

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council Members
Steve Parker, City Manager

From: Bruce Allen, Golf Course General Manager

Through: Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Tree Removal Plan

Date: June 13th, 2024

As part of the golf course renovation plan the Ross Golf Design team recommended the removal of fifty-one trees. The trees were chosen for six specific reasons. A list of these trees can be viewed in the attachment. Seventeen of the trees were deemed a safety hazard by the architects. (Red List) Their classification of these trees as a safety hazard was confirmed by the three arborists who inspected the trees on behalf of the prospective renovation contractors. Eleven trees are scheduled for removal to accommodate the irrigation lake expansion. (Blue List) Five trees will be removed to allow the expansion of the driving range tee box and to make Hole # 3 at par five. (Orange List) The four palm trees along River Drive West are scheduled to be removed because the architects feel they are out of character for the course. (Yellow List) Eight trees are scheduled for removal due to shade issues. The architects believe it will be hard for the new turf to thrive under their shade. (Gray List) And the final six trees are scheduled for removal because of "playability" issues. The architects believe they detract from the character of each hole. (Green List) All fifty-one of these trees were outlined in red on the plans that were submitted to and approved of by the Golf Course Advisory Board. A plan has also been displayed for almost a year in the pro shop lounge for our golfers to view.

In consideration of some of the concerns expressed recently by our golfing community the Golf Advisory Board called a special meeting on June 12th to review the tree removal plan. At the meeting the Board discussed all the categories and every tree in the orange, yellow, gray, and green lists. After much discussion a vote was taken, and the Board unanimously agreed to the following: The seventeen trees deemed to be a safety hazard by the arborists will be removed. The eleven trees scheduled to be removed to accommodate the new irrigation lake addition will be removed. The five trees that interfere with the redesign of the driving range tee box and Hole # 3 will be removed. Six of the eight trees in the shade category will be saved and five of the six trees in the playability category will be saved. Notably the tree in front of # 13 green will be removed. This is the second time the Board has voted unanimously to remove it.

It has been suggested that we plant new trees to replace some of the trees scheduled for removal. We discussed this with our architectural team and Brian Ross wrote a letter to our City Manager explaining why he and his team are against adding trees back to the golf course. I have included his letter in an attachment.

And finally, a question has been raised about use of the fees that will be paid into Tree Trust Fund. According to *CHAPTER 5 – SITE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS Sec. 5.2.9 C 7 A tree trust fund shall be created for the purpose of purchasing, growing, and/or maintaining trees within the City limit. The Tree Trust Fund shall be administered by the Director of Planning in accordance with policies established by the Seguin City Council.* Our Director of Planning, Pamela Centeno, and our city management team are very interested in using the fees we pay into Tree Trust Fund to add trees to various properties within the city. City staff are currently working on a plan for the utilization of these funds that could include adding trees within the footprint of the golf course but outside the areas play.

If you have any questions or suggestions, we will be happy to address them at the next Council meeting.