Developer gives Wisconsin town ultimatum: Buy course or back off

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — Developer David Fitzgerald has offered an interesting proposition to opponents of his plan to turn Lowes Creek Golf Club into a public, 18-hole course on the site. He has given them an ultimatum: Buy the course or back off.

Fitzgerald plans to build single-family homes and possibly some condominiums on the site. He has told golf course patrons they must choose between keeping the green space and recreation opportunities the course offers or losing it to development, saying they want to keep the green space and recreation opportunities the course offers.

However, many neighbors and golf course patrons oppose the development, saying they want to keep the green space and recreation opportunities the course offers.

Fitzgerald and the Seversons then agreed to postpone the final sale. Fitzgerald also agreed to turn over the right to buy the golf course to any financially qualified parties who will maintain it as a golf course — if they come up with an accepted written agreement.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The golf course sale proposed by Michigan mayor David Hollister has been opposed by many local residents and golfers but eventually recommended by the city's Park Board. One of the developers even offered to relocate the course to another site in the city.

Two developers had presented proposals to the city last May, both pitching to pave the course over and build a retail complex, an idea that was opposed by many local residents and golfers but eventually recommended by the city's Park Board. One of the developers even offered to relocate the course to another site in the city.

With Hollister's decision to keep Waverly Golf Course a golf course, the city now faces the challenge of revamping the sagging, 70-year-old layout at Waverly Road and Saginaw Street. The course's irrigation system is one of many critical problems.

Fragile Alaskan site ups project costs

JUNEAU, Alaska — Developer Richard Holden wants to add nine more holes and another 55 houses to the 18-hole, 75-home development he originally proposed for North Douglas Island. Holden, president of the Waterfront Park Hotel Corp., said the expansion is needed to cover the higher cost of developing on land soggy and less stable than expected.

Holden has said his $12.5 million proposal is bankrolled by a group of anonymous European investors. But city officials gave Holden until the end of February to show proof he has long-term financial backing.

If the city does pull out of a deal with Holden, the rights to build the course could go to Totem Creek Corp., which finished second in the city's bidding process. Totem Creek, a non-profit group, wants to build a $5 million, 18-hole course.

Whichever group builds the course will face some unique construction requirements. The proposed site for the golf course is considered structurally fragile, and therefore the golf course can not be shaped by removing trees and pushing soil around. On North Douglas, according to Holden, disturbing the tree roots and thin soil would cause severe erosion.

Holden has said trees at the site would have to be cut level with the ground and the stumps left in place. Geotextile fabric would then be laid across the entire golf course and covered in layers of shot rock, sand and grass. The unique construction methods would add an extra $2.4 million to the cost of the project, the original projection, Holden said.

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