

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Regarding City Council's Consideration of Approving the Purchase of Raintree Country Club · August 9, 2018

Why is the City of Green considering purchasing Raintree Country Club?

The City is considering purchasing the property because of this unique opportunity to preserve it a large parcel of land as green space as well as keep a large banquet facility operational in our community. By the City purchasing the property versus a developer, it reduces the impact on the need for more public infrastructure and the impact to our school system that is inherent in residential developments.

Who decides if the City will purchase the property?

Green City Council approves all spending for the City. They, ultimately, will determine if the City should purchase the property.

If City Council does not approve the purchase of Raintree Country Club, what will happen to the property?

The property will remain for sale. It is currently zoned for R-1, residential single family, and would most likely be sold to a developer for residential development.

Why not let the property be sold to a developer to develop a new subdivision?

Once sold to a developer, there are limited options that the City has to control the pace of development on the land. With this size of parcel, approximately 200 single family homes could be built or more. To accommodate that future development, roads and intersections in the area would need to be improved. While developers pay for the cost of infrastructure within the development, they do not typically pay for infrastructure improvements to the development.

Does Green need more parks?

The intent to buy the golf course is not because we need additional parkland. This is a unique opportunity to preserve the land as green space and to manage its future use. Also, the banquet facility at Raintree is also an important community asset. A good example might be when the City purchased Southgate Park in 2006 which included a historic farmstead, 197-acres, and the Belden Lodge. It took the City several years to determine what to do with the Belden Lodge, a property that we did not need as a City structure. Eventually the right opportunity became available with the vision of the Swaldo family to develop it as a destination restaurant The Twisted Olive. Now after years of sitting empty, this property enhances the park and our community, while continuing to preserve green space.

Will the City operate the golf course?

The City is investigating all options related to the operation of the golf course. Our preferred option is to hire a golf course management company to manage, run and maintain the golf course for public use. Currently the City is looking for a company to manage the golf course and the banquet hall.

Will the City's Nexus settlement money be used to purchase Raintree?

On March 27, 2018, Green City Council passed legislation to create a special revenue fund for the Nexus Settlement money, which limits the use of the funds. As the legislation is written, the Nexus money cannot be used for the purchase of the property. See ordinance 2018-03.

What other communities have municipal golf course?

Several other communities in our area have municipal golf course including Cuyahoga Falls, North Canton, Stow, Akron and more. We are seeking input from these municipalities to learn what works and what hasn't.

Will the City hire the existing employees of Raintree?

The City will not retain the management of the facilities. Most of the employees are seasonal workers, who may have the opportunity to continue working at the course.

When will the City start taking reservations for the banquet facility?

Once a banquet facility management company is hired, we will continue taking reservations for the banquet facility.