

Puzzled panelists put West Palm Beach contract on hold

Golfers wait along with Whitley, Player and PGA Association

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Two new 18-hole public golf courses are in prospect for sorely pressed players at the local municipal links, but the choice of contractors may not be settled.

Commissioners recently approved a proposal for the development of the two courses, but the winning team of Whitley Development Corp., Gary Player Design

Co. and PGA Association of America still may be awaiting the go-ahead on contract negotiations.

At least two commissioners profess puzzlement at some aspects of the projects. The two losing presentations, from Golden Bear International, which wanted to lease land from the city and build an 18-hole golf course, and Frankel Enterprises, which planned to build an 18-hole course on city land and in exchange be given land to develop, received their sympathetic ear.

Whitley's plan calls for two 18-hole courses and a park with tennis

courts and soccer fields to be built on two city-owned sites east of Florida's Turnpike. The project would cost between \$10.3 and \$13.8 million. The city would own the land and golf courses and receive all profits from the operation.

Commissioner Helen Wilkes wanted to "go back and rethink the winning details." She questioned the financing and wanted to know if there were any liability to the city.

Vice Mayor Art Bullard didn't vote for the Whitley team. He said the proposal sounded too good to

be true and didn't see how money could be made.

Robert Whitley, company president, said the team would make money through development fees.

Finance director Kathy Hankins termed Golden Bear's proposal the best financial deal for the city. Herb Wilson, the only committee member who doesn't work for the city, agreed.

Commissioner David Smith, who ranked Whitley highest, said he didn't understand why commissioners didn't discuss the projects before voting.

\$1.5 billion community would include golf course

PASCO, Fla. — A \$1.5-billion master-planned community here will include an 18-hole, 7,000-yard public golf course and clubhouse.

Construction is expected to start this summer.

The golf facilities will be part of Trinity Communities, a 3,568-acre community stretching from the Pasco-Pinellas county line north to SR 54, and from East Lake Road to Gunn Highway.

Extensive recreation facilities are planned. The 6,000-square foot clubhouse designed by the Kirkland Group Inc. of Tampa will contain a fully-stocked pro shop, locker rooms and snack bar.

Near the clubhouse will be a swimming pool and three tennis courts.

Innisbrook finishes 2nd phase of renovation

TARPON SPRINGS, Fla. — Innisbrook has completed the second phase of a four-year, \$2-million program to refurbish its golf courses and expand its golf facilities.

Improvements to the top-ranked Copperhead course were completed in time for December's PGA Classic and the resort's 20th anniversary.

Copperhead's men's and women's locker room facilities were expanded and the clubhouse regroomed.

Major renovations costing more than \$1 million will be unveiled this summer.

The Sandpiper, another of Innisbrook's three courses, recently underwent reconstruction of its greens and restoration of its front nine. A lighted driving range was added, putting green enlarged and staging area renovated.

Arvida projects Palmer courses in development

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — The Florida-based Arvida Co. plans two 18-hole golf courses designed by Arnold Palmer as a prominent part of development of a 3,510-acre of land called Talega.

Officials hope for tract map and site plan approval from the San Clemente City Council in April.

The company is setting aside 1,220 acres for a nature conservancy. In addition, there would be 72 acres of park land, including one 29-acre park with ballfields and pools — the largest park in San Clemente.

Bill Mahan, a widely-known Spanish-style architect, will design the golf course clubhouses.

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