constantly run a sump pump to keep the basement dry! Thorough examination of the potential building sites and study of the environmental impact of building on this land would probably reveal the need for special engineering and drainage systems- a costly process. The houses would also be in or very close to the tsunami inundation zone. Is it really wise to build a few houses there? Please consider these issues very carefully. We appreciate you taking the time to read our letter.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

698

7/8/2023

As we approach the date you will be voting to choose an alternative for the golf course, I must share my frustration regarding the choices presented by the City's Envision team. I'm deeply disappointed by the addition of a large housing area on the one remaining undeveloped section of the golf course, which you never previously discussed with the public. Both final options now incorporate this housing development, leaving no consideration for green space. I'm disappointed both by the new plan and by your lack of disclosure. I understood on the January 11 meeting there would be no housing on the golf course. During previous meetings, it was explicitly stated that housing was not part of the alternatives. However, at the last meeting, a small section of housing on Redwood Street was unexpectedly introduced. All of a sudden, an additional 36 units have been included in the final selection without any community consultation. Moreover, it raises valid concerns about construction and traffic implications. Where is the vision of maintaining green space in the middle of the town? How does this vision shared by many square with cutting down three acres of forest for housing & paving over a well loved trail (Blackberry Hill) connecting Redwood St to Cherry St.? I find this behavior on your part to be questionable and lacking in transparency. Initially, the city showed a commitment to engaging in open discussions about the golf course. I am left wondering what has caused this sudden, last minute & unfortunate shift in approach. Amy Howard & Aislinn Palmer - I would particularly like to hear your response to this issue as both of you have or are working for groups advocating for "affordable housing". Our school hill neighborhood has heard from the City Manager & from the mayor on numerous occasions about this issue so you two need not respond to this note. Ben Thomas wrote a refreshing note to my neighbor Steve Hampton so I pretty much know where he stands. Libby Wennstrom, Monica Mickhagger & Owen Rowe I would very much appreciate hearing your responses to this late inning addition of so much housing in our neighborhood. (It would increase our housing density six fold!) My wife & I have the email addresses to about 93 households that make up the School Hill neighborhood. Rest assured when you write me I will forward your comments to about 250 more people. If what you write seems particularly important I will also put it on Nextdoor under "School Hill".

Here are my responses to any further money being funneled into the golf course and other proposals. 1. We have a wonderful senior /community center in uptown. It needs to be fully developed such as the Shipley Center in Sequim- with activities for all ages. We have free access to Fort Worden Park, the Uptown Park, the Water Street Park (across from the Legion), the play park on Cherry Street, the Chetzemoka Park, the North Beach Park, the Sather Park, the skate board park, the Mt. View area, and I am sure other park areas-- I guess what I am saying is that WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE PARKS. The city won't take care of road or the property alongside them. I think they said it was the property owners' responsibility how can they afford another expense? Or I should say can we/I (as taxpayers) afford another expense? Upgrade the pool and area. What percentage of users vs. population? Thinking that if 150 people voiced their want of a golf course- what percentage is that of the total population of PT? Minuscule percentage! Why hasn't a vote of the people been proposed? And of those how many were actual golfers? Keep the Police in the Mt. View Commons building and upgrade. How many 100-year-old buildings are still standing? For instance, our City Hall/ Library? The City wants affordability for the working class- you can't expect that with the tax increases you are proposing. Sell the city owned land to private enterprise to pay for these upgrades. Have the city (whatever department) clean up those triangle drain areas around town- **blackberries** and weeds- what a sight for our citizens and visitors to behold when enjoying our downtown? Lastly, how many in the city are property taxpayers vs. non- property taxpayers? Might consider voting for these proposals ?

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

699

6/26/2023

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

700	7/11/2023	<p>I wanted to take a moment to address a matter of great importance before you cast your votes later this month for the golf course alternative. Upon reviewing the choices presented by the City's Envision team, I was deeply upset by the sudden inclusion of a large housing area on the only remaining undeveloped part of the golf course. This addition was never disclosed to the public before and has now made its way into both final options. During previous meetings, it was made clear that housing was not a part of the alternatives. At the last gathering, a small section of housing on Redwood Street was unexpectedly introduced. To my surprise, an additional 36 units have been incorporated into the final selection without any community discussion. This decision goes against the principles of utilizing the property for green and open space purposes. I find this behavior on your part to be highly questionable and lacking in transparency. Initially, the city seemed committed to fostering open dialogue regarding the golf course. I would like to see the City finish the housing attempts of the past (Carmel building) before they start on new housing projects. I seriously question whether this is an area that the city should be involved in.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
701	7/11/2023	<p>If housing is approved in the new location, it would destroy the largest natural habitat on the golf course. There are significant challenges with the slope in building housing as well as road access and zoning. Housing here would destroy the largest remaining natural habitat on the property. The location consists of over 2 acres of densely wooded undergrowth with a wide variety of trees. This section is one of the few pieces of mixed woodland in our entire city. Many varieties of birds are nesting and use it as a habitat. There is a major walking trail that would be lost but if the space is retained new trails could be added which was a request of the initial public input to preserve and expand the natural habitat.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
702	7/11/2023	<p>I understand there was no mention of housing as part of the alternatives. However, at the last meeting, a small section of housing on Redwood Street was unexpectedly introduced. All of a sudden, an additional 36 units have been included in the final selection without any community consultation. Moreover, it raises valid concerns about construction and traffic implications. Where is the vision of maintaining green space in the middle of the town? I find this behavior on your part to be questionable and lacking in transparency. Initially, the city showed a commitment to engaging in open discussions about the golf course. I am left wondering what has caused this unfortunate shift in approach. I am terribly disappointed in the addition of a large housing area on the one remaining undeveloped section of the golf course. I'm disappointed both by the new plan and by your lack of disclosure. I am wondering why this has happened. I would kindly urge you to reconsider the addition of the housing plan.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
703	7/15/2023	<p>I have lived in Port Townsend for 25 years and I have never been on the golf course. I would really appreciate having a central park in my neighborhood. I rarely see golfers on the course. It's mainly not used. I live two blocks away and see it often. Thank you for your support.</p>	<p>Thank you for sending your comments about Envision the Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have put the</p>

704	7/13/2023	<p>I'm sorry I have not been able to attend your meetings to date on the golf course issue. I see that many golf course proponents are writing letters to the editor and showing up at meetings, and I do want you to know that most people I know have other views. I am not against golfing, my son was on the golf team and I do believe that we should have access to many activities here. I'm not a swimmer, but support having a pool, especially as the nearest one is Sequim. I don't use dog parks, but appreciate that many folks do. I no longer have kids that use play equipment, but I'm happy to see those full. And I don't use basketball courts, tennis courts or pickle ball courts but see many residents enjoying those. The golf course feels different to me, as I drive or walk by the 58 acres often and see, on average, one person per 50 acres. This is also reflected in the course use docs and fees paid to the city by the contractor. Land use wise, this seems like a wasted opportunity. I am certain that any other use would provide more use to more people. The problem with golf is that as long as it is allowed, no one can safely walk on the course property or use it in another way. The golfers have signs that say we should preserve the Open Space. I completely agree that it should be open space. However, the clear lack of usage shows that it is not in fact Open space, it is Closed to most residents. I know as humans we are more afraid of losing something than we are excited about what we can gain, so I am not surprised by the fervor of the golfers to preserve their access to an activity even if most of them rarely use it. There is another course just a few miles away. Golfing is not as popular as it once was, and I believe that the percentage of folks in town golfing will continue to decline over time. If for some reason you continue a lease with the golf course, I'd recommend it be short as the use and profitability make it seem like it won't last long on it's own. I really appreciate that you are considering options that will make that space used by more of the town.</p>	<p>Thank you for sending your comments about Envision the Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have put the</p>
705	7/14/2023	<p>I have been invested in the Golf Course issue from the beginning by attending stakeholder meetings, town forums, open houses and council meetings. I have listened and tried to understand why a 100-year-old piece of our history and sweet gem in our midst is up for "re-envisioning". I participated in the 2020 "survey" but chose not to submit as I realized all answers had no option for keeping the golf course. That was slanted. Here we are today with the buzz term "re-envisioning" and to what end may I ask? This town has been built by generations that raised their families here, worked in the community, contributed countless volunteer hours including planting the iconic poplar trees that, like the golf course, are being re-envisioned. It is dismissive of our history to attempt to be rid of them. We have growing pains like any other community and must work together collectively, as Port Townsend always has, to solve these issues. I don't believe getting rid of the golf course is the answer. We are slowly losing our soul in the name of progress. At best, I believe a hybrid golf course would be a compromise. Please consider Robert Horner's input to the hybrid golf course plan which includes income-producing opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the game of golf. It would also extend possibilities to future public venues. I applaud the Stakeholders who have had the difficult and time-consuming task of attempting to interpret, protect and recommend a suitable solution to this controversial and divisive issue. I trust the City Council can come to some resolution that reflects the history and uniqueness of the community of Port Townsend and its future generations.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

706	7/14/2023	<p>These are my thoughts on the decision being made July 17th by the city on the future of the golf course. Two choices are being presented by the hired consultant and the stakeholders committee. One plan keeps a compromised course that would most certainly doom golf, eliminating the driving range and shortening several holes. It seems this plan has given no consideration to income derived with proper management, maintenance, and promotion. A main concern has been the use of water. A new well has reduced costs by 75 percent. There is an alternate hybrid plan by Robert Horner that addresses almost all of the interests of both the non-golfing community and our many local golfers. It keeps our little gem of a course, designed by a renowned golf course planner in the 1920s that remains a respected layout to this day. Mr. Horner's plan is currently not being considered. This is a shame, it could be a win-win for everyone. In recent years the course has suffered from benign neglect by the city. Most serious golfers have become discouraged by the poor current conditions. If the city could offer a decent lease it could once again become the asset it has historically been. This is one of the few courses where beginners, kids, the high school golf team, and people of limited means can enjoy a healthy walk while playing a fun and challenging game with family and friends. Come out, hit some range balls, have a cold beverage and maybe lunch. Please join me in imploring the city to put off making a decision on July 17 without seriously considering all of the options. Our historic golf course is too valuable to carve away.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
707	7/13/2023	<p>First of all, I want to thank you for grappling with the contentious issue of the golf course while you are also dealing with decisions on the pool, our transportation needs, our limited tax base, and most importantly to me, our affordable housing crisis. I have filled out the survey, attended public meetings, discussed this issue with neighbors and friends, and spent time thinking about the future of this amazing resource in our community. I know you have heard from many golf course fans and I don't doubt their enthusiasm but I do believe that the golf course serves an extremely small percentage of our population and is not deserving of a city subsidy when we have so many other emergent and unmet needs. I think the energy of the gold course proponents is inversely proportional to their support in the general population. They are defending an existing program. Other folks in the community have not been ignited by a compelling vision of what might happen and therefore are not engaged in the discussion. I am very supportive of open space and parks. But I believe we are already well served with open space and parks. My biggest volunteer involvement in our community is accessible and affordable housing for all, especially our workforce. I know it is late in the game but just yesterday I learned of an amazing "life plan" community in Pierce County that provides housing for seniors ranging from independent houses to nursing home care. It is built on an old golf course! Panorama is run by a non-profit and is self-governing so it is not corporate. I am sure it is not "affordable" but it is an amazing model of a housing opportunity for our senior community which could free up other existing housing in our community for our workforce. There are at least 4 Jefferson County residents who moved there to Panorama "age in place" because there was not an opportunity to do so locally. What if we could establish a similar program here? Perhaps people who live in our community could agree to sell their existing homes at an affordable rate to someone within our local workforce or a local employer and in response get bumped up on the waiting list for this senior community? I don't want to hijack the decision process on the golf course at this late date but I wanted to insert this model into the discussion so you can see how a golf course in Pierce County which was no longer sustainable was used creatively to meet a huge unmet need that is similar to our own. I have no doubt that our</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

link to the website - <https://www.panorama.org/about/> and below is the description of the idea from their website. Again, thanks so much for your work on this and so many other essential issues for our community. I apologize for presenting this so late in the process but just learned of it yesterday. Part of the reason I have not been more involved in the discussion is because I couldn't really fathom an inspiring option myself. I am not enamored of any of the alternatives that have yet been presented for the golf course but ask you to please consider an innovative approach to this amazing piece of property that is so central to our city and could be used to meet unmet needs. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Port Townsend. Again, thank you for your hard work and leadership! With gratitude and optimism,

Considering the revenue aspect of keeping the Golf Course, I've come up with these facts. A 'modified' Golf Course (as in Robert Horner's Concept) would generate income by: 1. Driving Range w/ Seasonal Concert Venue 2. Putt Putt Course 3. Larger Restaurant/Taproom/Event Space for Community 4. The Golf Course Lease from the City itself (percentage of profit?) 5. Even without using Robert Horner's plan, 3 out of 4 of those amenities will still produce revenue. (I like Horner's plan, but, without the boardwalk, and with a dog park incorporated somewhere?) The well use has only just begun to being incorporated on the property. The subsidy expense that the City has been paying for 100 years now will be greatly reduced by using this well. As Tim Caldwell pointed out at the Stakeholder's meeting, initial prioritized renovation expenses wouldn't cost the City nearly as much as the big number being thrown around by out of town consultants. And, as Carrie pointed out, grant \$\$ would be available for the cart/pedestrian trail renovations and some of the other amenities. Some assertive promotion of the course and it's lovely lil' restaurant/bar on the part of new management and the City could greatly help the course's utilization and revenues. Without that ill-conceived idea of the newly proposed row of houses along Walker St., the dog park could be moved over to that area to keep the driving range. Even if the dog park stays where proposed, the balls of the driving range are hit in the opposite direction from where any amenities would be to the south! As for another huge park being created (Central Park), the City has made it clear that \$\$ for our Parks isn't enough to maintain what we already have and will need to start depending on a concerted effort to rally volunteers and donors to maintain our Parks and various City properties and roadsides as is. The MPD and other tax \$\$ that will be asked of our voters will mainly be going towards developing our Mt. View pool and community amenities asked for. Also, it barely includes any income generating amenities. The Hybrid Option (with some modifications) meets most of the 'Criteria' agendas composed by the Stakeholders from the get-go. It'd be a shame to have THIS particular administration and Council be the ones to lose our Historic Golf Course that the City has been able to maintain and hold onto for over 100 years without breaking it's bank. That would be quite the 'legacy' to tell your grandkids about 20 years from now when Golf becomes the happening thing to do again! Please, choose the Hybrid Plan, consider incorporating Horner's design to keep driving range and 2 holes where they're at, lose the boardwalk, lose the community garden, lose the 'additional' housing beyond the northern 'zoned for housing' parcel with proposed 6 units. add a dog park. Hybrid is the only compromising middle ground option available.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

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7/12/2023

Once, when we discussed the possibility of a community garden which could pre-empt a portion of the golf course, you acknowledged not knowing about the community garden next to Quimper Grange, which is or was seeking additional participants. While I don't know the up-to-the-minute status of that, I do continue to question that there is a true need for community garden space situated on the existing golf course acreage. Here is a website that comprehensively describes the local community garden availability: <https://12020.org/local-food/community-gardens/> I think that it's always better to not have an 'excess' of community garden space because:—turnover at community gardens is a given—usage is cyclic: at times the demand is greater and at other times, contracting; unused garden space still requires maintenance lest weeds gain a foothold—quality of the soil is always a first consideration; siting new gardens begins with choosing a location(s) that inherently provide(s) fertility. Most of the golf course property is Class VI soil, particularly toward the more southern portion. It's possible that the Eighties version of community gardening on the property ultimately failed because of low fertility that required constant inputs of organic matter—a cost in terms of material and labor. I urge that you investigate the usage status of existing gardens prior to proposing to site garden(s) on the property. Likewise, I suggest some study of municipal propert(ies) that might be on more fertile soil. Obviously, too, the more that community gardens are close to residences, the less traffic is generated and the less need for single-use parking near gardens. It appears that the existing central dog park could well be pushed off Mountain View campus and thus gets relocated to the 19th/San Juan intersection with its own parking area. If that happens, it need not displace golf fairways or driving range; having looked carefully at that corner and confirmed by Tim Caldwell, I see that there are around two acres there and I think only one fairway need be shortened about 40 yards to accommodate a dog park. If that siting works for a future dog park, and if community gardening is better provided elsewhere, then what I think of as a desirable outcome—keeping the golf course essentially intact—is very possible and affordable. I hope to see the golf course continued with a new contract for up to ten years (as some have suggested) and thus find out if the game is enjoying a resurgence instead of already occurring below the clubhouse. I think the potential for conflict over possible closure of the course is very negative for social relations in the community. With siting for dog park/garden areas addressed as above, along with public access as already identified as acceptable to the golfing community via safe paths, daylong closures, etc., there can be a critical path toward resolving issues without entire constituencies becoming more disaffected. You may share this as appropriate with anyone

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710	7/11/2023	<p>As we approach the date you will be voting to choose an alternative for the golf course, I must share my frustration regarding the choices presented by the City's Envision team. I'm deeply disappointed by the addition of a large housing area on the one remaining undeveloped section of the golf course, which you never previously discussed with the public. Both final options now incorporate this housing development, leaving no consideration for green space. I'm disappointed both by the new plan and by your lack of disclosure. During previous meetings, it was explicitly stated that housing was not part of the alternatives. However, at the last meeting, a small section of housing on Redwood Street was unexpectedly introduced. All of a sudden, an additional 36 units have been included in the final selection without any community consultation. Moreover, it raises valid concerns about construction and traffic implications. Where is the vision of maintaining green space in the middle of the town? I find this behavior on your part to be questionable and lacking in transparency. Initially, the city showed a commitment to engaging in open discussions about the golf course. I am left wondering what has caused this unfortunate shift in approach. Because in a Democratic Society, which we live in, when the residents of Port Townsend are asked to put yet another tax on our already over-taxed home, the proper way to accept or deny any new tax should be a simple yes or no. But, when both proposals include a hastily added apartment complex, without public discussion, this is not the democratic way. It shows to me that the Council wants the final decision to be a vote of the Council, not the public. As a resident of Redwood St, I have a first-hand view of how many residents use the trail to stay off the busy Cherry St. And, the wild life that inhabits the trail and other parts of town, are a quickly vanishing sight, with all the clearings that are going on in our town. I think that other proposals like a path around the Golf Course { ill conceived due to the liability of a person getting hit by a golf ball } and a new pool, which would add yet another tax, should require more public discussion, without any last-minute additions, to reflect the real will of the public. I think that an updated and maintained Golf Course, with perhaps including the hotels/motels in a Golf package, promoted by the city, would bring many tourists to town to spend their dollars and offset the expense of upgrading the Golf Course. Whatever the outcome of the proposals that are being discussed now are done. I think that we should be diligent not to rush into plans not fully when we don't have the funds to maintain the ones that we have now, to build a new pool, and add to our over-taxed homes, to build buildings in undesirable areas and eliminate green areas, there surely has to be other areas in our city to accomplish these plans, even in other areas of the Golf Course and Mountain View plats, perhaps. As a resident of Port Townsend since 1979, I have seen much growth in many positive ways. I respectfully ask your consideration to rethink these proposals and come up with another approach, with public input, so that we can continue to grow in a positive way.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
Comment Comments after 7/17/23			<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
711	7/17/2023	<p>This Envision team has done a good job of reaching out to the community and gathering public input. Now the City Council has the difficult job of deciding what to do next. I am a golfer and I do agree that there needs to be more public access to the golf course and the open spaces around the course. There are no quick fixes but I believe that the golf course could be some type of an anchor business while additional uses for the property are being considered. The last four years has been a difficult time for all of us but maybe a project like this would bring the community closer. I am an optimist. Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

<p>712</p>	<p>7/17/2023</p>	<p>As a full time resident of Port Townsend, I'm very committed to a sustainable future. The large tract of land currently used for a municipal golf course should be dedicated to the greatest public benefit for those who live and visit here. While I can appreciate the passion of those who enjoy golfing, it is a leisure pursuit for the relatively privileged few, who can dedicate the time and resources necessary to participate. Golf excludes the non-golfing public, and requires managing this "open space" in an artificial and resource-intensive way, requiring water, fertilizer and mowing. These are financial and ecological costs. Moreover, the trend is towards declining participation in this pursuit, and many public agencies have moved to other public uses of these large tracts of land. I support the Central Park concept, with community gathering spaces, native plantings and trails. And the perimeter areas already zoned for residential housing should be developed for affordable housing desperately needed in our community. As someone who frequently walks and bikes around town for transportation in lieu of using a vehicle, I can say unequivocally that this part of town needs good pedestrian and biking access. It is not a luxury, but a necessity. Continuing the bike trail across F Street through the current golf course to connect to the Mountain View campus is crucial, as the current alternative that uses Redwood to Cherry St is not usable by many bikers due to its slope and difficulty. The golf course supporters attempt to point to other uses such as pickleball courts and the swimming pool as showing that the City should continue to support the golf course. However, pickleball uses a small amount of space, and swimming is a lifesaving skill that everyone needs to have. No one has died from not knowing how to golf, but they sure have died from not knowing how to swim. Golf simply requires too much space and too many resources for a small city to continue to maintain publicly. In conclusion, your decision on this important issue will have long lasting consequences for generations to come and the future of our city. Whatever you decide will disappoint some people, so I encourage you to do make the most reasoned decision to support the biggest public benefit, that of implementing the Central Park option. Thank you for considering my comments.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
<p>713</p>	<p>7/16/2023</p>	<p>The golf course planning process has had "affordable housing" as a goal throughout, but has yet to make any perceptible effort at addressing its needs. The latest sketch proposal puts an indeterminate amount in an area that is both a wetland buffer and an earthquake hazard zone with severely limited access, making no mention of utility capacities or access to public transportation. We can do better, and should have a viable plan before approving the proposal. Can electric power be provided without too much difficulty (a substation at most)? Do water mains have sufficient capacity? Does the sewage line on Redwood (uphill from the community) have anywhere near the needed capacity? Can a shipyard worker get to Boat Haven't at 5 AM, or a restaurant worker home at 2? Access to the area is limited to the north by occupied properties, and to the west and south by wetlands. Redwood Street, to the east, is a lane-and-a-half road not designed to support traffic for the proposed community. Both Redwood and Beech Streets provide access to F Street, but both have terrible sightlines limited by the terrain coming down the hill from Cherry Street. The only other outlet, E Street to Cherry, is similarly blind to the north. D Street and Beech Street south of E Street are owner-maintained, which puts an extra financial burden on a handful of taxpayers. We support affordable housing, but we fail to see any plan here.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
<p>714</p>	<p>7/16/2023</p>	<p>Please save our town's only golf course. Golf is a great way to get some exercise and fresh air. For many, golf is one's primary connection to the outdoors and fitness. Golf is many people's social outlet. Golf can be played by any age group. Golf requires a lot of focus and can be quite meditative. Golf teaches discipline, humility and respect among other valuable lessons. Golf courses are class rooms for future players and local youth teams. Golf courses attract locals and tourists alike who pay to play. Golf courses provide jobs. Golf is a wonderful game that makes many people happy. It takes a lifetime to learn which makes golfers a devoted bunch. Small towns need more options for activities, not less. Our kids need more options for activities, not less. I ask you to please save our golf course. It is the only one we have.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

715	7/16/2023	<p>As an active member of the Jefferson County Historical Society for 40 years, I strongly encourage you to honor historic design and construction by selecting Robert Horner's alternative plan for the golf course; it preserves that original design while also accommodating the expressed wishes of our community, golfers and non-golfers. We must also consider the modest cost of implementing Mr. Horner's plan. comparatively. A mandatory time-line for completion of the planning process should not prevent the serious consideration that this alternative concept deserves.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
716	7/16/2023	<p>The efforts to turn the golf course into a Central Park are bewildering to me. The added expense to transition and maintain a park must be significant for just a percentage of the population to use. Yet, our roads, which everyone use, go unmaintained and arguably unsafe to use. Where are your priorities and allegiances? Hmmm?</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
717	7/16/2023	<p>I strongly recommend that the City of Port Townsend chooses an option that will both retain the golf course as a regulation nine hole course and add other options for community use including public trails, a community garden, and hosting outdoor entertainment like concerts. As an avid golfer who plays the course on a regular basis I question some of the public comments made during open house events that the number of rounds played averages one golfer per hour based on the total number of golfers I encounter during a three-hour round or a local tournament. believe it continuing to have a contractor operate and maintain the course with minimal financial support from the city is a more financially sound choice over the long term than the cost of converting these 58 acres into a central park and maintaining it. The city already has plenty of parks and open spaces available for public use and maintaining them is enough of a challenge without the added cost of additional staff and other resources that a central park would require. The course can continue to offer more affordable golf than other courses in the area and is a great place to learn to play for local residents of all age groups. Lets preserve this piece of local history that dates back over a hundred years and represents one of many</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
718	7/16/2023	<p>I do not envy the City Council, now faced with the need to make a decision about the City's path forward on the future of our golf course while the public remains divided and the stakeholder group has failed to reach consensus regarding which of two concepts to recommend. I am baffled that from the first round of public outreach, where the #1 and #2 preferences were for walking/biking trails and habitat restoration and the first online survey results showed a plurality for alternative uses for the golf course, we arrived at a situation where a hybrid golf course requiring two thirds of the acreage seems to be the favored alternative. I don't believe that the many members of the public who were willing to support a hybrid golf course understood that space for use by the general public would be so limited. Reading the Agenda Bill for this meeting has been dismaying, especially David Hein's analysis, which indicates just how badly our golf course has been managed. Even avid fans of having a golf course are critical of the lessee. The current lease expires at the end of this year, and I've heard many questions about what happens next. Do we really believe that requiring any future lessee to share the acreage with other uses and to endure the relocating of two fairways will elicit a proposal by a more competent lessee? Despite all our sunk costs and time, I would prefer to see the City "kick the can down the road" and issue an RFP for 2024 based on the recommendations of David Hein, which seem in many ways realistic—certainly far more realistic than the National Golf Foundation recommendations. It appears to me that the city's subsidy following his recommendations would be less than either of the two concepts you are presented with today. RCO grants and heavy subsidies from the city would apparently be required for either of them. What if we don't receive the necessary grant funding? My proviso is that, in line with suggestions made by David Hein, the motion of the Parks, Recreation, Trees, Trails Advisory Board, and the comments of many, many members of the public, any lessee must have an operational requirement to (1) clarify and enforce hours for golfing, (2) provide times or days for public access, and (3) provide signage and other communication so that the members of the public know when and where they may have access to the golf course. I would like to see these provisos to be incorporated into any RFP for a hybrid golf course, if that is the council's choice. The Healthier Together exploration and the City's financial sustainability study are both bringing up various taxing possibilities. Will the public support a Metropolitan Parks District? Could that District provide local funding to match RCO grants? A lot remains to be seen. It seems premature to charge ahead into a golf course future on while consensus is too weak, when so much city subsidy will be required.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

719	7/15/2023	<p>The Envision Golf Course Preferred Options are not ready for consideration for a vote. The 2 options are being presented without costs attached and with additional housing that was never presented to the public as an option but added after the public input and voting had been completed. The additional 27 homes listed on both Preferred Plans cannot be built on the site as the land is not currently zoned for housing. Furthermore, more research needs to be done to see if the zoning can be changed due to a stipulation that was made when the land was donated to the city. There are additional questions that I have not seen addressed such as: 1. How would these homes be managed as affordable housing?2. Would they be sold to individuals?3. How would the City guarantee that they would remain affordable housing?</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
720	7/14/2023	<p>I would just like to emphasize the shifts taking place in our town. When we consider future personal growth for residence and long term use for our community the individuals most impacted by a potential Central Park are our children which is a very rapidly growing population in Port Townsend. This fact mixed with the already limited potential for family activities and access to things like a family friendly swimming pool, indoor recreational activities and zoning rules/restrictions on land use, the golf course becoming a Central Park becomes so much more impactful to the current population and future population. Where else could we ever have something like this in our town!? We truly hope that we don't miss out on the potential for a place that families and people of all ages can gather and experience community together and the positive long term impact it could have on Port Townsend.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
721	7/14/2023	<p>I would like to comment in favor of the Central Park option for the future of the golf course. This option would best support the wishes of the community as well as the environment and would take Port Townsend one step closer to being a truly family friendly and environmentally responsible community. While the hybrid option seems like a compromise, in fact it leaves far too many community resources invested in golf, which is used by relatively few community members. Please keep in mind that Port Townsend should be enjoyed by all residents, not just the retirees or summer vacationers. Let's make a decision that we will be proud of and will serve future generations well!</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
722	7/13/2023	<p>Please consider the following when deciding/voting on the future of the golf course property. I was surprised to learn there are two "preferred alternative " plans for the golf course site other than the 3 plans I heard about at the public meetings. Both "preferred alternative " plans call for a 36 housing unit in addition to the 6 mentioned at the public meetings. We were told at the meetings that the golf course land is designated as municipal but had an area where 6 housing units could be built. Why, at the eleventh hour were 36 additional units included? Who came up with the "preferred alternative " plans? Certainly not the voting public. Once you turn open space into housing you can never get it back. I am always thankful when our elected leaders have the foresight to designate land as open space. Please consider what the people of Port Townsend want and what they voted for at the meetings.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

723	7/17/2023	<p>As a full time resident of Port Townsend, I'm very committed to a sustainable future. The large tract of land currently used for a municipal golf course should be dedicated to the greatest public benefit for those who live and visit here. Golfing is a leisure pursuit for the relatively privileged few. This Golf course excludes the non-golfing public yet our tax dollars support it, and requires managing an artificial and resource-intensive way, requiring water, fertilizer and mowing. These are financial and ecological costs. Moreover, the trend is towards declining participation in this pursuit, and many public agencies have moved to other public uses of these large tracts of land. I support the Central Park concept, with community gathering spaces, native plantings and trails. And the perimeter areas already zoned for residential housing should be developed for affordable housing desperately needed in our community. As someone who frequently walks and bikes around town for transportation in lieu of using a vehicle, I can say unequivocally that this part of town needs good pedestrian and biking access. It is not a luxury, but a necessity. Continuing the bike trail across F Street through the current golf course to connect to the Mountain View campus is crucial, as the current alternative that uses Redwood to Cherry St is not usable by many bikers due to its slope and difficulty. In conclusion, your decision on this important issue will have long lasting consequences for generations to come and the future of our city. Whatever you decide will disappoint some people, so I encourage you to do make the most reasoned decision to support the biggest public benefit, that of implementing the Central Park option. Thank you for considering my comments.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
724	7/17/2023	<p>I just wanted to know if the City followed any of the suggestions from the 2019 analysis by the NGF?</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
725	7/16/2023	<p>The golf course planning process has had "affordable housing" as a goal throughout, but has yet to make any perceptible effort at addressing its needs. The latest sketch proposal puts an indeterminate amount in an area that is both a wetland buffer and an earthquake hazard zone with severely limited access, making no mention of utility capacities or access to public transportation. We can do better, and should have a viable plan before approving the proposal. Can electric power be provided without too much difficulty (a substation at most)? Do water mains have sufficient capacity? Does the sewage line on Redwood (uphill from the community) have anywhere near the needed capacity? Can a shipyard worker get to Boat Haven't at 5 AM, or a restaurant worker home at 2? Access to the area is limited to the north by occupied properties, and to the west and south by wetlands. Redwood Street, to the east, is a lane-and-a-half road not designed to support traffic for the proposed community. Both Redwood and Beech Streets provide access to F Street, but both have terrible sightlines limited by the terrain coming down the hill from Cherry Street. The only other outlet, E Street to Cherry, is similarly blind to the north. D Street and Beech Street south of E Street are owner-maintained, which puts an extra financial burden on a handful of taxpayers. We support affordable housing, but we fail to see any plan here.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

726	7/17/2023	<p>My name is Musa, I've been a citizen of Jefferson county since 1978, I attended Mountain View Junior High - the site of Mountain View Commons, and am a 1984 PTHS graduate. I'm here because I'm alarmed at the lack of complete, transparent and accurate information that has been presented by PT Staff to the council regarding Envision and Mountain View Commons pool discussions. And these are the reasons why I believe the council is in no position to make a decision regarding either of these projects. At the repeated request of several community participants throughout the engage PT process, the project staff failed to make available an official "none of the above" option at in person meetings and in online surveys. Result: there is no official documentation or tally of citizens that wanted "none of the above". "neutral" is not "none of the above" - At the repeated request of several community participants to include a citizen designed alternative to the golf course proposals (central park or hybrid), inclusion of this design, which addressed and solved many of the divisive issues, was not allowed and denied consideration. Result: the city and committee lead "community process" is selective in what it accepts, includes and presents to the rest of the community for consideration there by not enabling citizen lead problem solving and empowerment. At the repeated request of several community participants there remains no public availability of the comparative cost analysis officially listing the current issues at the existing pool or the actual cost to fix what we already have. Result: The public does not have complete information with which to make an informed decision regarding the pool options - instead we've been told there are only two options - one is 38million and the other is 53 million - both involve even more tax burden on Jeff. Co. residents. During the process of "community participation" presentation documents have lacked clear, consistent and pertinent information regarding actual costs, actual design components, and accurate details of the financial impacts - i.e. how a new taxing district would be assessed and the extent of the impact on the tax payers. I'm writing in regards to the proposed redevelopment of what is currently a golf course in the middle of port townsend. Converting this site to a central park would dramatically improve the well-being of local residents, allowing for actual open space (as opposed to it's current use, which effectively prohibits the general public from accessing the site unless golf is being played). My kids and I live nearby, and it would be nice for us to have a local park to access. Creating a central park will allow for much more genral use by my family and others, and will be a great asset for the community.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
727	7/17/2023	<p>I'm writing in regards to the proposed redevelopment of what is currently a golf course in the middle of port townsend. Converting this site to a central park would dramatically improve the well-being of local residents, allowing for actual open space (as opposed to it's current use, which effectively prohibits the general public from accessing the site unless golf is being played). My kids and I live nearby, and it would be nice for us to have a local park to access. Creating a central park will allow for much more genral use by my family and others, and will be a great asset for the community.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

728	7/17/2023	<p>In the very last minutes of the very last Golf Course Stakeholder's Meeting on July 6th, a new 'modified' plan for the Central Park Option was brought up (Andy's Plan - includes mini-golf/putt putt). An unofficial poll of the 8 members present in the room out of 21 members voted to present this 'modified' option going forward to the Parks Board and Councilmembers - not all 8 approved. In all fairness, there should have been a poll, also, by Carrie and the Consultants to bring forward the 'modified' Hybrid Plan - Robert Horner's Design, to the Parks Board and Councilmembers. All who have learned of Horner's Hybrid option since it was presented (2 Stakeholder meetings ago and at the Open House) thought it was the best Option they've seen so far, as it has so much to offer in new amenities for the community, BUT, also keeps the historically famous design of the Golf Course - which maintains the course's integrity instead of reducing it's appeal. Even some stakeholder members pushing for Central Park said they'd feel much more appeased by Horner's Hybrid Plan than the Consultant's Hybrid Plan made up. It's an obvious WIN-WIN Plan. As was clearly stated by Carrie, the two options made up (Hybrid/Central Park) are NOT set in stone. They are ONLY 'concepts'. Councilmembers have the power to ask the Consultants to adjust/modify their Hybrid Plan to accommodate so much more of Horner's Plan - in spite of Consultant Chris's statement that it's too late in the Master Planning Process to consider Horner's modifications. Just as, it's in the Councilmembers' power to ask Consultants to adjust/modify their own Central Park Plan to accommodate Andy's Plan. Let's keep this fair~ And please ... do NOT let the Aquatic Facility somehow slip onto the Golf Course property at the very last minute for any kind of reason, what-so-ever!!</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
729	7/17/2023	<p>I cannot tell you enough how many people I have talked to in our town who want the golf course to be left alone for its historical significance if nothing else, but mostly for it's open space. These people have not been to any of the meetings and are NOT golfers themselves but love living in PT where we have so many historical treasures such as this. One said to me "What if the same subject came up to replace our valued treasures such as the Rothschild house or Chetzemoka park, for example?". The golf course is as much a historical treasure as our many buildings and parks. Once it's gone. It is gone for good. Please keep our precious golf course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
730	7/17/2023	<p>Donna Miller and Robert Hoppe, who live in Port Townsend and own the property located at 326 Q Street, and, as well, are active members of the Port Townsend Golf Course, believe that repurposing the excellent existing golf course to a "central park" would be a huge mistake, for the following reasons: (1) The golf course is viable now, and does not require the substantial expensive improvements claimed by consultants for which the City has paid and committed to pay substantial sums; (2) The "central park" contemplated by the City would be way too expensive to create and maintain, and, although, on paper, may seem an attractive compromise for those who don't want a golf course, would offer little in the way of enjoyment; (3) The City already has an extensive "public trail" system, as well as numerous parks which the City needs to preserve and maintain. Further, Fort Worden State Park, with extensive trails, and numerous activities, is located a short distance from the Port Townsend Golf Course and is available to the people of Port Townsend; (4) The Golf Course, if preserved with existing holes 5 and 6, and the driving range, is a valuable City asset, as it provides a place for high school students to play and practice as well as host matches and tournaments. Likewise, the City will be able to host tournaments and activities for older citizens, which provide enjoyment and revenue. We urge the City Council to seriously consider the foregoing.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

731	7/17/2023	<p>A small town of approximately 10,000 people can not afford these proposed massive expenditures. A 50 million dollar pool complex and upwards of a 5 million dollar "Central Park"? In a town where there isn't enough money to patch the potholes in the streets, and mow the public verges? Where is the money coming from for the construction of, and the on-going upkeep to, these two large municipal entities after they are built? Yes, I am sure the City Council will try to get grants, but it is for sure that our property taxes will continue to increase as well. We have lived here for 10 years and seen our water bill steadily increasing, and our property taxes double. And that was before these massive projects. We moved to Port Townsend because we liked the small town atmosphere. It seems like our current City Council wants to turn Port Townsend into another Carmel-by-the-Sea. If so, then we will not be able to afford to live here. Please stop this fever dream madness.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
732	7/17/2023	<p>I wholeheartedly support Robert Horner's "Golf Park" hybrid plan for the golf course! While I'm not a golfer, I have long enjoyed the green space that our historic golf course provides. It makes me happy! It also makes me happy to know that there are so many people whose lives are enriched by using this treasure. The contribution of entertainment and health that our historic golf course offers young people, families and seniors, is immense. This multigenerational use supports the tenet of community and should not be cast aside. I have followed this issue for a number of years. I have attended online meetings, filled out surveys that did not follow "best practices", toured the golf course and spoken with golfers. I was most moved though by the public comments given during the July 3rd City Council meeting where people gave so many heartfelt comments. While I was aware of the significance that the golf course offers our community members, I had no idea of the depth. One comment in particular was the mom who addressed the issue of kids (as well as others) that would have to commute to Discovery Bay or Poulsbo. It is absolutely unacceptable for our kids to be forced to travel such distances. Why on earth would we make decisions that would force our kids to leave the community, generate carbon (which we are supposed to reduce), as well as increase the time spent on the dangerous roadways? The Machiavellian approach the City has taken with this issue is abysmal. It has needlessly created a contentious environment causing angst among so many people that the course was up for grabs. It was obvious from the beginning that the City was chomping at the bit to eliminate and/or parcel out the course. The challenges with the golf course are "figureoutable", especially now with the hybrid plan. There are simple solutions to address costs, like rain barrels and solar, just to name a few. We have an amazing community of super smart people that are certainly more than capable of addressing the City's concerns. We don't need a divisive and disingenuous approach, especially with land that was largely</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
733	7/17/2023	<p>To have a viable golf course, you need a driving range. Putting a dog park in that space makes no sense. The driving range area is not the only space in the city of Port Townsend where a dog park could be located - as demonstrated by the central park design, which does not contain a dog park. The central park has an amphitheater in that space. Robert Horner's plan shows how an amphitheater and driving range are compatible uses.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

734

7/17/2023

I sat in and watched via webinar the City Council meeting of July 17. Here are a few comments regarding the discussion about the plans for the golf course. Because of the pandemic, the sport of golf has experienced an unprecedented boom in popularity, with participation (by beginners, youth, senior citizens, and people of all races and genders) increasing by upward of 30%, nearly an all-time historical high. You need only look at statistics provided by the National Golf Foundation to see this. That the Port Townsend Golf Course has not benefited from this boom as much as other courses across the state is due most likely to mismanagement and poor marketing. The decision to get the opinions of teenagers (high school students) about what to do with the golf course property is questionable. The vision and values of a teenager will be much different 15 years from now, after they become adults and get some life experience. Oki Golf has a poor reputation in the region as a golf course management company. You need only look at any online review program (Yelp, Facebook groups, etc.) to see this. Their business model is that of reducing the role of the golf pro, reducing the budget for maintenance and upkeep, and churn/burn through staff. There were other golf management experts in the region that maybe should have been considered for consultation.

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735

7/18/2023

Having attended City Council meetings in Port Townsend for over forty years did not prepare me for the confusing conclusion to the meeting and *late-night vote(s)*. I am yet disturbed by what might be thought of as manipulation during the proceedings and am hoping you can provide your legal perspective. After the meeting exceeded four hours and many citizens left and/or probably stopped watching or listening at home, could the remainder of the meeting been postponed? Is there precedent for such? Soon after a Council member left the meeting because of the late hour, motions were made and voted on. Considering the importance of those motions to the community, was this acceptable process? Can or does the Mayor's position, literally and figuratively, allow him or her to influence decisions? Sway the outcome of a vote? I listened carefully and tried to grasp the meaning of those two final motions and hear the vote but, as yet, I don't know the wording of either of those motions or, the outcome of the second vote. Was the Council sure of the precise wording of either? There may be no legal response to my questions, however, I doubt I am the only citizen who has been left ... wondering.

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736

7/19/2023

Based on revelations in Monday night's Council meeting charged with making a decision on the golf course, my worst fear was realized. It is now clear, in my opinion, that the fix was in from the very beginning of the engagement process over the past several months. The first hint that the process had been a hoax was the addition of housing along the east end of the Course outside the fairway. Done with no prior public involvement, and no consideration by the stakeholder's, the options for the course had been arbitrarily increased outside the established process by the consultants -in my opinion, at the direction of the Mayor, City manager and possibly certain council members. However, the most damning evidence that the entire process had been a hoax came at the eleventh hour of the discussion when Mayor Faber declared (recommended) to the Council that the 5th fairway should also be used for "affordable" housing. **His recommendation came with absolutely no prior discussion by any of the parties involved in the process.** With that statement, I believe there was no longer any doubt that the Mayor, City Manager, and possibly certain real estate interests had colluded all along to use a month's long, convoluted, extremely complex process to lull the public into thinking they could expect an unbiased decision for the future of the Course. It is now quite obvious why the "more housing" opinion of a few 17 year olds at the High school was hyped so much. They needed some group to push for housing since the stakeholders would not. And, the idea that housing on the Course would be "affordable" is laughable. Even if the City gave the land away to developers (possibly illegal), the cost of any house on that property would be well beyond the reach of those who need an inexpensive house. Did Mr. Faber actually think no one would notice? Well, it was noticed. For me, the Council has lost all credibility. The whole thing is utterly shameful.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

737

7/14/2023

These are my thoughts on the decision being made July 17th by the city on the future of the golf course. Two choices are being presented by the hired consultant and the stakeholders committee. One plan keeps a compromised course that would most certainly doom golf, eliminating the driving range and shortening several holes. It seems this plan has given no consideration to income derived with proper management, maintenance, and promotion. A main concern has been the use of water. A new well has reduced costs by 75 percent. There is an alternate hybrid plan by Robert Horner that addresses almost all of the interests of both the non-golfing community and our many local golfers. It keeps our little gem of a course, designed by a renowned golf course planner in the 1920s that remains a respected layout to this day. Mr. Horner's plan is currently not being considered. This is a shame, it could be a win-win for everyone. In recent years the course has suffered from benign neglect by the city. Most serious golfers have become discouraged by the poor current conditions. If the city could offer a decent lease it could once again become the asset it has historically been. This is one of the few courses where beginners, kids, the high school golf team, and people of limited means can enjoy a healthy walk while playing a fun and challenging game with family and friends. Come out, hit some range balls, have a cold beverage and maybe lunch. Please join me in imploring the city to put off making a decision on July 17 without seriously considering all of the options. Our historic golf course is too valuable to carve away.

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738

6/26/2023

The golf course survey that was suggested in the PDN today was not available which sent me to an unusable site. Here are my responses to any further money being funneled into the golf course and other proposals. We have a wonderful senior /community center in uptown. It needs to be fully developed such as the Shipley Center in Sequim- with activities for all ages. We have free access to Fort Worden Park, the Uptown Park, the Water Street Park (across from the Legion), the play park on Cherry Street, the Chetzemoka Park, the North Beach Park, the Sather Park, the skate board park, the Mt. View area, and I am sure other park areas-- I guess what I am saying is that WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE PARKS. The city won't take care of road or the property alongside them. I think they said it was the property owners' responsibility how can they afford another expense? Or I should say can we/I (as taxpayers) afford another expense? Upgrade the pool and area. What percentage of users vs. population? Thinking that if 150 people voiced their want of a golf course- what percentage is that of the total population of PT? Minuscule percentage! Why hasn't a vote of the people been proposed? And of those how many were actual golfers? Keep the Police in the Mt. View Commons building and upgrade. How many 100-year-old buildings are still standing? For instance, our City Hall/ Library? The City wants affordability for the working class- you can't expect that with the tax increases you are proposing. Sell the city owned land to private enterprise to pay for these upgrades. Have the city (whatever department) clean up those triangle drain areas around town- **blackberries** and weeds- what a sight for our citizens and visitors to behold when enjoying our downtown? Lastly, how many in the city are property taxpayers vs. non- property taxpayers? Might consider voting for these proposals ?

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

739

7/20/2023

I appreciate you opening up and communicating with the community. I respect your work tremendously but this one I don't understand.. if the community is split, as seen in the pie charts from surveys, and most people don't even care either way.. why remove the historical golf course? Right after it finally got well-water and the city subsidies would be minimal. It would probably cost more to mow it for wildfires prevention privately. It could turn into a major wildfire hazard in the center of town. "Golf is dead" is what you said. Did you look at the data the city paid for and was presented? 50% of your community members wanted golf either "as is".. or a hybrid option? To top it off, you had a 5 hr meeting where 40+ people stayed long past their bedtimes to remind you of the importance and history of the golf course. Your response: "golf is a dying sport"? Where is your community data to support those remarks? In a community that has so MANY other projects and energy needing to be spent, why even entertain this idea? I could see if the data had shown that 75% of the community wanted the golf course gone, that might have given more weight to your remarks! But it is not there yet. Just leave it as is and move on to the actual problems the community cares about. In my mind, based on presented survey-based data, the council's determination should have sounded more like this: "there's not enough community support to make any changes and remove the 100 yr old historical golf course at this time." Let alone funding.. we are all struggling Thanks for listening, I appreciate the opportunity to speak

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

740

7/21/2023

I am mourning. I fear the decision to chop up the golf course is a fatal mistake. The proposals put forward are flawed in the extreme, and lack focus and foresight. In the drive to satisfy each of the competing factions clamoring for a piece of the pie, the proposed hybrid solutions present a hapless hodgepodge that will end up ruining a precious community asset forever. As it sits today, the foremost feature of the golf course is that it is OPEN SPACE. It is land still open to the sky, unencumbered for the most part by pavement and buildings, untrammelled by cars and trucks, free from hustle and bustle of crowds and commerce. It is still relatively wild, compared to the surrounding city. Consider how rare this actually is, OPEN SPACE, and how valuable, increasingly desperately vital for our collective peace and sanity, as well as for the creatures who must share the shrinking spaces still not given over to intensive human use. Consider also how our children, and their children, will need OPEN SPACE to support and refresh their lives. Do our current desires really rule, to the degree that we are willing to forever commit to extracting more OPEN SPACE from the shrinking store? As long as the golf course is one of the few remaining gems of OPEN SPACE remaining in our midst, might we want to at least pause for real reflection and contemplation of the future, and possibly postpone the decision for a generation or two? Can't we kick this particular can down the road a piece, take a collective breath, and look for alternatives that would lessen our impact on the our common home? I submit that the highest and best use of the golf course property is to remain as OPEN SPACE. Whether the land is then devoted to golf, or parkland, urban forest, or some other natural culture makes perfect sense, but to cover it with pavement, aquatic center, parking lots, pickleball courts, housing, or any other intensive use seems shortsighted and thoughtless, akin to a kind of cultural suicide. I have enjoyed golfing at the Port Townsend Golf Course for three decades. I have spent many hundreds if not thousands of hours there, in all seasons and weathers. I have seen and absorbed the minor and major changes in the land, the trees, the condition of the course, the birds and furry critters that dwell there. Owls, geese, quail, eagles, osprey, coyotes, fox and many more, some rare, are resident and depend on the land for their lives. Migratory waterfowl stop for food and rest on their journeys. I have bathed in the

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

741

7/20/2023

I watched in full (via webinar) the City Council meeting of July 17. Toward the end of the meeting, David Faber gave his personal opinion about what he saw as the decline of the game of golf. Personal opinions or biases untethered from facts or statistics do not make for good public policy or long-term planning in government. I am sending along some numbers from Steve Mona, former CEO of the World Golf Foundation and the Golf Course Superintendents Association, who is now the Director of Governance and Leadership for Club Benchmarking, which gathers data to assist golf courses in planning for the future. In the attached graphic, you will see that golf is projected to experience a long and sustained period of growth at least through 2050. The early-middle-age group (men and women in their 30s and 40s, a demographic of which Faber is part of) will be the demographic responsible for the largest growth in the game. This is also the demographic which makes up the majority of Port Townsend and Jefferson County. As mentioned previously, it is no small step to dismiss the cultural, social and historical heritage of Port Townsend. Planning for the city's social and economic future, and for the quality of life of its residents, should be considered. Making the city a welcoming place for a diverse population should also be considered. There are many experts in the field that should be brought into your conversation, so that an informed decision can be made. Thank you for consideration.

Thank you for your email, Tom.

742	7/21/2023	<p>There has been, as you would expect, a discussion on NextDoor regarding the this week's council meeting and the matter of the golf course property. One individual claims to have a copy of a deed for a portion of the property that was gifted to the city with the stipulation that it be used for "recreation or aviation only". They did not post an image of the deed nor mention the parcel number though looking at the Jeffco parcel viewer I see that there are three. I've not searched the public records base because last time I did it had images of docs only going back a few years. Anyway, with apologies if this is a wild goose chase, I thought I would offer a heads up. It would likely take a trip to the courthouse to view the deed and a discussion with an attorney. Or maybe you guys already know about this issue/non-issue. Also, if you think it is more appropriate that I communicate via the city portal and or email Carrie or David directly please let me know. In any case with respect for everyone's time, I intend to keep any such communication to a minimum.</p>	<p>The city did a deed search recently, and all of the deeds can be found under "materials to review" labeled "deed reports" on the website, www.cityofpt.us/envision. The restrictions on some of the parcels list "municipal purposes only", there is a corresponding deed map. I have not seen any deeds that list aviation and recreation as restrictions.</p>
743	7/19/2023	<p>Based on revelations in Monday night's Council meeting charged with making a decision on the golf course, my worst fear was realized. It is now clear, in my opinion, that the fix was in from the very beginning of the engagement process over the past several months. The first hint that the process had been a hoax was the addition of housing along the east end of the Course outside the fairway. Done with no prior public involvement, and no consideration by the stakeholder's, the options for the course had been arbitrarily increased outside the established process by the consultants -in my opinion, at the direction of the Mayor, City manager and possibly certain council members. However, the most damning evidence that the entire process had been a hoax came at the eleventh hour of the discussion when Mayor Faber declared (recommended) to the Council that the 5th fairway should also be used for "affordable" housing. His recommendation came with absolutely no prior discussion by any of the parties involved in the process. With that statement, I believe there was no longer any doubt that the Mayor, City Manager, and possibly certain real estate interests had colluded all along to use a month's long, convoluted, extremely complex process to lull the public into thinking they could expect an unbiased decision for the future of the Course. It is now quite obvious why the "more housing" opinion of a few 17 year olds at the High school was hyped so much. They needed some group to push for housing since the stakeholders would not. And, the idea that housing on the Course would be "affordable" is laughable. Even if the City gave the land away to developers (possibly illegal), the cost of any house on that property would be well beyond the reach of those who need an inexpensive house. Did Mr. Faber actually think no one would notice? Well, it was noticed. For me, the Council has lost all credibility. The whole thing is utterly shameful.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email, George. I understand your disappointment, even if I do not understand your conspiracy theory. My proposal came in response to the stakeholder group's final discussion on an un-fleshed-out design for a "hybrid" of the two mutually-exclusive plans they otherwise provided us with this last Monday. We tasked staff to work with the stakeholder group to flesh out that concept and provide us with a compromise plan that includes broader community amenities with a golf component. We hope to see that plan in September or October for more discussion and action.</p>
744	7/24/2023	<p>I have been asked to share ideas that have not yet been considered by the stakeholders and the public, but, because of the councils list on issues and the concerns expressed by many community members, may now be worthy of consideration. The cost projections of the envision project so far have people who pay taxes very worried. I understand that golfers are not against having expanded native and prairie habitat or sharing the driving range with a summer concert venue or trails that intersect the property if placed in low-risk locations with good liability signage, or making future plans to have a community event space and remodeled restaurant/taproom. All these CAN co-exist with a golf course. One of the most urgent concerns is housing for people who provide so many of the services tourists and residents count on. I hope these suggested options will encourage more creative and affordable planning, refreshed and forward thinking.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

745	7/22/2023	<p>Please rethink this whole process. You are wading into deep water, and the public is very confused. Most importantly, the use of online surveys is both self-serving and self-defeating, as should be obvious from last night's meeting. Many older citizens are not tech-savvy, but have strong opinions nevertheless. If you truly want to know how we feel about this issue, put it on the November ballot -- with ALL options on the table. Thanks.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email, Bob. The City engaged the public through a full variety of engagement processes, from open houses, to public meetings of the Parks, Rec, Trees, and Trails Advisory Committee, to the stakeholder meetings, to online and in-person surveys. This has been an attempt to reach and engage with as many people in our community as possible. As to balloting: our ballot system is not set up to allow for anything other than a binary "yes"/"no" option. Direct democracy is notably bad at working through complicated decisions with multiple branch points and tradeoffs. Our very representative system is designed to ensure there's a democratic process to electing people to navigate those thorny issues. Are there different theories on this? Of course. But for better or worse, it's what we have right now.</p>
746	7/19/2023	<p>I'm just curious to know if anyone mentioned the additional possibility of having a site along Blaine street for future city services/functions. Some of us are increasingly concerned about the impacts of sea level rise that will eventually force the city to move some if not all of their administrative offices from Water Street to higher ground. It might not be a bad idea to at least carve out a potential spot and consider putting in some underground infrastructure capacity while that work is being done.</p>	<p>I do not believe any significant discussion of siting any city administrative facilities on the golf course land has been discussed. My personal preference would likely be for a long-term plan to build up on the Mountain View campus above the existing classroom building to facilitate future needs whenever we start actively needing to engage in that step, but I would also not support spending the resources now given the recent vintage of the city hall redesign and the decades before we are likely going to have to go into managed-retreat mode from the current downtown location. But starting the planning process for that in the next decade may well be a thoughtful thing to do so that we have the best-available options open to us when the time comes.</p>
747	7/20/2022	<p>The council cannot approve spending \$1*million on golf course projects because "...is being used by a few hundred ...and the city is subsidizing...etc" (Wennstrom) but you want to spend more than 3X that for a pool and are willing to subsidize the cost for something even fewer than a hundred RESIDENTS use!! Where are your priorities?? Spend that money on street improvements!! PS on the ballot to vote for pool - why won't you have an option of "none of the above" as suggested ??! Are you afraid that will be the majority choice??</p>	<p>Thank you for your email, Val. Regarding funding for the pool: any potential future funding <i>will</i> be put on the ballot, but our voting system is only currently set up to offer simple, binary "yes"/"no" choices. We do not yet know what potential structure the possible future aquatic facility will take, but rest assured that whatever form it takes, the public will have a very clear opportunity to reject it by voting "no" on their ballot.</p>
748	7/20/2023	<p>I appreciate you opening up and communicating with the community. I respect your work tremendously but this one I don't understand.. if the community is split, as seen in the pie charts from surveys, and most people don't even care either way.. why remove the historical golf course? Right after it finally got well-water and the city subsidies would be minimal. It would probably cost more to mow it for wildfires prevention privately. It could turn into a major wildfire hazard in the center of town. "Golf is dead" is what you said. Did you look at the data the city paid for and was presented? 50% of your community members wanted golf either "as is"... or a hybrid option? To top it off, you had a 5 hr meeting where 40+ people stayed long past their bedtimes to remind you of the importance and history of the golf course. Your response: "golf is a dying sport"? Where is your community data to support those remarks? In a community that has so MANY other projects and energy needing to be spent, why even entertain this idea? I could see if the data had shown that 75% of the community wanted the golf course gone, that might have given more weight to your remarks! But it is not there yet. Just leave it as is and move on to the actual problems the community cares about. In my mind, based on presented survey-based data, the council's determination should have sounded more like this: "there's not enough community support to make any changes and remove the 100 yr old historical golf course at this time." Let alone funding.. we are all struggling Thanks for listening, I appreciate the opportunity to speak </p>	<p>Thank you for your email, Steve. This is a complicated process with many different factors that have to be weighed. We have tasked staff to produce a "hybrid" of the two mutually-exclusive plans that were presented to us on Monday and hope to have it back in front of us for more deliberation and action in September or October.</p>

749

7/21/2023

I attended the council meeting on July 17. It was apparent that all council members along with many interested groups and individuals are concerned about housing, possibly more than any other issue. The consultants propose to build housing on golf course land where there is challenging topography and important wild habitat. However, the Park, Tree and Open Space Committee understand the functions of this habitat and have recommended against housing in this area; in part recognizing the interests of the hundreds of birders in this town as well as the need for wildlife corridors along with trails for humans. As proposed, a difficult building site for an apartment complex in a quiet neighborhood of mostly single family upper end housing that would require transportation, not just trails, to access town services, does not meet the need for affordable and low income housing. **A proposal: low and affordable income housing.** Mayor Faber at one point said housing should go on Blaine St. where infrastructure and bus lines already exist. An alternative to the Hybrid and Horner proposals would be to site apartments on the corner of Blaine and Kearny relocating the Recyclery to the "community garden" corner of the golf course on 19th and San Juan at the foot of the golf park. Currently the Recyclery is located on the old school tennis courts. This subsidized non-profit is used by about 70 people each month during the season and it is in need of a better building with bathrooms.

Thank you for your email, Julie. We will have more discussion and action to come.

Comments as of 7/24/23

750

7/24/2023

I urge you to consider a six-hole golf course as the community seeks a compromise shared-use solution for the golf course property. This suggestion was made at the beginning of this process but was not pursued further. It was thought that it might not pencil out but in light of the quotes below and the fact that it can be implemented with no up front capital costs, I feel it should be looked at again. A simple google search of "6 hole golf course" provides numerous hits on this subject. Here are a few examples. From an article entitled "Six hole golf: what do the architects think?" in "Golf Course Architecture: The Global Journal of Golf Design and Development" <https://www.golfcoursearchitecture.net/content/six-hole-golf-what-do-the-architects-think> a few quotes: "In a recent interview with BBC Radio, European Tour chief executive Keith Pelley highlighted that "people's time is so precious," and said "every golf course being built needs to be six holes, six holes, six holes," allowing people to play a single loop before they go to work." Frank Pont of Infinite Variety Golf Design noted that "Having the possibility to play six holes will, in my opinion, get more people to try the game and continue playing golf. Also you need less land to build six-hole courses on, so you could build them closer to metropolitan areas." Lassi Pekka Tilander of Tilander Golf Design added "Six-hole golf is a great idea – not only for tournaments but for golf in general." In a 2019 article in "Golf Business" Alistair Dunsmuir reports: Phil Taylor, F PGA, is the founder of Patesham Golf Centre in Surrey, which was originally a nine-hole golf club. Two years ago it successfully converted to six holes. He quotes Taylor stating "We converted our nine-hole course into a six-hole venue with no members – and we're as busy as we ever were." <https://www.thegolfbusiness.co.uk/2019/07/this-is-why-we-converted-our-golf-club-into-a-six-hole-venue/> That same Google search brought up a short interview with Jack Nicklaus who notes that the sport of golf has lost a large portion of women and youth players and he suggests that traditional rounds take too much time. He argues for more 12 hole golf courses organized in groupings of 6 holes. <https://www.stayhomehusband.com/golf-writing/a-case-for-why-golf-needs-more-12-hole-courses/> I don't know if converting to a six hole course is right for PT. But in light of the above comments, I think that it should be much more openly and thoroughly assessed than has occurred thus far. If golf was restricted to holes 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9 of the current golf course, here are some of the benefits that would result. Freeing up the area currently occupied by holes 4, 5, and 6 frees up approximately 15 acres for other uses.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

This is more area for other uses than the current hybrid option developed by the City's consultant and significantly more than the Pi R square option. I believe the majority of residents would see this as a serious attempt at community compromise. Note that this does not exclude other shared-use options such as designated times for disc golf or concerts on the driving range. This retains the driving range, practice putting green and 1784 yards (men's tees) of standard golf (1 par 5, 2 par 3s and 3 par 4s), Replaying holes 1, 2, and 3 or 7, 8, and 9, perhaps with alternate tees to provide different challenges, would permit 9 holes of play if desired. Removing 3 of 9 holes significantly reduces green and fairway maintenance and water needs. This may help future operations pencil out. Freeing up 15 acres for other uses will greatly increase the community's potential use of this area. Possibilities include: increased prairie, putt-putt course, children's nature play, re-located dog park, community garden, re-located pickleball (perhaps with sufficient courts to host tournaments). Absence of active golf on the 4th fairway will facilitate development of a safe trail, more-or-less east-west across the course from San Juan to A street. Significant area of land may also be set aside for future affordable housing development after Evans Vista. Other activities will bring a wider spectrum of residents onto the site, exposing non-golfers to golf and may ultimately lead to more interest in golf. Note that this can be implemented with essentially no capital outlay. Continued golf activities on the 6-hole facility can go forward with the issuance of an RFP and successful contract. Other activities and facilities can be developed as money becomes available through RCO grants or other sources.

751	7/12/2023	The golf course is an extravagance we cannot afford. But what is so aggravating about this is that the so few golfers have been able to "usurp" the usage of this land, when it could benefit all the residents of Port Townsend. Please do the right (and most economical) thing - shut it down as a golf course and use the land productively to pay for itself.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
752	7/13/2023	Please just keep this as a green space... the nine hole golf course would be nice as we do have many golphers...but I don't see why it can't be more multiuse... just as long as it is kept as a public green space. thank you	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
753	7/13/2023	Please keep the golf course as is. Thanks for listening.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
754	7/13/2023	Please keep the Golf Course as it is now	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
755	7/15/2023	We can't imagine that anyone with foresight would give up the beauty and open space of the golf course. It is as special as our Victorian buildings and gives peace and space to many. From the people seeing every day, to the sportsperson using the course/courts, to the occasional visitor driving by. All benefit. Please don't give this up. Some things one never can recreate or get back. Thank you for reading!	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
756	7/15/2023	To add to the earlier email. Port Townsend is a jewel in our state, worthy of staying that way by keeping the beauty around us which includes the golf course, the openness and beauty it provides its peopl	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
757	7/15/2023	LEAVE IT STAY THE WAY IT IS. LET IT CONTINUE TO BE A GOLF COURSE. DONT FIX SOMETHING THAT IS NOT BROKE. FIX THE POTHOLES INSTEAD	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
758	7/15/2023	I 100% would like to see the land available to ALL residents and NOT just golfers. It's a wonderful asset to have in our town and I would like to go there, sit on the grass and not get yelled at and/or hit with a golf ball. It is close enough to my home that I don't need to drive to enjoy sitting in a park.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

759	7/15/2023	<p>I live within walking distance from the Golf Course. I do not think a golf course or whatever may replace it, such as a much talked about Aquatic Center, is an essential service that a small town like Port Townsend should attempt to provide from tax revenues. There are far more essential services - roads, sewers and water supply, emergency and police services that our tax revenues should go towards. Hence, I believe any plan for this property must be paid for by user fees. Not many people play golf. However vociferous the support, not many people will use an Aquatic center or gym - please leave those kinds of facilities to private enterprises. A park, and walking areas, yes, those are hopefully low-cost options. Or keep the golf course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
760	7/16/2023	<p>Given both Mountainview and golf course are used by so few citizens of the area public sponsored funds should be better allocated to more pressing issues like streets. Our present city debit load doesn't justify more expenditures for amenities.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
761	7/22/2023	<p>After hearing all the many options for the golf course, I highly recommend a strategy that would keep the course intact but would also allow its use by any members of the public. I would recommend that the city invest some money to repair/replace the current irrigation system. This would greatly improve the beauty and playability of the course. Spending funds on cart paths, the clubhouse or other infrastructure is unnecessary. Also recommended would be to open the course to the general public for one day per week (perhaps Sundays). On that day, golf would not be allowed, but walking, hiking, playing frisbee, walking dogs, etc would be encouraged. This approach is similar to that of the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland, one of the most famous golf courses in the world. It is owned by the City of St. Andrews, and is open to the general public on Sundays. This approach would allow enjoyment of the course by everyone, and would be by far the cheapest option of those under consideration.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
762	6/27/2023	<p>Very much in favor of the proposal for the Central Park concept. The town needs a civic center for ALL not just for a select few, ie golfers.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
763	6/28/2023	<p>Can you direct me to the images of the original four options for the golf course, and also for the updated two current options? I can not find them currently the City website. I believe they are only included in some meeting or open house presentation that is NOT easy to find. These are not listed in the "Materials for Review" list, and a website search for "golf course options" does not seem to be very helpful either. Thank you.</p>	<p>You have requested information on how to find the concepts that were presented to the community, both the four plans and the subsequent two plans of the PTGC and the Mountain View Commons. I am sorry it is hard to find, and that I am delayed in my response. On the city's webpage, all plans can be found on the Open House 3 presentation, you can find here: cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engage_pt/page/20561/062223_open_house_3_golf_course_presentation.pdf Thanks for your patience.</p>
764	7/2/2023	<p>Whether you support the Central Park idea or retaining and improving the golf course, or a hybrid solution, the real problem is that we just don't have the money to do any of this. Our streets are crumbling, the City is facing a serious if not catastrophic budget shortfall in a few months, and the Fort Worden PDA is falling apart as we look the other way and struggle with issues such as diversity, inclusion, and equity. We pay outside consultants appalling sums of taxpayer's money to thrust forward an agenda the suits a few highly-placed town leaders. (Ask them what they accomplished with the Cherry Street project, that broken down disaster that was brought down from Canada with good intentions but poor or no planning.) All these subjects have a place in our civil discourse, but wouldn't it be a good idea to step back and fix what's broken first? I have a wish list too, but I'm not writing any bad checks to get what I want. I take my time and work for it. There will be time in the future to tackle these issues and further these needed improvements once we have gotten our house in order. Just say no to everything, for now. And unless you are rich and care to contribute to all these adventures personally, don't expect me to share your enthusiasm for what could be the last straw for our City finances. I can't afford it.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

765 7/4/2023

The Hybrid Option presented at the meeting is by far the most practical and advantageous. It maintains the golf course for life long learning, accommodates a public garden area, builds walking trails, envisions use of the driving range as a "natural" amphitheatre, and provides for affordable housing. It is important to acknowledge that once a local golf course is gone, it will be virtually impossible to re-build one within city limits. Golf is a lifelong activity, just as swimming is a lifelong activity. It promotes good exercise. If the city hopes to accommodate swimmers with a new aquatic facility, I believe it should accommodate golfers as well. Also, there is no evidence that the city could maintain another park; in fact, given the deplorable condition of streets in PT, the lack of roadside mowing, and the struggle to maintain medians, roundabouts, and rain gardens, I don't believe the city could sustain adequate park maintenance without a vote for a park district. This would add to the tax burden that residents already face. I'd much rather see the PT administration maintain basic services like street maintenance (including painted lines for safety purposes) than take on a new "central park" or convert all the land housing. Undoubtedly, we need more housing; however, there is considerable unbuilt land within the city limits. If we are to raise taxes for any reason, it should be for purchase of land and building of affordable housing.

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766 7/11/2023

More regarding the gold course. If the goal of the process is to allocate land at the current golf course site in a fashion proportionate to likely use it seems obvious that the central park plan comes closest with one caveat. It doesn't offer anything to golfers. (I add a suggestion regarding that below.). The hybrid plan allocates approximately 40 of 60 acres to a group that currently has on average 10 users per day! This fact must be kept in the foreground of any consideration. The number I cite derives from the city commissioned analysis of the golf course and explains why it is very rare to see anyone on this manicured lawnscapes we all heavily subsidize. For golfers, adding several small driving nets, and putting greens (3) of the former and (2) of the latter to the central park plan where golfers can practice would be more commensurate with the number of users. The current use, even if doubled with improvements and marketing still doesn't justify the hybrid. The solution I suggest truly would offer the most good for the most people. Thanks for your consideration.

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Thank you all for taking the time to survey the town regarding the future of the PT golf course. It is great to see that the majority of those participating would like to see the golf course remain. After reading the article in the PT Leader on 7/19, I realized I should share our family's experience, as there may be a disconnect as to the "why" of keeping the course as is. We are so fortunate to live in a region full of parks, open land, trails, and beaches. As a mother this has been a wonderful place to raise my two children. I am so grateful. When my children were little, I might not have recognized the benefits of a simple golf course. I imagine this is the case with the local folks that are not in support. I share my thoughts with you, to expand your understanding of how this course benefits families with older children in the community. Now a mother of older children, I am seeking engaging outdoor activities for my children who desire more than a trail or a park. In PT, we have seen pickleball courts replace basketball courts, and dog parks replace soccer fields. The pool has struggled to remain accessible due to staffing issues. Park and Rec is closed on the weekends due to lack of funding and staffing challenges possibly? (another conversation for the future). We are a family with 2 full time working parents. To keep my son busy this summer, off his phone and console, he attends park and recreation camps (when available) in the morning and then he walks to the golf course to play in the afternoon. He is outdoors, engaged, and happy with friends. It is only \$7 for him to golf. It is accessible daily and affordable, both unusual in PT. Gabe, owner of the golf course, provided my son with a set of used clubs so he could learn to play. He provided lessons for my son and his friends as well. Many families, such as mine, must have two working parents to afford to live here. When the city commits to keeping places like the golf course for youth and others, it is committing to wellness and families. **Where else in PT are there activities for teens, that are available daily and affordable?** Maybe the skate park? I argue that the golf course may be the only other place. As I said above, most other places are not accessible daily or are expensive or exist in Port Angeles or Kitsap. If PT hopes to welcome more families to the area, we need more, not less opportunities for youth. Keeping teens engaged reduces drug use and crime. Creating, not taking away, opportunities like the golf course supports working families and overall

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768	8/2/2023	<p>My husband & I listened to the council's meeting on the future of the Port Townsend Golf Course on July 17. First off, I want to commend you on your patience and your candid comments following the numerous members of the keep-the-golf-course group. I, like many Port Townsend residents, were uncomfortable at the idea of attending the council meeting in person, as this group is aggressive towards anyone, they think may not agree with them. After living in Bellevue for nearly 30 years, my husband and I bought property in North Beach in 2021. In 2022 we built our forever home and love the town. We're dog owners who use the off-leash dog park nearly every day. With the high number of dogs in town, including those with visitors, I would love to see the dog park improved and increased in size. Please be aware that recently golf balls are appearing in the dog park. These are dangerous to the dogs. It's not clear if these balls are coming from people playing at the golf course. It is clear golf and dogs don't mix. If any part of the golf course is to survive, the off-leash dog park shouldn't be near golfers. I'm not in favor of using the donated golf course public land for affordable housing. As the land appears to have been donated with the condition of use for public recreation, that contract needs to be respected. I think the council would just be inviting numerous lawsuits if the land is re-zoned. As for the current and future of the golf course I'm not sure it should survive. We drive by the golf course almost daily. We've rarely seen anyone playing golf – maybe 10 people over the last 14 months. I've been inside the golf club house a few times. The building is dated, empty, and uninviting. The women's bathroom has photos of the Port Townsend Women's Golf club, but the photos were taken long before covid – maybe 6 – 7 yrs. ago, suggesting the club is no longer active. A few of my friends and I went to the newly opened restaurant on the golf club grounds. Like the rest of the club house, the restaurant area is dated, uninviting, and we were the only patrons. The menu & open hours are extremely limited. Additionally, I can't find any advertising informing the Port Townsend community of its existence, suggesting the owner plans on primarily serving golfers. Overall, the golf club appears to have become a private club, for a few privileged residents, supported mostly by taxpayer revenue. Club members have known for a long time that the golf course is under threat but would rather complain and</p> <p>Hello Again: Just passing along some more data and statistics. The attached info was released this morning by the R&A (Royal & Ancient) – the United States Golf Association is the governing body of golf in the U.S., its territories, and Mexico; while the R&A is the governing body for the rest of the world. And here is the link to the study, detailing all the statistics about the growth of the game, about the increasing diversity of its participants, and about the projections for the future. The USGA will most likely be coming out with their data summary soon, which I will then forward. This seems a good opportunity to bridge the past (i.e. your historic golf course) and the future (making the golf course and its property available/accessible to the entire community). An example would be the municipal (county-owned) Chambers Bay down near Tacoma, in which a walking path cuts directly through the golf course (see attached photo, from a tournament our office conducted at Chambers Bay two weeks ago), among other “non-golfing” activities available on that golf course property. Thanks again.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
769	8/2/2023	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
770	8/3/2023 PT Golf	<p>I believe that PT Golf Course should be saved and upgraded with Robert Horner's plan.</p>	

771

8/3/2023

I wish the Mayor (or any one of the Councilors) would've made a motion for Consultants to modify BOTH the Hybrid and the Central Park Concept Plans with Council's listed priorities. And, I wish he took pause for ONE WEEK so Councilors could take time making their priority lists and then vote on a motion with fresh heads that weren't just bombarded for 5 hours with varying input from over 50 people! And, I wish he followed his usual protocol and let the Councilors speak their opinions FIRST and his last as he usually does, instead of speaking ahead of them with such a strong opinion - which, may have influenced their opinions. The whole evening seemed to be heading towards a Hybrid Plan choice up until he spoke and turned heads around - or so it seemed. If it wasn't too late to 'modify' the Central Park Plan with 'Andy's Plan' ideas, then it wasn't too late to 'modify' the Hybrid Plan with some of Horner's ideas. What Consultants are drawing up IS the CENTRAL PARK CONCEPT with 'modifications of Councilors' priorities - don't be calling it 'a third plan' - it's not. And, this is my response to Mayor Faber's facebook post: (Sorry, for some repeat points) - Joni BlanchardDavid Faber ~ Trying to 'drill down to a compromise to break the stalemate' would've been to ask Consultants (Pay the consultants more \$\$) to spend the next two months ALSO making a 'modified Hybrid Plan (that keeps the Course with modifications as the PRTTB and some Stakeholders asked for) with Councilors' priorities added, rather than have them ONLY focus on making the Stakeholders' last minute - Andy's - 'unfleshed out' 'modified Central Park Plan (that obliterates the course/adds Putt Putt) with Councilors' priorities added. A 'nod to our historical course' with Putt Putt and a useless driving range that the Consultants advised against is just about an insult. Also, even more housing (than the proposed 6 units in the NE corner on unrestricted deed property) wasn't recommended by the PRTTB. What they said was along the lines of: If you're going to violate the family's wishes who donated the property to the city (the deed stating 'Municipal Recreation or Aviation Use Only', AND the 2020 declaration of 'Open Space' for the Course, then you shouldn't be building on the expensive sloped hillside, but, put it anywhere on the golf course for less expense. Their point was - You'd be dishonoring the family and violating the deed restrictions. What you proposed wasn't any kind of compromise. The Golf Course IS obliterated

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772

8/3/2023

I live in PT and use the golf course. I would like to invite any one of you who might be interested to walk the golf course with me while I play nine holes to learn a little about the property from a golfers perspective. It could be a fun and relaxing way to get a little additional information on this important issue. The walk takes an hour and a half, and we could do it almost any day and time. Let me know if would join me, and a day and time that works for you.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

773

8/4/2023

Due to my employment for the past 10 years, I have been unable to comment on various public issues, including the future of the Port Townsend Golf Course (PTGC). Now that I am retired, I can do so. In my opinion, the Mayor and City Council are wrong in not maintaining the golf course. I agree with the various letters and comments supporting the golf course and the reasons given. In particular, I think the writings of former Mayor Brent Shirley and former City Council member Mark Welch are informative and provide context. Tim Caldwell's post of August 2 and that of Fred Obee are spot-on. I want to emphasize the following points. Although PTGC is not long and only has 9 separate holes, it is a challenging golf course; good players who regularly play nice and longer resort or country club courses have had difficulty scoring at PTGC. The course plays uphill and downhill; has numerous uphill, downhill and sidehill lies; has water in play on 3 of the holes; has out of bounds in play on 8 holes; has trees and sand traps as obstacles; is affected by wind; and has very small greens. Taken together, scoring well can be difficult. The driving range and chipping/putting area are important for practice and learning the game. All of this presently exists. There is no need to make numerous expensive improvements to the course other than to repair the irrigation system. My good friend Tim Caldwell refers to PTGC as a "lunch pail" golf course. That is exactly correct. It is not a country club and does not pretend to be in any sense. It's open to the public for play and practice. I've played golf at PTGC for many years. The people who play there are your neighbors and community members; teachers; mill workers; small business people; employees; people in various professions; retirees; men, women and kids of all kinds; others who live or work in the community; and tourists and people from neighboring communities. Council members have suggested that if the City received the PTGC property now, they would never plopp a golf course down on it. That is irrelevant and is not what is happening. The PTGC is historic; has for nearly 100 years been accepted and used by many and the community; has provided much to the community in charitable dollars and recreational opportunities for young and old; and is a beautiful green space right in the middle of town. Some suggest that PTGC should simply become a park of some kind with trails and other park amenities. Port Townsend already has an

Good morning, I live, I work, and I vote in Port Townsend. And I am in favor of keeping the golf course. The cherry street complex that is located on the golf course has been derelict and abandoned for a number of years. The Kai Tai property located on the golf course is a hotbed for drug activity, homelessness, and illicit behavior. These two projects have been mismanaged by city government. Why should I put faith in a bigger more involved project? I feel the city council and the mayor have a hidden agenda. They are not listening to the will of the people, but to private interest groups.

774

8/7/2023

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775	8/7/2023	PT Golf	<p>To the Port Townsend City Council concerning the Port Townsend Golf Course: I hope this letter finds you all in good humors and my supreme desire in this correspondence is to not incite offense or mistrust. I have the greatest respect for the time, volunteerism, and efforts of all who step forward do good and their utmost for their community. So, before my discourse I thank each and every one of you for your efforts and will to fight the good fight as you see it. I'm going to use a metaphor or parable to illustrate my point. Parables help with visualizing a concern or problem better than mere words. When a team of Soldiers enter a room to clear it, each Soldier has specific responsibilities that the others are counting on in order for the team as a whole to maximize their overall survival. The singular objective is to get into the room as quickly as possible while maximizing the coverage of the room to suppress any threats immediately. The first one in, the lead Soldier in the stack, has the most dangerous job and is the most likely to be engaged or held up in the whole process. For this reason, it has been trained for decades that speed is survivability. That Soldier must get to their position as fast as possible while clearing their sector of the room so that the rest of the team can enter right on their heels to increase the odds of the lead Soldier's survival. That lead Soldier is trained to follow the "Path of least resistance" through the room to get to their corner of the room. Split second decisions are made to get there as quickly as possible. Around the couch in the way or over? Around the table or shelf or throw the item into the center of the room? The Path of Least Resistance is whatever decision is necessary to get there as quickly as possible. The path gravity takes water down the slope. This ideology in room clearing was made obsolete in the experiences gathered in the last 20 years of war overseas. Time, and time again, Special Operations Forces lost valuable and highly trained team members to these tactics as it became apparent that patience and precision were far superior to speed and aggression. The Path of Least Resistance led to wounded and dead teammates. No days, rooms are cleared from the outside with better tools and tactics. Decades of training the wrong tactics for the circumstances led to poor decisions on the ground over what was the right way to do something. Concerning decisions with the Port Townsend Golf Course, I'm not going to claim any of the proposed directions or plans is right or wrong. I'm not</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
776	8/4/2023	PT Golf	<p>Please keep it intact and continue to run as is for the next 10 years. It is obvious to anyone that there is a large amount of people in this community that care for this space, primarily keeping it pristine, open and beautiful. None of the proposed alternatives or zany ideas that are coming from our current City Council make any sense. It would be very nice if our city council would put this matter to a simple ballot vote. Let the people decide! Finally, a cost analysis of all proposals including where the money will come from to complete each proposal is needed. It is obvious that the current system in place is the only affordable mechanism.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
777	8/5/2023	PT Golf	<p>I am not a golfer but want you to leave it alone and renew the lease. It is a treasure.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

778	8/11/2023	<p>Hi Carrie, I'm writing to you because you're the designated contact person for the golf course project. I have already filled out the form that asked for public input a couple of months ago, but I feel moved to write about the atmosphere of dialogue about this issue. I have witnessed people in the media (Next Door, Facebook, etc. as well as the local newspaper) who express an opinion contrary to "keeping the golf course" being subjected to insults, accusations and, in short, being bullied. I would submit a letter or comment in these forums, but I am truly afraid of saying anything other than "keep the golf course exactly as it is." I wonder how many other people feel this too. It seems to me that the preponderance of letters and comments are now pro-golf course partly because the rest of us, who would like to discuss alternatives, are intimidated. This is sadly the state of many issues in our public life today -- feeling bullied by loud, intimidating voices on the extremes of any topic. I just want to express my concern that public opinion about the golf course issue may LOOK one-sided but certainly is not. There are many of us that are simply afraid to participate in the discussion on a public level due to the fierce nature of blowback. Thanks for listening. I'm so tired of reading all the "pro-golf course" letters and comments and feeling those who write them are part of a group that feel absolutely safe because of their own deafening, bullying crowd. It's very sad.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
779	8/14/2023	<p>Just following up with the latest from the National Golf Foundation, about golf being the largest growing sport in the U.S..... https://www.ngf.org/the-largest-growing-sport-in-america/</p>	<p>Thanks for the link Tom. I will make sure it is on the log.</p>
780	8/11/2023	<p>I'm a non-golfer, and I walk several miles a day in P.T., but I've never felt deprived or excluded because I can't walk on the golf course. Why would I? Port Townsend is full of trails, parks, sidewalks, and beaches; it's extremely and infinitely walkable. I also don't feel excluded because I can't walk across Memorial Field during a football game, or through a pickle ball court or a basketball court when people are playing. My kids grew up here, and even though they couldn't play frisbee, croquet, tennis, basketball, soccer, horseshoes, baseball or anything other than golf on the golf course, they weren't deprived or excluded; there were a million other places where they could, and did, enjoy all these activities and more. And all those places for sports other than golf are still here and are still being used. Only 5% of the population of Port Townsend used the swimming pool in 2022 at least one time, but even those of us who never use the pool aren't complaining that we can't play other sports or have picnics in the pool. And we aren't asking to eliminate the pool, even though it costs P.T. hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. (\$276,000 according to the YMCA 2022 annual report on the Mt. View pool, or \$387,190 according to the City of P.T.'s 2022 budget, under "Community Services Fund, Budget Summary." The \$387,190 figure is more than half of the Parks Maintenance budget, which is \$601,228. The golf course, on the other hand, cost P.T. a total of \$31,568 in 2022. (\$29,843 for city water, plus \$11,725 for "Repairs/Maintenance/Professional Services", minus \$10,000 in revenue from the course. https://cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engage_pt/page/20561/golf_course_financial_analysis_2018_-_2022.pdf Golf course revenue: \$124,422 in 2022. https://cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engage_pt/page/20561/golf_course_financial_analysis_2018_-_2022.pdf Subsidy from the city: \$31,568 in 2022. Pool revenues: \$105,680 in 2022. https://cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engage_pt/page/20561/mountain_view_pool_-_2022_annual_report.pdf Subsidy from the city: (\$387,190 for the pool in the Parks Maintenance Budget; \$276,000 went to the YMCA.) The pool is a financial drain; the golf course isn't. But both are well used and loved, and both provide important opportunities for exercise and companionship, two of the most important factors in promoting good health. The golf course volunteers group even does much of the maintenance of the golf course. And yet Mayor Faber and City Manager Moore seem to be determined to eliminate the golf course. Why? What all</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

781	8/11/2023	I wish I had written this as I feel it is excellent and expresses how I feel about the golf course. I favor Robert Horner plan for its inclusiveness and also the price will be much lower than anything else presented. I am not big on carrying as much debt as we do and do not want to add to that.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
Comments as of 8/16/23			
782	8/17/2023	reside at 1060 mcpherson st. i would like the city to renew the lease on the golf course. no other proposed option makes much sense, the golf course is a historical quirky part of the charm of PT. keep it. thank you	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
783	8/17/2023	I support accessibility to the golf course land for all ages and a variety of public uses. I respect the participation of so many in the discernment process. Please do not allow the golf-only faction to overwhelm you with their attack strategies. Keep on listening to the WHOLE community as we are NOW. Thanks for your hard work, Regarding: Golf Course Property I regret that the divisiveness and broad rancor stemming from the city's process of exploring options for the property has caused undue pressure and anxiety on many, let alone high costs. While much could have been avoided, I am also thankful that elected officials like you are willing to initiate a thoughtful process regarding the property. Take the following as a possible "solution" to consider formally. Premise: The city and the current lessee lack the capacity and expertise to manage the golf course property to its full potential effectively. Advised solution: I suggest a non-profit takes over the management of the property and the city gives at least a 10-year lease. Specifics of the lease are to be negotiated, but with needed capital investments, an extended lease is the only thing that makes sense. The cost of the lease, improvements, and maintenance can be offset by potential user fees so that regressive or extra tax schemes can be minimized, and grants and donations can also be pursued by the non-profit. The intent can be to promote broader use/enjoyment of this valuable city property, knowing that whatever its intended use, it is most likely only a minority of residents will use it, as is the case with other publically developed and maintained recreational/park properties. The expertise needed on the board would recognize that popular majority opinions are unlikely to assure optimal and cost-effective uses for the property. The issues are pretty complex. I suggest a board of qualified local professionals/volunteers, not all who need to be golf enthusiasts. I suggest inviting and motivating such a board to take on the task and start the ball rolling regarding a negotiated lease.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
784	8/17/2023		Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
785	8/17/2023	My husband and I are not golfers, and think their verbal assaults on the mayor and the council printed in the newspaper vile and their behavior at public meetings abhorrent. Please don't let a loud group of disgruntled old white men golfers control the agenda about the future of the golf course property. The mayor is right - most people would like the golf course to be available to non-golfers. That being said, although this town has many people with deep pockets, the majority of the population will not be happy to subsidize an expensive renovation through taxes. Personally, we think there can never be enough open spaces for nature and parks - please don't go the way of Portland with high-density infill of vacant land within city limits. It can't be denied that homeless people will be a particular problem within parks, but they are a problem everywhere. There is no easy answer, but we are writing to express our disgust with the tiny minority of the population who have resorted with personal attacks on public servants. Persevere. You can't please everyone!	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

786	8/16/2023	<p>Dear great folks who keep the city of Port Townsend going. I support real and substantial change at the current city golf course. It is an incredible public space that could serve so many more of our community. I wish to walk there with my child and my dog, safely. I imagine a park with restored plant life that brings in birds and helps make our city more climate friendly. I want a walking and bike path across the park that connect to quiet residential streets so my child can ride to high school more safely when they reach that age. As a working parent, I find it difficult to make it to city council and other meetings, but I want my family's voice heard. We want the golf course to become a park, and we want that change as soon as possible. Thank you,</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
787	8/16/2023	<p>To Port Townsend Mayor, City Council Members, and City Manager I have been a full-time resident of Port Townsend since 1980 and a volunteer maintenance manager of the Kah Tai Prairie Preserve since the 1990's. The preserve is INSIDE of the golf course so I have witnessed firsthand how busy the golf course can be and the amount of work required daily to maintain the grounds. After actively following the meetings and open house since the beginning of the Envision planning process I have gained great respect for all the discussions and citizen input and passion for this area. Here are some comments I have heard below. Has it been considered to use park funds to upgrade the degraded portions of the Kah Tai Lagoons' 72 acres for a dog park, pickle ball court, playground. Someone proposed the idea of selling the 2-story building floated in from Victory intended for low-income housing to fund improvements to the golf course. It has been vacant for over 6 years. The need for low-income housing could be solved in other vacant blocks of land in the City. There were once plans for low-income, high-density housing at the corner of San Juan and F Street. Potential housing options could include the lesser used 13.96-acre park at 35th and Rosecrans Street. The survey from ONE open house, (as published the Leader Editorial by David Farber) shows the vote was 42% Central Park, 33% Golf Course, 18% hybrid. Other comments from web site review and Leder editorial a strong desire to leave it as a golf course, or a reasonable hybrid. These comments are by local citizens including not just old people but scientists, architects, previous mayors, previous city council members, previous city planners, previous Leader editors, business owners, attorneys, environmentalists, consultants, golfers, dog owners, and long term and newly arrived Port Townsend residents. Yes, the majority of citizens want the "gem" of our city saved as a golf course, compromise plan, or open park space. Park staff is understaffed and overworked; it would be extremely difficult to maintain this acreage that is mowed and carefully manicured. I recommend renewing the golf course lease until we can agree on a reasonable compromise. Respectfully submitted by a concerned citizen,</p> <p>Hi: I wanted to thank the Mayor and the entire city council (and staff) and Shareholder Group for all of their hard work on the golf course property. I attended two of the meetings in person and listened to the City Council meeting on-line. I am fairly new to Port Townsend so came in with an open mind. However, I do now believe that a more <i>inclusive plan is appropriate</i>. I couldn't agree more with Gabe Van Lelyveld's recent opinion piece in this week's Leader.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
788	8/16/2023	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

789	8/16/2023	<p>I have followed the discussion on the golf course since the beginning. The city of PT has plenty of parks and walking trails - golf courses are, by their very design "open space". The golf course costs the city very little under current management - I suspect that the "cost" today would be far exceeded by the cost to maintain it as a park. We are already highly taxed and I see no reason to increase our tax burden to make changes when we are already looking at a huge bill to (at the low end) repair the pool, or (high end) create a Taj Mahal new pool/fitness center. I don't play golf, but I respect the people who do, and who enjoy a close, reasonably inexpensive course. I also support the various charity tournaments held there to support local non-profits. In addition, the course supports the school teams without a lengthy bus ride. Please do not support any plan that removes our historic golf course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
790	8/16/2023	<p>I believe that what Port Townsend needs right now is to make a commitment to keeping the golf course as is or with only minor improvements. Our county has recreational opportunities for trail hikers, dog owners, pickle ball players, tennis players, skate boarders, sailors, swimmers... The list goes on and on. Why are we considering eliminating the only public golf course for miles around? Where are kids, including the high school team, going to play if it goes away? Besides, any other option would cost the county far more than we could afford. The City has stated that it doesn't have the financial means to repair the streets. But we can spend millions reconfiguring the golf course? That doesn't make sense. For the past several months, we've read many thoughtful, eloquent letters to the editor of the Leader, strongly in favor of keeping the golf course. They have expressed themselves far better than I ever could, but I agree wholeheartedly with their sentiments. Let's keep the golf course!</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
791	8/16/2023	<p>I read with interest Gabe Van Lelyveld's opinion piece in the Leader, and as he suggested, I am writing to express our family's support for the process and plans currently underway for the golf course property. From what we have read, it seems that a full, lengthy, and inclusive consultation process has been conducted and we should support the results of that process. Change is hard, of course. Thank you for listening to the needs of the majority of the community and leading us forward in this area.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

792

8/15/2023

With respect to your upcoming difficult decision about the city-owned land currently used by the golf course, I respectfully ask that you consider all voices, not just the recently most vocal ones. I'm dismayed by the recent tenor of public comments. I've heard people say that they do not feel comfortable speaking up publicly, and want to have their written comments to City Council recorded anonymously, because they fear insults and accusations. I've experienced this kind of bullying, too—with responses like, "you don't get to have an opinion if you disagree about saving the golf course." Moreover, I'm disturbed by accusations against elected officials and staff: "they just want to destroy our town", to fund "their pet projects", are somehow out for their own personal gain, and that the public process was a sham process with a hidden agenda. I believe that people who spend their careers in public service generally do so because they care about the common good and about finding solutions that benefit the community as a whole. I imagine the pressure is immense, and it's easy for me—from my armchair—to ask that you make a decision about this large municipal asset that looks to the future and the greatest common good: land that is truly open to all residents, some of which can and should be used for affordable housing, which PT obviously desperately needs. There are mechanisms to ensure the housing remains affordable in perpetuity—I'm sure you're all aware of this. How does preserving the golf course in its entirety benefit the majority of citizens of this town? What will another three to five years of extension of the golf course lease prove—in terms of viability—that the last decades of operation have not been able to? Please know that there are many other voices and citizens watching this process, people who have contributed opinions over the course of several years (under previous Councils and the 2020 PROS plan, for example), and want to know that their opinions matter too.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

793

8/13/2023

As a frequent visitor to PT our family plays often at this course. It is a unique course and reasonable for 5 people. It would be a DISGRACE to develop this property. Keep Open space OPEN. If it is developed it can never be reclaimed.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

8/10/2023

I'm a non-golfer, and I walk several miles a day in P.T., but I've never felt deprived or excluded because I can't walk on the golf course. Why would I? Port Townsend is full of trails, parks, sidewalks, and beaches; it's extremely and infinitely walkable. I also don't feel excluded because I can't walk across Memorial Field during a football game, or through a pickle ball court or a basketball court when people are playing. My kids grew up here, and even though they couldn't play frisbee, croquet, tennis, basketball, soccer, horseshoes, baseball or anything other than golf on the golf course, they weren't deprived or excluded; there were a million other places where they could, and did, enjoy all these activities and more. And all those places for sports other than golf are still here and are still being used. Only 5% of the population of Port Townsend used the swimming pool in 2022, but even those of us who never use the pool aren't complaining that we can't play other sports or have picnics in it, and aren't asking to eliminate it, even though it costs P.T. hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. (\$276,000 according to the YMCA 2022 annual report on the Mt. View pool, or \$387,190 according to the City of P.T.'s 2022 budget, under "Community Services Fund, Budget Summary." The \$387,190 figure is more than half of the Parks Maintenance budget. The golf course, on the other hand, cost P.T. a total of \$31,568 in 2022. (\$29,843 for city water, plus \$11,725 for "Repairs/Maintenance/Professional Services", minus \$10,000 in revenue from the course.

https://cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/engage_pt/page/20561/golf_course_financial_analysis_2018_-_2022.pdf We're all trying to understand where the impetus to target the golf course came from, because though it makes no apparent sense, the City Council has spent huge amounts of money on trying to create the illusion of public demand to eliminate the golf course. My own guess is that the real issue with the golf course is that it's open, public land that could provide lots of profit to investors in so-called "public/private partnerships" to build housing, as imagined in depressing schematics like the one I've attached. Maybe you have to have lived in Port Townsend as an adult for at least a few decades to appreciate how deeply damaging and destructive the City Council's actions with regard to the golf course have been so far, and to understand how very long the anger and distrust, as well as the schisms in the

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

795

8/8/2023

Remarks by Sheila Westerman at Council Meeting last night Aug.7, 2023I don't know David Faber, or most of the new council members. Up to this point, I had hoped that they and the City Manager would listen carefully to our community (all of us), explore future options (including doing nothing) and not come to decisions based on pre-conceived notions of what they think (especially the Mayor and City Manager) is most appropriate for the future of our community.Here's what I do know:I came here in 1971 after graduation from the University of Washington. I have been involved in the fishing community, boat building community, the small business community, and the nonprofit community. I was a City Councilmember for two terms and served 25 years on the Jefferson County Board of Health. The point of this dissertation: I have interacted with lots of diverse people in this community. Public processes are messy and need to be built on trust and transparency. I have been actively involved in many complicated and contentious public planning processes to chart a path for the future of our community: Gateway Development Plan, Urban Waterfront Plan, Downtown Parking Plans, the City Comprehensive Plan, Northwest Maritime Center, public health plans, etc. I have never seen such a sham public process and arrogance from our Mayor, City Manager and Council as I am witnessing with the golf course public process. How does the Mayor and Council know what the so-called "silent majority" really thinks? It seems to me that the stakeholder group was not very representative of our community, and especially golf course stakeholders. This public process lacks valid surveys, concrete data and relies mostly on what the Mayor and Council wants to hear from their "silent majority." This clearly ignores the fundamental basics of running a fair and transparent public planning process that respects our citizens and the most affected stakeholders. It is time to rethink this whole process. The golf course is an important part of our historic legacy, charm, quality of life and what makes PT such a special place.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

796	8/8/2023	<p>Just some thoughts I have had about all of this. I was born in Port Townsend and grew up believing that the golf course was a gift to the town and would be ours forever. It is our gem, our treasure. I have always loved the green space in the middle of town and still consider myself fortunate to have been able to return to my hometown as an adult to raise my family. We love going to the restaurant at the course and any events hosted there. It is such a beautiful space and well-maintained by Gabe and his volunteers. It is a beauty that not many towns have and I would hate to see it change. Once it's gone, it's gone. I know of some recent PTHS grads who play at the golf course several days a week. I am doubtful that these young folks would make the trip to Chevy Chase or the Port Ludlow course. Not all of them even drive. I had not been to the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park in several years, as I was concerned for my safety in that area. I decided to give it another try last month on a hot day. I thought it would be cooler there for my pups' afternoon exercise. After walking along the trail by the lagoon for several minutes, I heard some noises but didn't notice anyone, then I saw a man making those noises while lying on his back, a few feet from the trail, trying to open a bottle of booze. I turned around and left. Can't some progress be made to get the trails we already have back in working order so we can feel safe using them?? I am appalled at how ugly our town looks now that the city does not do any mowing. I am not sure what the backup plan is, or is there one? My walking route is unsafe for my dogs in parts because of the overgrown weeds (many foxtails) on the sidewalks. Who is supposed to tell the people who are not cutting their weeds, that they have to. Or else ... or else what? It has been months now and my road is getting narrower, as the weeds have taken over and the bushes have grown out into the road. Visibility is poor in many spots because of the tall weeds. It is really hard now to see animals that are near the edge of the road. It's depressing to see our town have an uncared-for look - and I am also embarrassed for what PT's visitors think. A great worry of mine is that if there is no golf course, who will maintain those grounds, if the right-of-ways can't even be cared for, for safety's sake? There has to be a way to keep the golf course and also please some of the folks who want some other things on that property. Yes, and Robert Horner did a wonderful job of creating such a plan. We really need to have that up for</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
797	8/7/2023	<p>The golf course property in the middle of our beautiful city needs to be preserved as a golf course and additionally many other public uses that could be on this gem of a site, not to include housing at this location. I am not a golfer but I look forward to being involved as volunteer to having this land be used by many age groups, organizations and interests. There are many new volunteers willing to step up and be involved. I want this golf course preserved and am joining many others who feel the same way. Thank you</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
798	8/11/2023	<p>In recent proposed design concepts for the golf course, an amphitheater has been included. I'm writing to ask that this amphitheater be *removed* from any designs being considered. The area around the golf course is residential, and an amphitheater would create too much noise for those of us who live here and work from our homes. Surely the money that would need to be budgeted for construction of an amphitheater could be put to better use in other areas of the project. Additionally, there is no justification for an amphitheater as there are many opportunities to gather and enjoy live music around Port Townsend, appealing to different tastes and budgets. Off the top of my head: the Centrum, Concerts on the Dock, the Farmers Market, Vintage, Palindrome, the Castle, Finnrivier, Discovery Bay Brewing, Marrowstone Vineyards, Bishop Block Hotel, THING, Quimper Grange, Candlelight Concerts, the PT Library, community choruses/music ensembles, local parades and even the post office where I've enjoyed harp music while waiting in line. The amphitheater will be so disruptive to families living around the golf course. Please remove it from consideration.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

799 8/15/2023

After closely following Envision PTGC and Mountain View planning process I would like to submit additional comments. First, I appreciate the dedication of all the stakeholders, Council members, Mayor, City manager, and Port Townsend Citizens during this difficult attempt at a consensus of the future of open space in the heart of Port Townsend. I have attended open houses and meetings. The three plans that were produced during this process during the past 2 years have been rejected during a recent Council meeting, I hope you will accept the following letter for comments to public record. I met Carrie Hite when she was first hired by the City to assist with planning for the future of the golf course and Mountain View Commons. Recently I requested information or misinformation and she recommended web sites with all previous meetings and recorded public comments, and KPTZ interviews. This helped unravel the questions of this complex planning puzzle. I have been a full-time resident of Port Townsend since 1980 and owned two businesses. Under the Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society, I have volunteered since 1990 to the present as manager of the maintenance of the Kah Tai Prairie Preserve and organized work parties twice a year. Forest Shomer has also been a dedicated volunteer and is the representative stakeholder for the Kah Tai Prairie Preserve. The golf course surrounds the prairie so we were on the INSIDE of the golf course. The work mowing, gardening, repairing buildings are also conducted by golf course volunteers. The City Parks crew has been supportive all these years to help in prairie maintenance. I am neither a swimmer nor a golfer and sympathize with the housing issue. Although a priority of the PTHS students is affordable housing they could lobby for access to higher educational opportunities, living wages jobs. In the future, they can reflect and be proud that our town did not develop the "gem" in the middle of Port Townsend. Current rumors reflect a distrust/anger about the direction of the Envision PT process and the abrupt rejection of all the past plans. Different sources believe that there has been a hidden agenda and deals with real estate agents from the very beginning. I am hoping this is misinformation and we have an honest and democratic decision-making process. From my research most citizens DO want to save the open space as open space, golf course, or a compromise. "You don't know what you got"

PLEASE do not close the golf course! It is truly an irreplaceable asset to the community. Once gone..... gone forever. Crazy that the City is considering this and the "Healthy Together" pool when basic infrastructure is in such disrepair and should be a funding priority. Paid for by Grants..... what a deal! How do you maintain it moving forward. NOT a good track record here. At least put it up for a city wide vote!

800 8/17/2023

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

801	8/19/2023	<p>Please add my name to the "silent majority" of community members who want to keep the golf course as is, or with modifications necessary to reach a compromise solution for all. I feel a strong sense of disappointment with the decision to delete the golf course from existence in its entirety. I have been following the reports all through the process with the belief that a compromise solution would be reached and was increasingly dismayed and disheartened with the report from last week's council meeting when this decision was reached despite the clear demonstration of support for the golf course to remain in some form (over 51% vs. 43%). It is very disturbing that those in favor of deleting the golf course can only see that one solution, albeit several variations of the same options. It is disheartening that the only way for their dream to be actualized is with the destruction and deletion of someone else's. That is not the way to build community and positive relations, but instead will continue to create factions and we vs. them mentality. We must work harder, yes, to cooperate, but if we are to continue to build a cohesive, welcoming community we must let go of the all or nothing rhetoric, name calling, and assumptions and build toward a solution that respects all. Instead, I firmly believe that with the creative talent and energy that has been expressed, we have the opportunity to enhance our commitment to our already prodigious parks and open spaces, and to continue the good work already begun in support of affordable housing. Keep the golf course and driving range playable in some fashion. Use our combined talent to come up with creative ways to cooperate and re-vision. I understand the frustration and disappointment of those who have been part of the process from the first whiff of discussion, and I am sorry that I was not more attentive--I truly did not believe that such a destructive option would come to fruition. I was complacent, yes (and maybe a bit in denial) and had misplaced confidence in our elected officials and city manager to lead a process to a realistic compromise. I am not a regular golfer, nor am I an 'elitist'. I am a long time member of this community who has frequently delighted in the variety of options that our town has to offer, for being such a small one. I am proud of our small city. I am a frequent user of our many parks and trails, downtown areas, concerts, and activities. I feel blessed to be part of a rich community of people. I own property and have raised</p> <p>I am in full support of keeping the golf course. It is important to provide all types of recreation facilities for our citizens and visitors. I don't know how the city can afford to change the golf course to a Central Park plan like that proposed by the Mayor. We already have many passive park areas in town. I support continuing the lease for at least one year with the intent to keep the golf course and improve the management to bring more play and more income to the course. As I read comments on social media and talk to other residents, I believe that a majority of our residents want to keep the course. When viewing the meetings the city had, if you take all the golf course plans together, there were more votes to keep golf than the Central Park option. Please listen to your constituents and keep the golf course.</p>
COMMENTS ADDED 9/7/23		
803	8/25/2023	<p>I have never been a golfer but do like the idea of a public golf course in the center of town. When I moved here 34 years ago, and still today, I appreciate the look and feel of the golf course. Please do what you can to retain the golf course.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
804	8/25/2023	<p>I have never been a golfer. In the 34 years that I have lived in Port Townsend, I have enjoyed driving by the golf course. I appreciate its apparent serenity, the wide open space, and the fact that the city has, in the past, provided it stewardship. I love to swim. I'd much rather have the city pay to maintain the golf course than cause every home owner in the city to be taxed a ridiculously high amount in order to have a pool. It isn't always about what an individual wants but what makes sense in a community. I think city council has lost any idea of what the populous wants or is willing to pay for.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

805	8/25/2023	<p>I have lived in Port Townsend for 34 years and have yet to step on golf course property except to eat twice at the restaurant. The golf course is a spectacular piece of property. As such, it should be left intact and supported by the council. Please do not change the golf course to other uses. There are many other parks and open spaces people can access.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
806	8/25/2023	<p>I want to thank City Council members for their willingness to explore new options for the City Golf Course property. I appreciate the Engage PT process and efforts to include all city residents. I believe this planning process is a sincere effort to share information, include everyone, and to listen to citizens. Of course it is not perfect. All of us are struggling to find and connect the information needed to make informed decisions. But this has been a very reasonable and useful effort to inform and listen, despite missing information and overworked staff. So thank you. And please continue to hear that there are many many citizens who do not play golf, who do not admire acres of mowed grass or noisy mowers. Lets make most of this large central tract of land a richer, healthier, better green space: a park with more native prairie, more trees and bushes, more places for insects, birds and small animals, while opening it to more Port Townsend residents. I do think there can be room for rows of townhouses along San Juan and along Blaine St. without a major impact. But we cannot have everything. We probably cannot fit the wonderful necessary native prairie, the equally necessary migratory bird pond, accessible walkable green space (green lungs for the City!), plus affordable housing, multiple golfing activities, and a dog park. There will need to be some difficult choices made. I hope that council members choose wisely for the future, and limit the amount of buildings and pavement. I hope we can add some practical smaller housing without taking too much of this property that should be open to public use.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
807	8/20/2023	<p>It was refreshing to read the letter sent to the Leader on August 16th by Gabe Van Lelyveld, on the golf course proposals before the City Council. The opponents to these proposals, that would benefit the larger community, not just golfers, have made ludicrous and unwarranted claims, verging on dire consequences, if this were to happen. The sad but inescapable truth is the golf course, as it exists now, only benefits a few golfers. I have in the past two weeks of glorious weather, witnessed just how few golfers are actually out playing. I believe this is why they are now attacking the results from the lengthy process used by the City Council, with public input, that favored the Central Park option. It is clear that the community would like greater use and access to the property while allowing some golf usage to continue. It's a shame that a small vocal minority continue trying to over turn the the wishes of the community, to serve their own interests. We are witnessing this approach across the country and hopefully the Mayor and City Council will not be bullied by their actions.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
808	8/21/2023	<p>I don't play golf. But I have actually begun to think it might be worth taking up. I've been swayed by the good will and eloquence of the letters to the editor in <i>The Leader</i> on behalf of keeping the golf course as it is for now. Aside from the golf course's history and the passion of the people who treasure it, I believe that creating or renewing a further lease and allowing volunteers to continue to maintain the course is more cost efficient than letting the golf course turn into a central park with maintenance issues. I agree with those who've argued that we have enough parks and walking areas. Meanwhile, the property owners of the large empty lots around F and San Juan near the golf course should be encouraged to either build housing or to sell those lots to the city for development. I can't help but think that the focus on the golf course, as well as the expensive new pool, is distracting from more serious issues to do with infrastructure and housing. Especially at a time of climate change, attention to road repair and the sewer system is less exciting but more crucial to Port Townsend's immediate future than worrying about who's golfing and who's not.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

809	8/21/2023	I want to express my support for the evaluation of the public use on the current public golf course property. I strongly support making the property more accessible to the general public by substantially broadening the use of the property. In no way do I support keeping the use of the property solely as a golf course.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
810	8/19/2023	Yay parks! Yay way more affordable housing! Yay creativity! Why would we possibly even consider taking all this land and keeping it as a golf course? Golfers' voices should not be elevated above all others.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
811	8/18/2023	This note is to express my opinion in favor of a public park and recreation center, including a new pool, at the current golf course location. A low percentage of the population here uses the golf course, that valuable land should be transformed into a place where there are activities for the whole community.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
812	8/21/2023	Just another vote for the conversion of the golf course into a walkable, picnicable, runnable, bikeable, cornholable, soccerable, swimmable, festivalable green space for our fair city - from a space that is currently just barely golfable.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
813	8/21/2023	That city property should be shared.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
814	8/21/2023	I would like to comment that I strongly support making the land which is currently a golf course into something which can be used by many of the city residents and visitors, rather than just the few that golf.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
815	8/21/2023	I support the multi-use proposal for usage of the PT golf course.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
816	8/21/2023	I recommend maintaining the golf course as it is for several reasons. It is a valuable asset that serves a portion of the community directly, and is appreciated by many more people that don't golf. It is historical and if the city wished to increase usage, it could certainly be marketed outside the area. If the goal is to incorporate some additional uses into that public land, Robert Horner's designs go a long way towards accommodating several new uses which could provide income while maintaining the existing historical use of the property. Regarding the public process on this question - it was discouraging. I attended all three public events, and provided survey responses each time there was an opportunity. Many people expressed that they felt there was a predetermined conclusion that the consultants had been directed to work towards. The fact that there was really no serious consideration of a "Do nothing" option was discouraging. People felt that the golf options were often split in a manner so that the non-golf option would generate the larger though still non-majority support. Misinformation was vigorously propagated by one particular member of the stakeholders committee, with the support of parks officials he claimed, that demonstrated these people had no idea about the actual numbers regarding the golf course usage, and they apparently didn't ask the golf course operator, in order to confirm their mis-interpretation of the financial reports he provided. That stakeholder later corrected their misinformation, but the falsehood had already "gotten halfway around the world while the truth was getting her boots on." I saw the incorrect usage number repeated many times, and attempted to correct it each time in my personal discussions on the topic. There was plainly a strong and seemingly unbridgeable gap between the interested parties. Whether or not there is a golf course is a question upon which it is difficult to compromise - there either is a golf course or there is not a golf course. At one point in the third public meeting two representatives of the stakeholders committee announced that the group had finally reached a consensus, and they stated the two options they were going to present to council.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

816 8/21/2023

Immediately after, two different members of the stakeholder committee stated that no - there was no consensus from the committee. I understand they later actually reached consensus. I was a little surprised at the council's decision - I did not think it accurately considered the results of the excruciating public input process. That decision seemed to support the hypothesis that there was a predetermined goal to make dramatic changes to the golf course property. While proponents of change cite the city's financial support of the current course, and water use as problems to be addressed, or unfair to non-golfers, when you look at the dollars as a percentage of city budget, and the gallons of water compared to actual overall water use in the city - both the dollars and gallons of water are an insignificant fraction of a percent, certainly an investment we can afford in such a resource. There may be more glory and satisfaction to decide to make significant changes rather than to work to maintain what exists. Nobody gets kudos for maintenance. The attraction of free money! Is hard to resist, but sometimes it is right to do so. The city struggles and sometimes fails to maintain the infrastructure it has. Roads are a related example. Grants seem to be available for significant new development like Rainier Street and the long-awaited new sidewalks along Discovery, but it seems there are no grants for the maintenance of existing roads, so we struggle with deferred maintenance, and even with recent increases to road maintenance budgets, it appears we continue to fall behind and roads deteriorate faster than they will be maintained. I know the budgets and departments for parks and public works are separate and we can't directly apply the struggles of the roads to the parks, however I think the comparison is illustrative. We are on the verge of going down the same path - already the parks struggle with maintenance for what we have. For example the city is unable to keep the restrooms open at Kai Tai Park, and just keeps a sanican there. Another example is that the gazebo at Chetzemoka, perhaps our most iconic park structure, has unaddressed water damage and roof rot, and the stairs are in need of repainting. Why is that? Apparently there are no grants to fix things, and we don't prioritize it internally.

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816 8/21/2023

I guess the stairs take a lot of wear so may need to be repainted each year, but the roof rot is definitely a problem When I attended a wedding on the gazebo recently and noticed that rot on the roof above the happy couple, it gave me a knot in my stomach. I wouldn't tolerate that on my house - why can't the city care for the park structures? Regarding the requests to put affordable housing on the public land which is now golf course, I do not think this is an appropriate use of currently open space. I do recognize the need for additional affordable housing in our community. I am an employer and have a keen first-hand perspective of the housing struggles experienced by our entry level employees. However the city only has so many resources to devote to various issues. The Evans Vista project will represent a significant challenge in terms of staff time and energy. There have been expensive errors in the past, and by over committing ourselves we invite future mistakes. It has been publicized that there are significant financial challenges to be faced by the city in the coming years. The city is involved in the struggles of the Fort Worden PDA, and the relationship between this entity, the city, and the State Parks will have a huge impact on our community and the park land that benefits us so much. It may be that further economic and staff support from the city is appropriate. The proposed aquatic center will be a very significant investment for our community, and it is unclear to me at this point how much the city will contribute in terms of money and staff time. While bearing all of these other projects in mind, I feel it underscores the importance of not discarding the golf course as a currently functioning and appreciated resource, with historical and current cultural significance - if there are grants forecasted to be available to do so.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

817	8/21/2023	<p>I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Mayor Faber and the PT City Council for their leadership and patience with the PT community surrounding the future land use of the golf course. I truly appreciated the opportunities to voice our hopes, through multiple surveys and meetings, for creating a future park that everyone can access and enjoy. You are all doing an amazing job and are handling the challenges professionally and with grace. The loud and angry voices are often not the majority. Thank you for your time and all of your efforts.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
818	8/21/2023	<p>I know golfing enthusiasts are trying to swamp the airwaves and bend the City Council to their will.... But I want to cast my vote to strongly in support of modifying the golf course in a way that would allow multiple uses other than golfing.</p> <p>With this action I believe more people will enjoy the healing benefits of more time being outdoors and appreciating the beautiful nature in our community.</p> <p>Also knowing there is another golf course near by for the golfers use.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
819	8/21/2023	<p>The Springhill Golf Course, Hastings Park deeds from 1906, 1908, and the Jefferson County and other deeds of 1927 reveal: In 1927 Jefferson County deeded to the City of PT the lots and blocks bounded by Blaine Street and vacated Van Ness "for municipal purposes only". These lots along with the golf links and Hastings Park have been continuously used as a golf course over the last 120 years. A definition:".....Municipal purpose means the use or occupancy of a parcel of land by the City, or under lease from the City by a non-profit organization, for the purpose of delivering one or more municipal services." The Council- adopted guiding documents provided by the community are the results of years of public process, reaffirmed by regular updates.. They provide community intentions as to what the Council's direction for municipal uses should be. There is nothing in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space documents to indicate or direct the selling or subdividing of the park and recreation lands for commercial or housing purposes. The Groundswell consultant's hybrid plan that disrupts golfing and injects housing onto these public lands has caused a furor. It has never been the intention of this community to subdivide its public park and recreation lands. This is not an appropriate municipal use. Your last business meeting was historic, attended by many people who over more than forty years have participated in all aspects of civic planning and governance. They offered their experience and wisdom to help this council understand the relevance of the golf land acreage for the well being of this community. They are the veterans of community action when the City wanted to spend millions to re-archtect the Carnegie Library. It took tremendous community effort to save the Kah Tai land from Port plans to turn 20 acres into commercial real estate. And now we are here to defend the golf lands from housing development. These lands, similar to the Andrew Carnegie library, were gifted to the community by local philanthropists 120 years ago; not only generous but with foresight given that the entire town was platted for development. This acreage continues to provide the open space and recreation so necessary to balance the encroaching housing.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

819	8/21/2023	<p>This gifting was motivated by the same insight as reflected in the goals incorporated into the 2020 PROS Plan Update; goals consistent with the adopted 1993 Parks Plan: to protect critical resources and to develop active and passive parks. Further, the golf land has been designated as essential for emergency preparedness. planning and projects. They are juggling several projects i.e. Fort Worden PDA, the Cherry St. housing problem and the very complex planning for the housing array at Evans Vista which may include selling off acreage to private developers. To adopt a hybrid plan for yet another housing project at this time is creating a great deal of public consternation - expensive and ill advised planning. The community agrees housing is needed. Prudent consideration is called for such as exploring the acreage with the abandoned Mt. View tennis courts and Gaines Street right of way. This acreage is shovel ready with the necessary infrastructure for apartments. Through rezoning this would be a realistic use of public assets. Much more appropriate than subdividing and subsidizing housing development on park lands with additional infrastructure at taxpayers expense - streets, lighting, water. Please respect and use our guiding documents with the goals to conserve and add to the irreplaceable open space and recreation lands within our small town.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
820	7/30/2023	<p>My husband & I listened to the council's meeting on the future of the Port Townsend Golf Course on July 17. First off, I want to commend you on your patience and your candid comments following the numerous members of the keep-the-golf-course group. I, like many Port Townsend residents, were uncomfortable at the idea of attending the council meeting in person, as this group is aggressive towards anyone, they think may not agree with them. After living in Bellevue for nearly 30 years, my husband and I bought property in North Beach in 2021. In 2022 we built our forever home and love the town. We're dog owners who use the off-leash dog park nearly every day. With the high number of dogs in town, including those with visitors, I would love to see the dog park improved and increased in size. Please be aware that recently golf balls are appearing in the dog park. These are dangerous to the dogs. It's not clear if these balls are coming from people playing at the golf course. It is clear golf and dogs don't mix. If any part of the golf course is to survive, the off-leash dog park shouldn't be near golfers. I'm not in favor of using the donated golf course public land for affordable housing. As the land appears to have been donated with the condition of use for public recreation, that contract needs to be respected. I think the council would just be inviting numerous lawsuits if the land is re-zoned. As for the current and future of the golf course I'm not sure it should survive. We drive by the golf course almost daily. We've rarely seen anyone playing golf – maybe 10 people over the last 14 months. I've been inside the golf club house a few times. The building is dated, empty, and uninviting. The women's bathroom has photos of the Port Townsend Women's Golf club, but the photos were taken long before covid – maybe 6 – 7 yrs. ago, suggesting the club is no long active. A few of my friends and I went to the newly opened restaurant on the golf club grounds. Like the rest of the club house, the restaurant area is dated, uninviting, and we were the only patrons. The menu & open hours are extremely limited. Additionally, I can't find any advertising informing the Port Townsend community of its existence, suggesting the owner plans on primarily serving golfers. Overall, the golf club appears to have become a private club, for a few privileged residents, supported mostly by taxpayer revenue. Club members have known for a long time that the golf course is under threat but would rather complain and do nothing. I have not yet expressed my opinion on the golf course. I live at Rosewind, a short distance from the golf course. On several occasions I've had the pleasure of cross-country skiing on the course, when it was unusable by golfers. I would like to feel freer to make use of this lovely space to walk, picnic, relax outdoors.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
821	8/22/2023	<p>I have not yet expressed my opinion on the golf course. I live at Rosewind, a short distance from the golf course. On several occasions I've had the pleasure of cross-country skiing on the course, when it was unusable by golfers. I would like to feel freer to make use of this lovely space to walk, picnic, relax outdoors.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

822	8/22/2023	<p>Please, let's change the use so everyone in Port Townsend can enjoy the property there. When we first moved to Port Townsend my wife and I were taking a walk and sought to find a way to get from San Juan and Discovery to uptown without all the noise of cars climbing the hills. We were disappointed to see the signs on the trails that proclaimed they were for golfers only, particularly since we very rarely saw golfers using the course (which is still the case.) With the likely development of the property at the same intersection, bringing a green space that we can all enjoy online will give those residents easy access to recreation, and perhaps encourage development of other, denser housing options.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
823	8/22/2023	<p>It is important to me that MANY PT citizens have access to this property, which is supported by ALL of our tax dollars, not just a few folks playing with their balls (pun intended 😊)</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
824	8/22/2023	<p>No one has surveyed me so I'd like to add my vote for keeping the golf course. We have lots of parks already. Please renew their lease NOW. I want to see the property maintained as it has been. Please don't let it go to seed while the city ties it up. Don't let this resource for out town go. The plan for development of a Central Park is unreasonable and unwanted.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
825	8/22/2023	<p>Please leave the golf course alone. There are far more pressing issues in PT than satisfying a few people's desire to have a park near their home, so they aren't inconvenienced having to travel a mile or so to an existing park. We also don't need to destroy habitat & open spaces to line the pockets of local realtors. What are the chances affordable housing will actually be built on this property? More likely high-priced homes. I am sure environmental groups, such as the Nature Conservancy, will have something to say about the encroachment or loss of the remaining prairie on the course. And what does the Environmental Impact Study have to say about developing this land? Far better to and fiscally responsible to establish a longer lease and encourage a course operator to come in and invest in necessary repairs. This doesn't have to be a world class tournament level course, just a place for people to enjoy. And I am not a golfer.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
826	8/22/2023	<p>For 100 years, a very small group of people has been given the opportunity to use a prime swath of public land in the heart of Port Townsend for their own pleasure. Those ends may not be in the least bit nefarious, but they have excluded the rest of the community. "Green open space" is space that all people are free to enjoy; it is not space that people are asked not to roam so that a small group of people can continue to play their sport. I support efforts to move on from the golf course, and to make the land accessible to all. I also support devoting a small portion of the land to low-income housing for people of all ages, including families like my renter neighbors with three kids who may soon be forced to leave Port Townsend. I do feel that funding is a major issue. A tax increase to convert the land for other uses is not going to fly. If you can find the funding to move on, I'm all for it. Otherwise, an alternative might be to let the land go wild, with a few trails and a caregiver in place, and use funding for the caregiver and affordable housing.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

827	8/22/2023	<p>I am not a native PT person and neither is my husband. We fell in love with PT back in the late 1990s during repeated visits to the West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium. We could not get it out of our souls after that first visit. We always wanted to retire here but we were afraid we could not afford it, but the stars aligned and we found a spot in 2018. We are working class folk, not fancy, and want to keep PT as special as we can. Once we are gone, we hope others can find the magic here that we have. We cherish the many, many trails and the awesome accessible beaches. Oh, the environment, the wildlife, the natural beauty. The quiriness of the town and its citizens. That said, we do not golf. But we drive, walk or ride bikes by the Golf Course every day. We value that open space, the views of the golfers enjoying their hobby. That place just helps me breathe better, like looking out at the view from a hill or out to the water. Please leave it as is. I do not understand why so many covet it for their sports, their picnics, their children, their dogs, their needs—whatever they are. Leave it be. It is precious even in its scruffiness. PT is scruffy and should remain so. It is part of its charm and part of the hazing... if you can't handle the potholes, the eccentricities, the deer, the refusal to become what practically every other place has become, then move along. Yes, change is inevitable but this kind of change... just say no. Let the golfers have their beloved neighborhood course. We can be that generous.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
828	8/22/2023	<p>I support efforts to find a good plan for modifying the golf course so that it affords a greater breadth of activities, includes some low income housing, and stops losing money.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning</p>
829	8/22/2023	<p>This is a hot topic and the citizens should have the right to vote on it!</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and</p>
830	8/22/2023	<p>There is a huge swath of land in the middle of our town that virtually nobody uses. I also suspect that in order to maintain, they use chemical fertilizers and weed killers which are so unhealthy. It will be very difficult to find someone to manage it as it needs so much work and is falling apart. It seems wasteful for the city to pay for repairs to run a money losing operation that not many people use. There is a small but vocal minority that opposes turning the space into a park that can (and will) be used by the whole community. I really appreciate you all for taking a stand and opposing this. It must be difficult to have to deal with the anger and vitriol. Thank you for doing the right thing.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
831	8/22/2023	<p>Fix the roads, fix the sewers, please be responsible with people's money, it's not yours to throw away.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning</p>
832	8/22/2023	<p>It is beautiful, peaceful for all to enjoy, space needed in life for everyone, stop spending so much money to do something most do not want you to do. I have written before, so many thoughts, wondering who will benefit from what you are trying to do / the changes, into whose pockets is money going? Please, please leave it alone</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
833	8/22/2023	<p>I have been following the proposed changes to the golf course and support the plan discussed at the Stakeholders meeting a few weeks ago. During that discussion there were a couple good suggested changes to the diagram by shrinking the size of the proposed apartment building on the corner of Walker and Blaine, allowing for expansion of the Prairie space. Permanent affordable housing along Blaine and the more southern section of San Juan is a good use of that land. Turning the mowed grass into a natural habitat with trails would be wonderful. I have lived in Port Townsend for almost 30 years and have long wished to just once see the pond that is hidden on the golf course, with no admittance signs barring access. It would be an amazing experience to sit along there, watching the birds and other wildlife enjoying that habitat. If the changes do get approved, I hope that the housing portion will be made permanently affordable, with no way for it to change in the future.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
834	8/22/2023	<p>Hi city council members I live a few blocks walking distance from the golf course property. I have never had access to that property in the 25 years that I have resided in Port Townsend. How are 17-year-old granddaughter also resides with us. She feels there are very few opportunities for young people in the community to recreate. Our entire family feel that the best use of the current golf course property would be for multi use for the youth and many-residents of the community. Thank you for listening to my concerns.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

835	8/22/2023	I would like to express my support for any plan allowing multiple use of the golf course. Allowing the golf course to serve only golfers seems to me to be both exclusive and non-inclusive. Time to share the city resources with people who want to use the space for other things in addition to golf.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
836	8/22/2023	Please vote to convert the golf course to a multi-use space that can be used by more than just a handful of people at a time.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
837	8/22/2023	I wish to make my desire for a multi use golf course known. It is not right that a few are blocking all proposals for the golf course. There are others, besides the very few, who would like to see a multi purpose golf course.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
838	8/23/2023	My recommendations are as follows: Plat the golf course property south end for low income housing with specific strictures built into the zoning. I assume that's possible. Incentivize private developers to build that. Rewild the rest of the property expanding Kai Tai praire using minimal funds. Keep the existing club house and former dining area and upgrade them with grant money. Remove the pool. It serves very few and promises to be an expensive proposition as you know. Let golfers use Disco Bay club. It's nearby and maintained well. Don't let the city cave to the vocal golf minority, and let's skip fancy projects.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
839	8/22/2023	I support modifying the golf course in a way that would allow uses other than golfing.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
840	8/23/2023	Thank you for your deep consideration of these matters and listening to the majority	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
841	8/23/2023	Thanks I wanted to add my voice to the list of Port Townsend residents who would like the golf course to be turned into a multi-use park that all of us could enjoy. Not just the few golfers in the community.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
842	8/23/2023	Dear folks, please approve multiple uses for golf course, while preserving much of its open green space for walking and wildlife (and some expansion of restored prairie and native plants). Thank you.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
843	8/23/2023	Please consider a hybrid/shared use solution for the golf course.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
844	8/23/2023	I just would like to add my vote towards saving the golf course in Port Townsend. I have always enjoyed playing with friends, but most importantly it has helped my kids learn the value of honesty to themselves when learning how to play, which has made them better people in our community and abroad. Please don't take away something that would be hard to replace. Please keep the golf course in Port Townsend.	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.
845	8/23/2023	I have looked at the latest presentation from the City Engage PT Stakeholder's meeting on 7/31, and it puzzles me. I think this is the draft response for the City Council request for an alternate plan for the golf course property. So I suppose this is still a concept, not a proposal yet. But if the new option for September 25th will look much like this, I want to share my concerns. These aspects puzzle or trouble me: 1) in the new concept sculptures dot the area, although art generated little interest in the surveys. Sadly public art in P.T. generates a lot of local hate. As an artist and art lover, I reluctantly suggest that we just don't go there. 2) the trail shown circling the pond is inside the wetland buffer and would threaten wildlife. I think the trail is too close, and surrounding the pond leaves no retreat for migrating ducks except flight when they need rest. Nesting birds in the rushes will be disturbed by walkers. Birders would love a viewing platform, but the trail needs to be set back further from the water. 3) the last minute addition of 40+ housing units to the mix seems to be a fixture, but 40+ units takes up a lot of space. Why this many? Is 44 a special number to developers? Is it a make or break number financially for low-cost housing federal funding? I don't know. But forty plus units removes a very large part of the green space that we must hold precious as we lose surrounding privately owned empty lots. I thought the golf enthusiasts were deceptive in their promotion when they equated green space with golf, but now I am worried. Maybe they were right: maybe we cannot manage commitment to open space for its own sake. Does the pressure to build really require a dedicated minority use in order to keep us from paving this property? I don't want to be paranoid, and I do want to trust in the good faith of all involved, but after three public open houses with so little discussion of housing I find this late appearance & apparent commitment	Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

846	8/23/2023	<p>I am NOT a golfer and have never used the pool in the 23 years I've lived here. But I am a resident concerned with out of control spending by the city and what seems to be a blatant disregard for the opinions of a major segment of the population. I would support improvements to both for nominal costs, but if the city proceeds with the major things currently proposed without a vote of the population, they had better expect some serious protests.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
847	8/23/2023	<p>I was happy to see the map labelled "Potential Site Organization" on page 8 of the ppt/pdf from the July 31 stakeholder mtg. I support preservation of the pond, the prairie, and the woodland along the diagonal east edge of the property, as well as the bird blind. As the Conservation Chair of Admiralty Audubon, I'm sure we can provide expert advice on plans to connect habitats, exact siting of the paths and the viewing blind, and types of trees and vegetation to plant. I assume that Sentinel Rock and the Chetzemoka statue will remain. Thank you for your hard work to address this parcel!</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
848	8/23/2023	<p>I've been a full-time PT resident for over 32 years. Please don't change the golf course or impose a pool tax.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
849	8/23/2023	<p>I am against developing the golf course. I am against removing the lombardy poplars along San Juan and 19th/Blaine to build houses that I do not believe will benefit very many low income people but rather will benefit the developer, the real estate agents, and newcomers who will jack up the housing prices even further than they already are. Meanwhile, workers who can't afford the rents or to buy a house are forced to leave town. I believe there are special interests in local government who do not care what the tax payers think about this whole issue. This town has already been destroyed by special interests promoting it wherever they can. LEAVE THE GOLF COURSE ALONE!!!!!!</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
850	8/24/2023	<p>I recently learned of the May 24, 2023 report by David Hein, labeled "Recommendation and Analysis Concerning the Golf Course," which is posted on the city's website. Simply, the Hein report concludes that for approximately \$350k the golf course can be significantly improved, to a point satisfactory to encourage and support more play, and make the grounds suitable for other community activities as well. The Hein report was commissioned by Groundswell, paid for by the city, and presented to the council this past spring. The Horner proposal from the Players Group is very similar to Mr. Hein's analysis. From my work with the golfing community I think it is likely that that amount of funds can be raised privately, without the need to access city funds. I encourage you to carefully read and accept the recommendations from David Hein and Robert Horner. Please support this approach on what to do with the golf course property. At the very least, give us a year to develop a detailed plan for your consideration.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
851	8/24/2023	<p>Please save out golf course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and</p>

852	<p>First, let me say thank you for all the hard work you, the Parks Department and the City staffers have put into the contentious golf course issue. They don't pay you enough to take the abuse that is routinely tossed your way. I believe the public process you put in place to garner public opinion on what to do with our aging golf course has been thoughtful and thorough. I am sorry the pro-golf course folks who do not like the fact that the majority of citizens want us to do something that serves all of us have attacked not only the process, but many of you personally. This smacks of the far right folks—if you don't like and answer, get really loud and use attack tactics to swamp your "enemy." I strongly support converting our little-used golf course into a big beautiful Central Park with multi-uses and affordable housing. We cannot bend to the will of the handful of old retirees who use the golf course and keep this little-used resource all for themselves. In Sequim, Blake Park is an excellent example of what a community can do with a similarly-sized piece of land. Sequim's park serves all the people—gardeners, walkers/runners, sports people, dog owners, concert goers, bikers, Pickleballers, skateboarders, little kids, picnickers, even wildlife. It uses recycled water so doesn't drain increasingly precious water resources. Much of the infrastructure has been built—and paid for--over time by community groups like the Rotary and citizens like dog owners. Unlike PT's little-used golf course, all year Blake Park is used by see folks young and old. Too often people, especially older folks, are completely resistant to change. That's been evident with the pro-golfers. They want to keep the golf course exactly like it is by claiming it's "historic." We don't need more historic. We need facilities that respond to changes in our community. We need greenspace that everyone can and will use. It takes courage and leadership to make bold changes. Please stay the course and lead us into a bright future with a lovely park all of us can use.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
853	<p>8/23/2023 Please leave it just as it is. Across the street we see thew Cherry Street house sitting unusable as an example of foolishness by out elected leaders Thank you. Please read your job descriptions. You are legally bound to maintain infrastructure. You do not NEED to spend taxpayer money on anything that doesn't address public safety and infrastructure. Stop spending taxpayer dollars to pay consultants for your fun amusement park building projects. Stop screwing with the golf course, and the small-town vibe of Port Townsend.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
854	<p>8/24/2023 If you want to spend our money, fix the roads, do something about the burgeoning deer population, attract more businesses that provide jobs for the community, and encourage the AirBnB renters to rent to locals instead. Use your brains, not our money. Get creative. Do your jobs.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
855	<p>8/26/2023 I support modifying the present golf course property, to allow for multipurpose use that would include more members of our community. Engaging in outdoor activities is most important for our mental and physical well-being.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
856	<p>8/26/2023 I have seen several posts from people who want to maintain the golf course. Please consider turning that into some type of park. Maybe with the separate driving range. But the pool may be a separate issue. In any case we desperately need a pool in this town for individual such as myself who rely on it for physical therapy and exercise. The pool typically has 2 to 3 swimmers and each lap lane circle swimming.Thank you for considering my thoughts</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
857	<p>8/27/2023 I writing to advocate for keeping the Port Townsend golf course as this is what the owners before PT owned it wanted the use of this land. If money was put in to improve it and maintain it, more people would play there. You could add a foot golf course along side the holes if possible to add to others being able to play.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
858	<p>8/22/2023 I live a few blocks walking distance from the golf course property. I have never had access to that property in the 25 years that I have resided in Port Townsend. How are 17-year-old granddaughter also resides with us. She feels there are very few opportunities for young people in the community to recreate. Our entire family feel that the best use of the current golf course property would be for multi use for the youth and many-residents of the community. Thank you for listening to my concerns.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

859	8/22/2023	<p>We support multi-use for the future of the City golf course. Save and provide access to this central Green Space for ALL PT residents to enjoy!</p> <p>It seems that next door and the leader have been publishing a LOT of pro golf course opinions, but we want you to know that we do NOT agree with them. <u>There is another golf course 15 minutes south of town!</u> I don't know why this isn't brought up when discussing plans. I used to use the pool regularly before covid, but it lost it's good teachers and doesn't have the type of fitness classes that it used to have so I don't go now, but I certainly would go if we had a new pool! There is no other pool in PT or nearby. There is no other choice. There is a big beautiful multiuse park in sequim and I would love it if we had that. It serves a much wider population that a golf course with it's monoculture. I also support affordable housing as part of the plan.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
860	8/25/2023	<p>I'm writing to urge the city to retain the golf course My family moved to Port Townsend when I was ten. I started playing golf at the local course (then known as Spring Valley GC) the following year and went on to play on the high school golf team for four years. When I look back at those years I think about how convenient it was to live in a community where I could walk or ride a bike to a variety of activities. In addition to the local golf course I spent my summers participating in a variety of youth activities that were held at places like Fort Worden, Chetzemoka Park, Memorial Field, the rec center and the swimming pool. All of these locations were easily accessible for me as I never needed my parents to drive me to anywhere. Without our local course junior golfers will have less opportunity to learn and develop a passion for the game of golf. Junior memberships are available for only \$40 a month which could equate to \$4 per round if a person played ten times a month. While adults can drive to play at Discovery Bay it is more difficult for kids with limited options for transportation if they have both parents working during the day and even after they're eligible to drive at age 16 they may not be able to afford their own car. A golf course like this is vital to help introduce new players of all ages to the game of golf as it challenges the more advanced players but is also not too intimidating for beginners. The report from the National Golf Foundation questioned whether or not Port Townsend can support the course but I remember when our population was closer to 6,000 than 10,000 and the course was not in great shape in the mid 1980's. The city brought in a new operator from Sequim who installed the irrigation system, added a driving range, and made other improvements with some financial support from the city. This helped revitalize the course, attracted more golfers, and led to more fund raising tournaments being held. One part of the discussion has been since local high school students favored housing over golf in a poll we need to prioritize the needs of our future residents. I would question this because the local students aren't necessarily going to be permanent residents in the future. For small towns the size of Port Townsend hasn't it always been true that the majority of the young people leave town and move on with their lives after they graduate high school? The reality of our small town economy is that for many careers the job opportunities will be in bigger cities like Seattle or Portland.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
861	8/23/2023	<p>I'm writing to urge the city to retain the golf course My family moved to Port Townsend when I was ten. I started playing golf at the local course (then known as Spring Valley GC) the following year and went on to play on the high school golf team for four years. When I look back at those years I think about how convenient it was to live in a community where I could walk or ride a bike to a variety of activities. In addition to the local golf course I spent my summers participating in a variety of youth activities that were held at places like Fort Worden, Chetzemoka Park, Memorial Field, the rec center and the swimming pool. All of these locations were easily accessible for me as I never needed my parents to drive me to anywhere. Without our local course junior golfers will have less opportunity to learn and develop a passion for the game of golf. Junior memberships are available for only \$40 a month which could equate to \$4 per round if a person played ten times a month. While adults can drive to play at Discovery Bay it is more difficult for kids with limited options for transportation if they have both parents working during the day and even after they're eligible to drive at age 16 they may not be able to afford their own car. A golf course like this is vital to help introduce new players of all ages to the game of golf as it challenges the more advanced players but is also not too intimidating for beginners. The report from the National Golf Foundation questioned whether or not Port Townsend can support the course but I remember when our population was closer to 6,000 than 10,000 and the course was not in great shape in the mid 1980's. The city brought in a new operator from Sequim who installed the irrigation system, added a driving range, and made other improvements with some financial support from the city. This helped revitalize the course, attracted more golfers, and led to more fund raising tournaments being held. One part of the discussion has been since local high school students favored housing over golf in a poll we need to prioritize the needs of our future residents. I would question this because the local students aren't necessarily going to be permanent residents in the future. For small towns the size of Port Townsend hasn't it always been true that the majority of the young people leave town and move on with their lives after they graduate high school? The reality of our small town economy is that for many careers the job opportunities will be in bigger cities like Seattle or Portland.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

861 8/23/2023

The reality of our small town economy is that for many careers the job opportunities will be in bigger cities like Seattle or Portland. Having attended and graduated from Port Townsend High School I can attest to this. Housing affordability is a critical issue locally as it is in communities across the state but this a separate issue from the decision about the future use of the golf course property. At a community meeting in support of retaining the course there were local residents who don't play golf but were strongly in favor of keeping the course as it is and not putting housing on it. The central location of the course is something that makes Port Townsend unique compared to other towns and is a historic asset. One thing to consider is that over 50 years ago Poulsbo once had a golf course near Highway 305 which was developed into what is now Poulsbo Village Shopping Center. What used to be open green space there is now paved over with retail developments and permanently altered. I would support options for giving the community opportunities to access the golf course property. Unlike courses like Port Ludlow or Whitehorse in Kingston which have a network of trails around the perimeter in a wooded area this is a challenge because the course is bordered by city streets on all sides and also due to the danger of being hit by a golf ball but options like opening the property for residents to walk on trails during certain hours when golf is not being played should be considered along with options like disc golf.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

862 8/30/2023

According to John Mauro, the only mission Staff (w/Consultants) are on right now is the one that Council has asked of them at the July 17th meeting: To create another plan WITHOUT a COURSE, but, with a 'nod' to golf and it's history. It's basically a 'modified Central Park' Plan. It's a Park plan with Council's preferred amenities stated at that meeting, but, WITHOUT a COURSE -as the Central Park Plan has always been about. Calling it a 'Hybrid Hybrid' just creates confusion as a 'Hybrid Plan' ALL ALONG for the past year has referred to a plan which KEPT the COURSE with preferred amenities. (A Hybrid hybrid would simply be a 'modified' Hybrid plan that KEEPS the COURSE w/preferred amenities - which is what the Stakeholders and Park Board asked for). Mayor Faber didn't say it at this past meeting at the Clubhouse, but, the plan 'charged' by Council (the Mayor's motion) to be drawn up, and is the only one currently on the agenda to be presented at the Council workshop coming up, DOES NOT INCLUDE A GOLF COURSE, with all respect, Libby. This is why those supporting the Central Park Plan were celebrating after Council voted for the Mayor's motion and voted down Ben's motion. As many of us realized after that meeting, no plan will be drawn up KEEPING the COURSE with the added time and \$\$ spent on Consultants, there were those celebrating that no Consultant Plan going forward will include KEEPING THE COURSE. Perhaps, Council can direct staff to allow the Horner Plan (which IS a 'modified' Hybrid Plan) to also be added to the workshop agenda with a presentation, as suggested by one of your Stakeholders with her well spoken and thoughtful comment at the Clubhouse meeting. As she said, this would be a better balance of fairness for the community's desires and for community goodwill. I THINK I heard that staff makes the agenda??. Amy mentioned the agenda isn't complete or made up yet, so maybe whoever makes it could add it? There's still time.

Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.

862	8/30/2023	<p>I know I've been 'vociferous' and at times considered 'acrimonious' but, I ask - please allow the Golf Club a proper presentation, also, instead of just adding it to the packet for consideration as just another one of the multitudes of scribbled plans John stated has been sent to Council over the year. This isn't 'just another plan' and we ask for Council and Staff to seriously give it some consideration. Maybe even ask Groundswell to work with the Golf Club members on Horner's Plan as Chris once said he'd be up for doing at a Stakeholder Meeting if Council asked. I know John is 'loathe' to have you allow this presentation on an agenda, as he said, but, please remember - you can insist on it - maybe at this Monday evening's meeting. And, thank all of you for sounding/seeming open to still choosing to KEEP the COURSE, after all, and giving many of us hope once again. You all scared and bummed out many of us at that July 17th meeting! Letting us all know at the clubhouse meeting that you WILL still consider a 'Hybrid' plan that keeps the course is a wonderful turn-around and a respected move on your part.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
863	8/29/2023	<p>We don't want the expense of a new pool on any part of the golf course. We are strongly opposed to changing the use of the PT Golf Course. The city government is not taking care of what we already have....our roads are a mess and an embarrassment.....there is a lack of street lighting all over town....the gazebo in Chetzamoka park is aging and needs care....the landscaping that was planted at the Rainier St turnabout is dying of thirst (trees on the east side)....and care of right-of-way areas has been shifted to the citizens. If you can't manage what you already have, what makes you think you should take on more? You are not representing the wishes of the people of Port Townsend! We have a great golf course that gets lots of use, leave it alone! There are many golfers here in town. Golf's popularity is on the rise....if the course were managed with an eye toward growth and improvement, it could really be a draw for regional golfers. We already have sufficient walking trails in and around town....all of Fort Worden, all our beaches, Cappy's Trails, the Larry Scott Trail. We have a dog park and the fair grounds for dog walkers. As for housing development....the golf course is just NOT the spot for that! Speaking out as property owners here in PT since 2009, we strongly oppose changing the use of the PT Golf Course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
864	8/31/2023	<p>We don't want the expense of a new pool on any part of the golf course. We are strongly opposed to changing the use of the PT Golf Course. The city government is not taking care of what we already have....our roads are a mess and an embarrassment.....there is a lack of street lighting all over town....the gazebo in Chetzamoka park is aging and needs care....the landscaping that was planted at the Rainier St turnabout is dying of thirst (trees on the east side)....and care of right-of-way areas has been shifted to the citizens. If you can't manage what you already have, what makes you think you should take on more? You are not representing the wishes of the people of Port Townsend! We have a great golf course that gets lots of use, leave it alone! There are many golfers here in town. Golf's popularity is on the rise....if the course were managed with an eye toward growth and improvement, it could really be a draw for regional golfers. We already have sufficient walking trails in and around town....all of Fort Worden, all our beaches, Cappy's Trails, the Larry Scott Trail. We have a dog park and the fair grounds for dog walkers. As for housing development....the golf course is just NOT the spot for that! Speaking out as property owners here in PT since 2009, we strongly oppose changing the use of the PT Golf Course.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>

865	8/31/2023	<p>First of all, I appreciate all the effort behind your attention and time with this controversy. It is good to hear you had time to tour the sites in question last week. I submitted comments last week to the council but would like to share with you the editorial I sent to the Leader. Respectfully submitted by a concerned citizen who adds my vote to extend the golf course lease.</p> <p>1. I Vote to Save the Golf Course. I have been a full-time resident of Port Townsend since 1980 and a volunteer maintenance manager of the Kah Tai Prairie Preserve since the 1990's. This preserve is INSIDE of the golf course. I have witnessed firsthand how active and busy the golf course remains and the amount of work required daily to maintain the grounds. While following the Envision planning process I have gained great respect for all the discussions and passion for this land. 2. Surveys and editorials indicate the majority of citizens want to save the GEM of our city (42% Central Park, 33% Golf Course, 18% hybrid). This is not just old people but by native citizens, scientists, architects, previous mayors, previous city council members, previous city planners, previous Leader editors, business owners, attorneys, environmentalists, consultants, golfers, dog owners, and long term and newly arrived Port Townsend residents. 3.. Has the City considered upgrading areas within the 72 acres of the Kah Tai Lagoon for a Central Park. This could be designed outside ongoing restoration areas. This area is non-native soil that consists of fill is degraded and would be ideal for the dog park, paved pickle ball courts, and playgrounds. The golf course historically contained expansive prairies and consists of black prairie soil. 4. Has the City investigated selling the abandoned Cherry Street building that was floated in from Victory BC intended for low-income housing. Funds could be used to upgrade the golf course, purchase land for low-income housing, or the Central Park. Low-income density housing could be constructed on other vacant blocks of land in the City. It will be good to evaluate the success of Evans Vista, and at one time there were plans for low-income housing at corner of San Juan and F Street.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
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866	8/31/2023	<p>Golf course will be a patch of weeds and I will vote you all out!!!</p> <p>It seems that next door and the leader have been publishing a LOT of pro golf course opinions, but we want you to know that we do NOT agree with them. We support a multi- use park and affordable housing if possible. It would serve a much wider population than the golf course alone. I used to use the pool regularly before covid, but after covid it lost the good teachers and doesn't have the type of fitness classes that it used to have so I don't go now, but I certainly would go if we had a new pool! There is no other pool in PT or nearby. There is no other choice. There is another golf course 15 minutes south of town! I don't know why this isn't brought up when discussing plans. There is no other pool. My sister in law and her husband belong to a fitness center in a suburb of denver. It has a beautiful pool, workout rooms, classrooms and meeting areas. Individual trainers can meet their clients there and do classes and individual sessions. There is a park around it. They use it almost every day! It would be wonderful if we had something like that. My only question is the roads and pot hole and affordable housing. Does the money for the roads come out of the same bucket as this park money would? If so, we should fix the roads. Would money for the park take away money for affordable housing? A lot of people are saying that it's either/or. Would you please clarify?</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your input for this community discussion about the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons. I have logged your comments and will share them with the City Council and planning team for their consideration. Thank you so much for taking the time to send your thoughts.</p>
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867	9/3/2023	<p>There is another golf course 15 minutes south of town! I don't know why this isn't brought up when discussing plans. There is no other pool. My sister in law and her husband belong to a fitness center in a suburb of denver. It has a beautiful pool, workout rooms, classrooms and meeting areas. Individual trainers can meet their clients there and do classes and individual sessions. There is a park around it. They use it almost every day! It would be wonderful if we had something like that. My only question is the roads and pot hole and affordable housing. Does the money for the roads come out of the same bucket as this park money would? If so, we should fix the roads. Would money for the park take away money for affordable housing? A lot of people are saying that it's either/or. Would you please clarify?</p>
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NEW COMMENT 9/14/23

868	9/14/2023	<p>I am writing to state my strong support for maintaining the golf course as is. I am a 30 year resident of Port Townsend. I do not play golf but I do walk daily on our trails and regularly use our parks. When I moved here we had a skating rink, a bowling alley and the golf course. They are all gone now except the golf course. We have an abundance of parks and trails, and plenty of space to expand housing, without losing a beautiful site for older adults and young people to enjoy the outdoors. My extended family in the city and all my friends agree with this position and I can't understand why the may is obsessed with closing it down. I would like to suggest, rather than close it we add to it by building a mini golf course on part of the land for local families and visitors. Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email regarding the Port Townsend Golf Course. I have added it to the comment log for public records. The Council deliberated last night and made a decision. Attached is the press release that was sent out today. Thanks for you input into this process.</p>
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869	9/21/2023	<p>Respectfully, the housing crisis effects a larger number of local residents than the number of folks who use the golf course. A search of local golf courses reveals that there are 12 within a 20 mile radius of downtown Port Townsend. Considering that low and middle income folks deserve and need housing close to their places of business, shouldn't we prioritize housing near major employment hubs like downtown Port Townsend? Especially when such a plethora of golf courses already exist outside the town limits and well within travel distance? I played on my high school golf team, and honestly the experience was less about where we played and more about who we played with.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email regarding the Port Townsend Golf Course. I have added it to the comment log for public records. The Council deliberated last night and made a decision. Attached is the press release that was sent out today. Thanks for you input into this process.</p>
870	9/25/2023	<p>Hello Councilmembers,As you decide the fate of the Golf Course tonight, I was hoping any motions put forth could put to rest any possibility of constructing housing on <u>any</u> of the deed restricted parcels forever into the future.Housing on those parcels should never have even been an option or included on the Consultant's plans - in spite of Staff advising them of 'go-arounds' to be able to violate the gifters' deeded requests - (emergency housing and ?? some kind of plan??).Please, lets just stop that threat, at least. Although I prefer NO housing at all, if it MUST be put along Blaine in the decade ahead, ONLY put in AFFORDABLE housing that would some year be proven even possible to do by Evans Vista's attempt. Also, thanks to all of you for your constructive workshop least week!! That was long overdue and would be an excellent practice to incorporate into the future as you work out important issues. You all need to be able to talk with each other more often! Thank you,</p>	<p>Thank you for your email regarding the Port Townsend Golf Course. I have added it to the comment log for public records. The Council deliberated last night and made a decision. Attached is the press release that was sent out today. Thanks for you input into this process.</p>
871	9/25/2023	<p>Dear Port Townsend City Council,Thank you for your considerable efforts to create an inclusive process for all who wish to do so to provide their input regarding the future of the public golf course. Thank you also for your dedication and stewardship of our resources in finding the best path for the future of that shared land. I support making the golf course property more accessible to the general public. I support a plan that respects the desires of those who participated earlier in the process. For our changing town to thrive it needs investment in a broad spectrum of amenities and opportunities that can serve a broadly diverse population. Thank you for your service to our community.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email regarding the Port Townsend Golf Course. I have added it to the comment log for public records. The Council deliberated last night and made a decision. Attached is the press release that was sent out today. Thanks for you input into this process.</p>
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874 9/17/2023 I would like to repeat what I have mentioned before in front of the city council, please remember that many of the voting, tax-paying public are not wealthy. We cannot afford expensive solutions to the pool or golf course properties. The infrastructure repairs and maintenance will be expensive for the water and sewage wastewater treatment systems. These should be the first priority. Without water and sewer wastewater systems that work well, there cannot be new housing nor other uses. Please be good stewards of the tax-payers' money. Please also remember that grants are never guaranteed and the money for those grants come from us tax-payers. Please do not further indebt us for more poor judgements. We are a small town and the county is not that large population-wise. If you have large private donors willing to foot the bill for large recreational projects and willing to set up a fund for future maintenance, then go ahead with the planning, but if you do not have private donors waiting in the wings, please just close down these projects for now.

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875 9/18/2023 While I've lately been posting sweet photos of my new kitty, most of you know that is not entirety of who I am. You know that I have always been politically involved and care deeply about this community. For years we've all worried that are democracy is at risk. We see the fabric of our country being torn apart by the divisiveness, culture wars, and of course the disregard for the rule of law. For 20 years on city council, I watched as the nastiness at the federal level start to trickle its way into our sweet small town. It has really gotten to the point that I am going to call it out. Now don't get me wrong there was always passionate debate. Everybody in PT had an opinion and was unafraid to say it. But I've seen the gradual erosion of respect toward fellow community members, conspiracy theories, ad hominem attacks, assigning motives and flagrant bullying. I am emailing this because though I stepped down from council at the end of 2021, I am still getting vulgar, bullying emails because I dare speak my mind about a city issue. That issue is the future of the city land that leases to the golf course. This is an affront to democracy. We vote and put our leadership in place. There is process for each issue, and we all have a right and I believe a responsibility to pay attention through that process, not just when you finally wake up and accuse those in charge of not having the process spoon fed to you. If my opinion differs from yours or a vote doesn't go your way, it is not time to declare "it was rigged all along". Sounds like our national pols. Democracy means sometimes you representatives vote the way you like and sometimes they don't. Win and losses. It's a mixed bag. I am sure you are getting these as well. I am sorry for those that teat you with disrespect, councilors. Here is a recent email received: ***Regarding your hissy fit at the city council meeting concerning the golf course-what is your problem? Haven't you gouged the citizens of our city enough? Your greed has been pitiful! If you need something to do, then resolve the Cherry street debacle and SHUT UP! You're probably one of those greedy people trying to do a land grab in Maui too!*** I have gotten more than one of these emails and I understand that they will continue to bully those who speak against anything other believe that they deserve and

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875	9/18/2023	PT GOLF ONLINE	<p>have a right to use our land their way. But we should not allow this to deter us from speaking our mind. I will see you tonight for this public comment below:I typically visit Chetzemoka twice a day to walk my dog. As of late, I have been counting the number of visitors while I am there, and I thought my count reached had its high earlier this summer with approximately 72 people at once (NOT counting the wedding party that was setting up one Saturday morning). But this week that number grew to approximately 200 people for several days because students from the high school were visiting the park, doing some sort of lessons there. That was in addition to the tri-weekly regulars of yoga, & tai chi practitioners, a preschool group and individuals eating lunch, moms with babies, visitors going down to the beach and walkers like me.We are a city. We have a responsibility, as well as the privilege, to welcome density. I say privilege- in that we can build our diversity and economy in ways the rural counties cannot. The comp plan dictates this. We have seen rapid growth in the last 3 years and that is disconcerting in many ways.But let's be clear. Change is inevitable and our city will continue to grow. Your job is to be sure that we as a city are proactive in planning, as opposed to reactive once it's too late.The city property which currently leases to a private entity, is 5 times the size of Chetzemoka, more centrally</p>	<p>Thank you for your email regarding the Port Townsend Golf Course. I have added it to the comment log for public records. The Council deliberated last night and made a decision. Attached is the press release that was sent out today. Thanks for you input into this process.</p>
876	9/17/2023		<p>Yesterday on my walk-in the Fort I met an elderly lady walking very slowly with her walking sticks and elderly dog. We started to chat. She told me she moved here from California in 1970 and loved living in Port Townsend. She also told me she wishes the golf course could just stay as it is because she still enjoys going down there to practice putting. I moved here only in 2007. I am not a golfer. But I do appreciate that others enjoy the game. More and more when the topic comes up among my fellow hikers or walkers or neighbors, the sentiment is "Why don't they just leave the golf course as it is." Yes, it is a bit funky but what in Port Townsend isn't? And my understanding is that much of the upkeep is done by volunteers. So why not just let it be? There are those of us who do not go to meetings or write letters to the editor, and I would not have known about this comment site had I not been told by one of my walking buddies that it existed. Is there a way to get a feel from the public at large about this? From those of us who are meeting averse? Our voices may be soft but there are many of us. Yes we need a new pool. But I will hold that comment for another day.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email regarding the Port Townsend Golf Course. I have added it to the comment log for public records. The Council deliberated last night and made a decision. Attached is the press release that was sent out today. Thanks for you input into this process.</p>
877	9/25/2023	PT GOLF ONLINE	<p>The city has failed to promote the incredible asset we have available for all to use. The Film Festival , Victorian Festival, Wooden Boat Festival are all advertised and promoted. The golf course "as is" is a gem that can to be preserved and will utilized by many more people if the city took the initiative to let the world know what an opportunity we have in Port Townsend. Housing is for the very few and the city has a failed and embarrassing record for their attempt at public housing that they are unable to fully account for. The city should not be in the housing business. Give funds to "Habitat for Humanity". They know what they are doing to create housing. Dogs do not pay taxes, another urine and feces soaked peace of earth for dogs is not needed. This has been the hottest summer in history, cut down on global warming and "recreate locally".Preserve open space and keep the golf course as is.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email regarding the Port Townsend Golf Course. I have added it to the comment log for public records. The Council deliberated last night and made a decision. Attached is the press release that was sent out today. Thanks for you input into this process.</p>