

Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

EWGCA – Grounds Committee

Meeting Date: 2/9/2017

Participants: Steve Neumann, Tom Tully, Joan Schneider, Jason Way, Brad Drake and Frank Candioto

1. 5th Hole Neighbor Meeting

Frank Candioto confirmed date of March 26th to host neighbors to inform, gather feedback and fundraise.

2. Rough Mower Quotes

Tom has narrowed search to four mowers, will narrow to 2 mowers by March board meeting where we will make a recommendation and request approval to purchase. Tom will bring final two in for demo in the Spring and purchase best performing machine.

3. Staff Needs

Received application for the Assistant Superintendent. One is a good fit and Tom is reaching out to him. Received 10 applications for Field Staff; interviewed 3 and only one possible fit. None, however had extended landscape or golf experience. We are building a contact list of people to network with to try and find career oriented field staff. This ideal candidate is generally finding work through word of mouth so we are building our network and putting the word out that we are looking for 3-4 quality experienced career field staff professionals.

4. 15th / 16th Hole Project.

Description is attached to the minutes and will also be posted on new greens and grounds blog. Budget is also attached. Timeline is:

- a. Flyer to immediate neighborhood. Dan has identified this area. We will call out to volunteers to help.
- b. Host meeting to inform, gather feedback and fundraise.
- c. Notify Paul D'Agostino with the City who is helping with tree work. This will be the second joint project with the City furthering partnership to work together with the tree work.
- d. Schedule volunteer work day.

5. Greens and Grounds Blog

We started a Greens and Grounds Blog page to better communicate with the community and other stakeholder groups. We started this by using Googles free blog software and it will be accessed directly through the Canal Shores website. The current Canal Shores website was cumbersome and not user friendly to upload images etc. for content. We will work with Tim and the Marketing Committee to determine the best long term solution.

The content for this page will come from 3 sources:

- a. The Grounds Committee
- b. The CS100 Ecological Committee
- c. The CS100 Golf Committee (if/when that gets formed)

The purpose of the updates will be:

- a. To inform the community and other stakeholders of our plans and the progress that we are making on improving the facility, both short and long term.
- b. To invite our stakeholders to help by donating their time or money to planning and projects.

Jeff Hapner is preparing a banner/header image.

6. PRI Ecological Inventory-Data Collection and Site Analysis

We will present findings at the board meeting in a short 5-10-minute presentation. Full report and analysis of the findings will be in the final report delivered by PRI. We will allow time for questions and stay after the meeting for those who would like more information.

Great News! We received the Grant extension. New deadline is October 31st. Thank you, Tom, for submitting a well drafted extension request. IDNR was very helpful in guiding us through the process.

The Ecological Sub Committee will be meeting in the next two weeks to discuss in detail the expectations of the planning phase to properly direct PRI. We will also discuss next steps for community and stakeholder outreach to inform, gather feedback and fundraise.

7. Grant Opportunities

Brad Drake volunteered for the role of what we will call "Grant Catcher." He will be compiling a list of Grant opportunities for both Golf and Ecological. The database will allow us to best capitalize on opportunities. The database will include:

- Grant Organization. Plus, Contact info.
- Grant Mission "Hot Button" i.e. Stormwater Management, Bird Habitat, Youth Golf etc...
- Grant Amount. Matching or No Matching
- Submittal Dates
- And more.....

We have a list of approx. 6 grant opportunities to start with and have already received from a community member awareness of another grant opportunity. If you are aware of any grants, please let the "Grant Catcher" know of the opportunity.

8. High School Golfer Grounds Committee member

We briefly discussed whether we should reach out to a New Trier or Evanston or both Junior or Senior golfer for participation on the Grounds Committee. We decided at this point to continue to engage high school

volunteers through volunteer days and if an individual seems like a good fit for this type of responsibility, we could revisit the idea.

9. Awareness and Recognition sign for 12th Hole Project

Joan brought up the ideas of a sign to make people aware of what the scope of the project was and who was involved in making it happen. She made a good point that many people are walking by the project, intrigued and unaware of what exactly happened.

She prepared a sample of content and is researching botanical sign designs for the 12th hole. This could be used as a model for other projects. She will bring additional information to the next meeting.

10. IRA Distribution Fundraising Opportunity

Brad brought to our attention the opportunity for capturing fundraising through yearly required IRA distributions. He has experience in this form of money management and can shed additional details. We will connect him with David Fenn and Kevin Kane to explore the strategy further.

11. Thank you to Joan Schneider, Brad Drake and Frank Candioto who committed to additional time for project work outside the committee meeting. We would also like to thank Matt Rooney and Andrew Flemming who could not be at the February grounds meeting. Matt is researching Tree Management Policies that we can adopt and integrate into our tree management. Andrew is helping Tom with the Rough Mower purchase through his industry knowledge and contacts.

15th 16th Hole Budget

Fence/Works	\$2,600	estimate	already raised through fundraising event
Tree removal/trimming		in house/volunteers	
Chipping debris	\$850		
Sand for bunkers	\$0	on site	
Replacement material			
Move tee boxes	\$0	in house/volunteers	
Seed/sod	\$500		
Equipment	\$500		if needed for path and water management
Relocate Path		in house/donate mulch	
Total	\$4,450		

CANAL SHORES GREENS & GROUNDS

Sharing the Transformation of Canal Shores with Our Community

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Metra Corner Makeover - Spring 2017

Our generous volunteers and donors helped us complete pilot projects [along Sheridan Road at our north end \(6th hole\)](#) and [on Central Ave in our middle \(12th hole\)](#). We are grateful for their support and dedication.

The Canal Shores Grounds Committee has now shifted its attention to the south end of the property, or what we call the "Metra Corner". This is the area that includes the 15th and 16th holes, which interact with the canal and the commuter train tracks. It is also a point of major foot traffic, with commuters and school kids passing through the course in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

Like most of Canal Shores, the Metra Corner suffers from several major issues:

1. The golf on these holes is a combination of hard and boring due to a lack of interesting features and inherent strategy.
2. Turf health and quality, and the general ecology of the area, has been degraded as invasive species like buckthorn have taken over.
3. Safety issues exist because of the layout of the holes, and disorganization of space for golf vs. non-golf activities.

Our makeover of the Metra Corner has the overarching goal of the addressing the issues above, while improving the aesthetics of the property and fun of the golf holes.

A visualization of the makeover is below, with a descriptions of the steps. As the makeover progresses, updates will be provided in additional posts.



THE STEPS OF THE METRA MAKEOVER *(click on images to enlarge)*

STEP 1 – The Principal's Nose

The 15th hole is a short par-4 that is tight off the tee and plays straight, with little

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strategic interest. Although the hole has great potential, it currently suffers from being boring and hard.

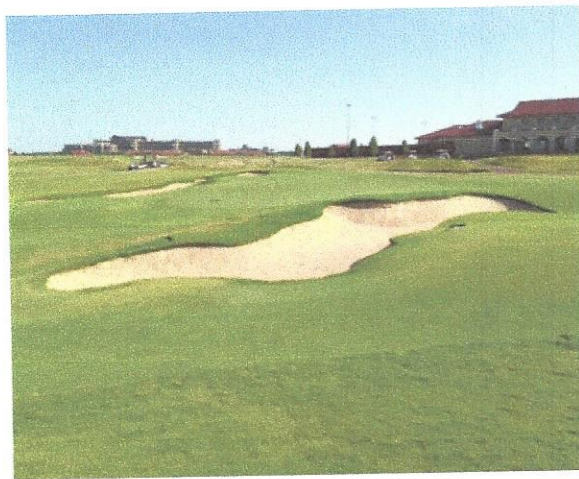
We are borrowing a simple strategy of positioning fairway and greenside bunkers to create options and angles for our golfers. Aggressive players can challenge hazards to gain advantage on the hole and make an eagle or birdie. Conservative players can navigate safely around hazards while still having a chance at par.



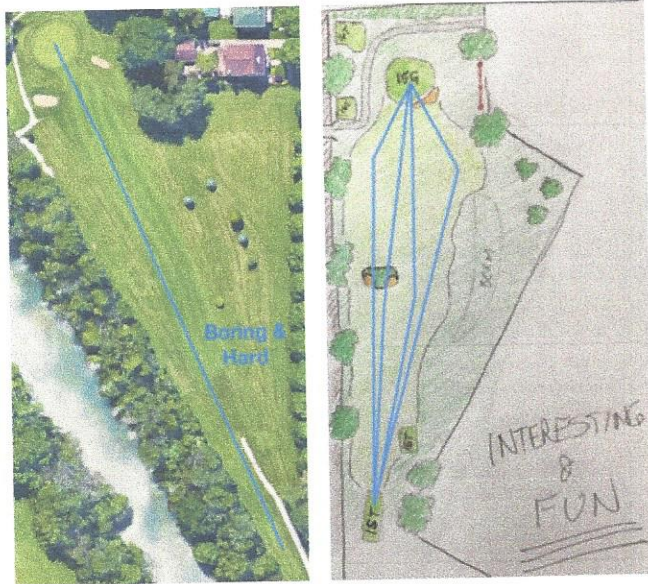
To add quirk and interest to the hole, we are creating a Principal's Nose bunker complex, inspired by the original at St. Andrews and others around America. There is an existing set of grass bunkers in the left center of the fairway that will be shifted and rebuilt.

STEP 2 – Greenside Bunkers

The bunkers front left and right of the green are out of position and in a state of serious disrepair. The left bunker will be removed and turned into fairway creating an alley for players to play running approaches. The right bunker will be shifted and rebuilt closer to the green in a rugged, "gash" style.



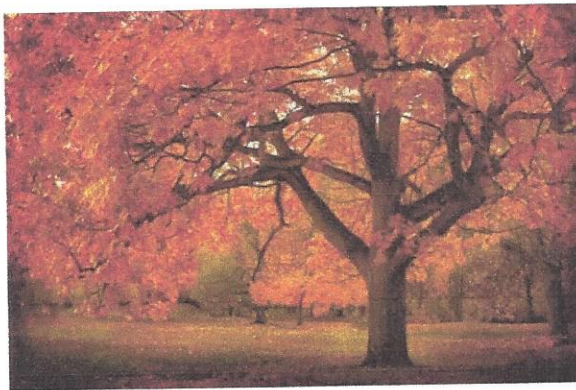
The existing layout of the 15th hole provides only one good option for play – straight down the middle. The new bunker configuration will introduce strategic options and risk-reward considerations for our players. Golf is more fun and interesting when it is a test of both the mind and execution.



STEP 3 – Replacing the Spruce

There is a large spruce tree on the right side of the fairway on #15 that has been likely planted as a yardage reference marker. It is a non-native tree in an inappropriate position. We are exploring options for moving it, and will do so if it is cost-effective.

Otherwise, we have obtained permission from the City of Evanston Forestry Division to remove the tree and replace it with natives that are more appropriately positioned. If funds allow, the new plantings will be incorporated into the establishment of a new native area.



STEP 4 – Buckthorn Removal on #15

As is the case in many areas of Canal Shores, buckthorn and other invasive species have encroached on the canal side of the 15th hole, narrowing it considerably.

Previous efforts by our staff and volunteers on the 3rd and 12th holes have widened playing corridors, improved turf quality, highlighted specimen trees, and enhanced aesthetics.

We intend to remove the buckthorn and other invasives along the left side of the 15th fairway up to the canal ridgeline. Going down to clear and restore the canal bank is a much larger project for which we are not yet prepared. Our Ecology firm, [Planning Resources Inc.](#), has provided us with an advisory statement on the intended work on the 15th and 16th holes ([click here to read the PRI letter](#)).



STEP 5 – Revealing the Stone Wall

With the help of our neighbors, we have discovered an old limestone wall along the right side of the 16th hole. It is currently overgrown by buckthorn and other invasive shrubs. This is exactly the kind of unique feature that makes Canal Shores so special, and we intend to uncover and restore it to the best of our ability.

Volunteer days for this work are currently being organized. Email me, or [sign up on the Canal Shores website if you would like to donate or volunteer.](#)

STEP 6 – Round Rail Fence

The wood round rail fence that we installed as a part of our 12th Green Project has been very well received by the community. That fence style will be the standard for the boundaries of the property. It defines a boundary but leaves an open feel, while drastically improving aesthetics.

The chain link fence behind the 16th green will be replaced, increasing visibility into the course for people driving and walking down Noyes Street. A new section of fence right of the 15th green will be installed, which will help direct foot traffic away from the 15th green and the private neighbor property that borders that corner of the course.



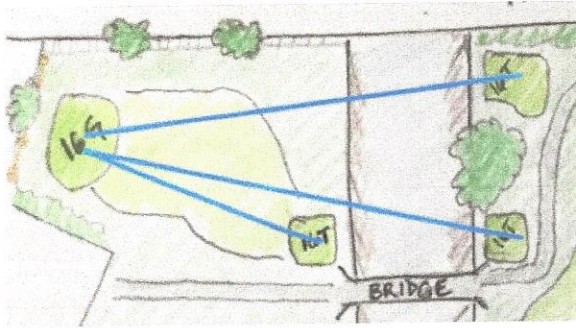
STEP 7 – Reconfigure #16 Tees

The current tee configuration on #16 is suboptimal. The back tee position is dangerous – it is too close to the back of #15 green. Shots that go long put players at risk. The tee shot from the back tee is also too difficult for almost all of our players.

Further, there is no tee box on the near side of the canal. The forced carry over the canal is mandatory, which is beyond the strength and ability of many of our players.

The back tee will be shut down, making room to reroute the walking path behind 15

green. The right and left tees will be expanded, to create more day-to-day variety, and a new forward tee on the near side of the canal will be added.



STEP 8 – Reroute Walking Path

Although Canal Shores is welcoming to walkers of all kinds, we want to keep them safe and minimize potential damage to greens. The path that many school kids and commuters currently take through this section of the property has two main problems that we intend to address.

On the 15th, walkers tend to walk too close to the green, or on it. The new fence and removal of the back tee on #16 allows us to route walkers away from the green and out of potential harm's way from golfers.

The area between the 16th hole and 17th tee holds water, and so we will be creating a drainage feature and establishing a formal path for walkers to keep them out of conflict with golfers on #16 and the 17th tee.

STEP 9 – Expand #15 Fairway and Green

As a rule of thumb, more short grass equates to more fun for golfers. Therefore, we will be working hard to improve turf health, and expanding the fairway and green on #15. We will give our players a larger target, and more options for how to approach it through the air or along the ground.

CONCLUSION

Although this "bootstrap" work is nowhere near what could be accomplished with a larger scale renovation of Canal Shores, we do believe that we can significantly improve the experience that our visitors have in this section of the property and course. While the Master Planning process unfolds, we look forward to pushing forward with improvements in every way that the commitment of our volunteers and donors allows.

Posted by [Canal Shores Grounds](#) at 2:12 PM

Labels: [buckthorn](#), [Canal Shores](#), [ecology](#), [Evanston](#), [golf](#), [golf bunker](#), [golf course](#), [golf course architecture](#), [golf course photos](#), [habitat restoration](#), [sustainability](#), [Wilmette](#)

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