

Keller Golf Course Project Progress Report

December 2011

Three sessions to Meet and Talk and Walk with golf course architect Richard Mandell were held on Wednesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 27, 2011. The public was invited to meet Richard Mandell, walk the course and provide feedback directly to him. Nearly 80 people participated in the sessions and offered a variety of comments about the current conditions and made suggestions regarding future improvements to the golf course. Several key areas were discussed including:

Inconsistent greens

A variety of non-compatible grasses growing in the fairways

Misaligned tees on some holes

Poor fairway drainage areas on holes #3, #12, #14 and #16

Safety concerns on #1 green, #9 fairway and #14 fairway

Bunkers inconsistent in sand quality and a variety of construction styles

Trees frame many of the holes

Make hole #16 a par 5 for all players

Golfers like the layout of the course and enjoy the uniqueness of each hole

On October 26th, the consultant teams met with County officials to kick off the project. McGough Construction Company has been retained as the Construction Manager at Risk to replace the clubhouse and pro shop buildings. Partners and Sirny Architects will team with McGough to perform the design work. Richard Mandell has included Loucks Associates to perform the Civil Engineering for the golf course renovation. The project schedule remains as planned with the course being open for play in 2012 until fall. Construction will begin in fall 2012, continue through 2013 and the course will reopen in spring 2014.

The initial meeting for the design committee is scheduled for the second week of December. Representatives from the Keller Women's Club, Keller Men's Club and the Parks and Recreation Commission have been appointed by their respective organizations to serve on the design committee. The design committee which also includes County staff and the consultants will meet throughout the winter and next spring to develop design options for the course improvements and building replacement.

Richard Mandell has requested people who may have old photos of the golf course to share them with him. He is interested in seeing features of the course from a historical perspective so he can recapture some of the lost original design ideas of course architect Paul Coates. Copies of the photos will be made and originals returned to the owner.

Questions regarding the Keller project and any photos should be forwarded to Kevin C. Finley, Project Manager, at kevin.finley@co.ramsey.mn.us or reach him by phone at 651-748-2500.