

Brookline Golf Course

Golf Course Walk About

December 11, 2021

10:00 AM SESSION (18 walkers including staff)

OPENING STATEMENTS:

- Justin introduced Mark Mungeam and Tim Gerrish
- Take this course into the future - challenges and opportunities.
- History: opened in 1933; Wayne Stiles is the original designer.

1st HOLE:

- Long way to 1st tee from clubhouse
- We'll look at different routing for circulation issues
- 2 critical junctions of drainage
- Practice range build 5 years ago - good revenue source
- High points = tees and greens; low points = fairways
- Tee areas too small; trend is for "forward" tee areas
- Forward is the Future!
- Vegetation management needed
 - Question: Safety issues
 - Response: We'll look at elevation, cart path, hazards, etc.
- Pace of play and tee times is at 12-minute intervals; typical time is 8-10 minutes
 - Losing a foursome per hour - lost revenue
- Inability to see people on the 2nd hole when trees have leaves
- Post renovations - new score card and ratings will change over time
- AUL (Activity and Use Limitation) area (fairway) soil cannot be disturbed or cut into. Can build up soil over this area.
- Bunkers need restoration. Good greens surface.
- May need screening to buffer the street appearance/noise

2nd HOLE:

- Former bunkers - should they be reclaimed?

3rd HOLE:

- Need to improve access
- Worn areas, may remove bunker
- Steep steps to tees

4th HOLE:

- Bunker issues – may remove one of them
- Drainage issues – one of wettest hole on course
- Add to fairway (?)

5th HOLE:

- Newest hole
- Want to make if fit with other greens – consistency
- Tee surface need leveling
 - Question: Long way from restrooms. Will there be facilities along the course?
 - Response: Will consider comfort stations along the way.

8th HOLE:

- Several tees and greens come into play in this area – need to improve safety
 - Question: What is the timeline?
 - Response: There will be 2 phases – short-term phase with US Open funding. Master Plan takes time and then there is implementation – about 5 years.
- Dealing with drainage issues – to remove or add culverts, reverting culverts back to ditches/French drains which are better environmentally – raises the water level.
- Soil engineering issues – most of the course is either rock ledge or peat – difficult to work with.

15th HOLE:

- We need to preserve the Hemlock groves.

12th HOLE:

- Course's signature golf hole
- Battle of trees issues – shade, root systems, etc.

13th HOLE:

- Rough hole
- Eliminate first drainage creek that comes across the fairway
- Level out the tee box
- May become the 1st hole – good length for 1st hole
- Good mowing practice – eliminates need for bunkers – faster play

FINAL WORDS:

- Community Collaboration
- Survey to collect community input coming soon.

12:30 PM SESSION (21 walkers including staff)

OPENING STATEMENTS:

- Introductions & questions
- Goal - improve playability for all levels of golfers
 - Question: What is the timeline?
 - Response: Phase I - Preparation prior to US Open. Phase II - Completion of Master Plan = 1 year; Implementation - 5 years (6 years total)
 - Question: What is the cost?
 - Response: Unknown at this point but golf course is on an enterprise system financially self-supporting, eligible for grants and bond mechanisms. Grant funding will dictate available dollars.
 - The typical plan is to draw up the Master Plan and then set priorities.
 - Bond power for Phase I
 - Question: Are there opportunities for great future potential?
 - Response: Master Plan is to increase revenue and sustainability

WALK TO 1ST HOLE:

- Culverts presents some design restrictions due to elevation.
- Ideas to move water from the fairways
 - Create ponds
 - Add sand - diverting water from peat
 - Clean out ditches, deepen them for better flow
- Watershed problem in Brookline - more development - roads and housing

1ST HOLE:

- Need to increase tee space. Add more tee boxes and add another set of markers.
- 3 tee markers - too close to each other
- Need more forward tees
- To the right - overgrown vegetation. Grass would be more manageable, looks better.
 - Question: Will accessibility issues be addressed particularly steep and narrow paths?
 - Response: Yes, including making tee areas, fairways, greens accessible by cart. Sharing the course with pedestrians - need to address safety issues.
 - Additional comment (Leigh): Town of Brookline is looking to add other recreational opportunities to the plan such as walking trails.
- Need to make the green bigger and renovate the bunker
- Left side of 1st hole is the lowest elevation point of the course where drainage exits under the road

2nd HOLE:

- The golf course is a living organism subject to constant change.

- Cart paths were not part of the original design, bunkers come and go.
- Greens need to be restored to original size
- The ugly fence - provides safety and allows balls to bounce back onto the fairway
 - Can we eliminate the fence or not?
- Need bigger green, the cart path is too close, bunker is not necessary - restricts access to the green.

3rd HOLE:

- Steep steps to back tee. No steps to the front tee.

4th HOLE:

- Hole with biggest drainage issue (as well as 9th)
- Potential restoration of a French drain

5th HOLE:

- Needs bigger, flatter green
- Cape & Bay style bunker needs to be changed
- Tee area not level
- Tree too close

6th HOLE:

- Area between tee and fairway is wet.
- Shorten carry to start with more forward tee options
- This is the area for the US Open parking, media, security staging. USGA will restore to same or better condition
 - Question: How long will it take to restore?
 - Response: Unknown until we see what the damage is - several weeks.
 - Question: Who does the pre- and post-Open assessment?
 - Response: Town of Brookline?
 - It will be an inconvenience but also an opportunity.
 - US Open pays for loss of revenue
 - Range will be closed June 9th - 23rd
 - May be able to keep a shorter course (8 or 9 holes) open before and after Open

8th HOLE:

- Culvert pipes have risen due to freeze/thaws. May turn culverts into open ditches - improves water issues on the fairway. Re-daylight the creeks.
- Tradeoff between game of golf and drainage improvements
- Keeping aesthetics - working with local Conservation Committee
 - Question: Is there a way to make it flatter at the front of the green?
 - Response: Yes, we can modify it a bit.

12th HOLE:

- Great hole. Need to trim tree canopy
- Need to achieve a balance with shade and air currents
- Will address trees along edge to block view of road and road noise as well as trees on the fairway.
Are these the right trees with the changing environment?
 - Question: What about the different barks on the trees?
 - Response: We are working with an arborist regarding diseased/damaged trees.
 - Question: Any thoughts of tree memorials?
 - Response: Possibly
- We want to consider a variety of trees for sustainability concerns.

13th HOLE:

- 2 raised culverts on the fairway – first one needs to be eliminated.
- Steep slope up to green

18th HOLE:

- Needs some work on the edges
- Need to expand green
 - Question: Is there room to extend the clubhouse terrace?
 - Response: We will be collaborating with the Clubhouse architect to see what is possible.

FINAL WORDS:

- We need community input and ideas. Survey will be sent out soon.
- It is all about collaboration!