Future of Hayward GC debated

Officials in Hayward, Calif., are trying to decide whether to reopen Hayward Golf Course or build a new facility. The 107-acre course closed four years ago and has fallen into disrepair.

The owner would like to sell the land for housing. Many others want it to remain open or be preserved as open space, according to the Hayward Daily Review.

There is a need for more golf holes in Hayward. The city's only course, Skywest Golf Course, hosted 80,000 rounds last year, more than twice the national average.

Three alternatives for reopening the course and one for relocating it were recently presented by city, county and park district administrators to a committee of councilors, school trustees and park district directors.

The reopening alternatives included having the city issue $40 million in revenue bonds to purchase the site; building homes and retaining some land for a nine-hole course; and exploring other possible sites, like Garin Regional Park or land along the Hayward shoreline.

But all said the cost was too high and green fees too low, unless the city subsidized it, he added.

The committee agreed to further study the alternatives and possibly hire a consultant.

Also considered was simply allowing developer Shapell Industries to proceed with its plans to buy the land and build 500 single-family homes.

Mayor Alex Giuliani said he has tried to interest local businesses and Japanese companies in reopening the course.

But all said the cost was too high and green fees too low, unless the city subsidized it, he added.

The committee agreed to further study the alternatives and possibly hire a consultant.

AGC buys Skyline Woods

American Golf Corp. of Santa Monica, Calif., has acquired Skyline Woods Country Club in Omaha, Neb., and Sabal Palms Golf Club in Tamarac, Fla.

Skyline Woods Country Club will continue to be operated as a private club, while Sabal Palms Golf Club will remain a public facility. Both have 18 holes.

Skyline Woods facilities include a full-service dining room including banquet facilities, swimming pool, tennis courts, exercise spa, driving range and pro shop.

Sabal Palms has a clubhouse, golf shop, and food and beverage facilities.

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