



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 5, 2015

MEMO TO: S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance and Administrative Committee

FROM: James E. Ballowe
Director, Facilities

SUBJECT: Policy Direction Regarding Private Golf Cars at Countryside Golf Course

RECOMMENDATION: Policy direction requested on whether to amend current District rules that prohibit the use of private golf cars at Countryside Golf Course.

BACKGROUND: It has been requested that the District allow the use of private golf cars at Countryside Golf Course. Current District rules prohibit the use of private golf cars at District golf courses, with one exception.

In 2007 the District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Mundelein, the County of Lake and Pulte Home Corporation (Pulte). As part of this agreement Pulte, at their sole cost, designed and constructed an underpass under Hawley Street that connected the Prairie and Traditional golf courses at Countryside. Prior to this underpass, golfers drove golf cars across Hawley Street at an uncontrolled crossing.

Also, as part of this agreement, the District amended the rules to allow private golf cars owned by residents of Pulte's Grand Dominion development to access Countryside via the new underpass. The situation at Grand Dominion is unique. The streets within that development are private and the rules of that development allow residents to use golf cars on those private streets. Also, Grand Dominion is immediately adjacent to Countryside. The construction of the tunnel created a single point of access that allows golf cars from Grand Dominion to access Countryside directly. For these reasons, Grand Dominion is uniquely situated to be granted direct, legal access to Countryside. To effectuate that access, the District established a fee and rules applicable to Grand Dominion users, which include proof of residence, insurance requirements, mechanical and maintenance specifications and rules of operation.

The recent request to amend the rules to allow others to use private golf cars at Countryside was submitted to Commissioner Bartels from a Lake County resident that keeps his private golf car at his daughter's home a short distance from, but without legal direct access to, Countryside. Staff strongly recommends denying this request for a number of reasons:

- It violates the spirit of the Intergovernmental Agreement and may cause the District to have to renegotiate with the three parties.
- Our Risk Management Pool has stated that allowing private golf cars will significantly increase the District's liability.

- It is illegal to operate a golf car on a public roadway. Although not our jurisdiction, by allowing private cars to enter Countryside via Chevy Chase or Hawley Streets, we would be encouraging people to violate the law and be subject to traffic citations.
- If private cars are allowed at Countryside, it would be very difficult to prohibit them at ThunderHawk and Brae Loch, even though the surrounding roadways are much busier (Route 45 and Lewis Avenue).

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Policy Direction from the Finance and Administrative Committee is required to change established District rules.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director Chief Operations Officer, Corporate Counsel

FINANCIAL DATA: None at this time.

PRESENTER: Jim Ballowe