

Disc Golf Presentation to Oak Hill Condominium Residents

January 11, 2023- 6:30pm- Nashua City Hall - Auditorium

In Attendance

- Lauren Byers –Communications and Recreation Administrator DPW
- Alex Maclean – Nashua Resident and DPW Employee
- Meredith Stensaas- Recreation Program Coordinator
- Matt LeBlanc- Division Operations Manger
- Matt Sullivan- Community Development Director

Also Present:

- Ward 9 Alderman John Sullivan
- Oak Hill Condominiums Board Members and Residents of the Oak Hill Condominiums

Presentation:

Alderman John Sullivan shared that the meeting will consist of a presentation by Lauren Byers, Communications and Recreation Administrator DPW, about the proposed Disc Golf Course inside Roby Park and that there will be time for comments and questions after the presentation.

Lauren Byers shared a presentation that covered:

- An explanation of Disc Golf as a sport
- The history of the proposal of the course to the City of Nashua
- The partnership with local community organizations such as Nashua Rotary West and Nashua PAL
- An explanation of professional Disc Course design
- Collaboration with environmental engineers and the Nashua Conservation Committee to support the well-being of the natural environment in Roby Park
- Explanation of the maintenance of the proposed course.

Comments from Residents:

Questions were posed about how people are supposed to use Roby Park while people are playing Frisbee. (*Lauren Byers responded*) Nashua City Parks are intended to be multi-use environments for walkers and disc golf players. It is the expectation that disc golfers will be conscientious of their surrounding environment as they are playing.

Inquiries regarding the safety of walkers utilizing Roby Park simultaneously as disc golfers. Resident stated that they believed there would not be enough space to walk in Roby Park if the Disc Golf Course was installed. (*Lauren Byers responded*). The City will take into consideration previous walking paths when designing the course.

Resident wanted to know if there would be referees controlling the playing of disc golf. (*Lauren Byers responded*) Similar to an informal baseball game, anyone can show up and play disc golf.

A comment was made that discs will land on neighboring private properties, similar to golf balls. Another resident added that the property lines between Roby Park and private properties are not clear and need to be more visible. (*Lauren Byers responded*) The course will be designed so as not to encumber private properties. The baskets will not be aimed toward East Dunstable Rd. The proposed disc golf course will be within the confines of the City park and will not extend beyond.

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There were comments regarding the impacts on the wetlands and natural habitats in Roby Park. *(Lauren Byers responded)* The city is working with environmental engineers and Nashua Conservation Committee to delineate the wetlands to ensure that the course does not impact protected natural habitats. Any questions regarding the Nashua Conservation Commission, what they do and their priorities, should be directed toward the committee itself.

Questions arose regarding the business model of the proposed Disc Golf Course. *(Lauren Byers responded)* The City's priority is always our residents. This new Disc Golf Course will be another outdoor/free activity that they can utilize. No businesses or organization will profit from its construction. So far, approximately \$20,000 has been spent on this project. Additional funding for this project will come from the donation from Nashua Rotary West.

There was a request for more information regarding Disc Golf tournaments. *(Alex McLean responded)* There would be approximately four players per hole, which would be seventy-two players for the 18-hole course. *(Lauren Byers responded)* There would not be any other recreation programs scheduled the same day in Roby Park when a Disc Golf Tournament is scheduled. This practice is currently being utilized in our parks Citywide.

Resident inquired as to why abutters of Roby Park were not notified earlier of the proposal of this disc golf course. *(Lauren Byers responded)* Abutters were not notified as this course would not be considered major modifications to the park land – the work would be slightly expanding current pathways and would not be similar to changing the use of the land similar to adding a building or other permanent structure.

A question was asked whether the people who proposed this Disc Golf Course Nashua Residents. *(Lauren Byers responded)* Yes, the petition was completed by Nashua residents.

Residents were concerned about the parking at Roby Park. *(Lauren Byers responded)* The City has been long aware of the parking situation at Roby Park and understands that additional parking is needed. There is no plan right now for adding extra parking to Roby Park. In the meantime, the City will look into signage to instruct people to park their cars appropriately.

Resident shared that kids will love to be able to play disc golf. It is less likely that discs will get lost and overthrown onto private properties in contrast to golf balls due to the cost of the disc and their level of visibility.

A resident reported that they would prefer a smaller area of the wooded area be utilized for the course and the consideration of including fewer holes for the course.

Final Comments from Lauren Byers:

The City is going to look at putting in a Disc Golf Course because the City has had many, many, people contact them about wanting to see it brought to Nashua. If the City goes forward with the plan, it will do it in the best possible way, taking in into consideration all of the concerns that are brought forward.