

October 14, 2021

Dear Members;

The club is aware of a petition that has been created by a neighbor from the club's 5th hole who is opposed to the Club exploring the possibility of rerouting holes 4, 5, & 6. The Club takes the concerns of members and neighbors very seriously but the reality is misleading information is being disseminated and missing information being strategically left out.

First and foremost, Rye Golf Club is made up of members and employees who almost all, in one way or another, had to deal with the devastating impact of flooding from Ida. Rye Golf Club takes property flooding concerns extremely seriously.

Well before the events of Ida, RGC had hired an environmental engineer to assess the holes 4-5-6 project. The club also tasked this engineer with the specific goal of identifying every possible way in which the club's property could be used to reduce the flooding issues our neighbor's experience. If this project were to proceed, it will NOT be an "environmental disaster" as described in the petition. Instead the project will likely be a great benefit to many homes by helping to alleviate property flooding.

At the behest of our neighbors the club also hired a second highly qualified golf course architect to review the plans from a safety perspective. The reality is our proposal, according to experts, will be a safer experience for our members and neighbors in the area of 4-5-6. This second opinion also affirmed what many of our members have said at meetings and in a vote of the membership - that this renovation will be a better and safer golf experience as well.

It is true that RGC has worked to develop a course master plan in 2018 and 2019 with an estimated cost of \$5.7million to guide the club through golf course projects over the next decade. That plan includes extensive work across the entire property including irrigation replacement and improvement, bunker renovations, and other routine maintenance. The rerouting concept of 4-5-6, which includes bunkers renovations and irrigation improvements on those holes, could be completed for less than \$1million.

While it is unfortunate that trees would have to be removed or pruned to complete this project, if the project were to move forward, the club would include a tree replanting plan that would be approved by the city's planning commission – a process that has been completed at other large projects within the City of Rye. The club has already taken other concerns from the neighbors into account resulting in adjustments to our early draft of this concept. If the club were to choose to advance this plan more public meetings where concerned neighbors could speak would be hosted by the City Planning Commission and the City Council.

The golf club's staff and the golf club commission have discussed this project in public at public meetings many times over the last 2 years. The club's staff has also met in person with individual neighbors and groups of neighbors to discuss this project on and off the golf course.

The idea of advancing the planning stage was done with emails to our membership and specific public meetings to discuss this topic. We are still in the information gathering stage and will host public meetings to discuss this further once Rye Golf Club's consulting engineer has completed an environmental assessment of the proposed rerouting of holes 4-5-6.

In conclusion, putting a stop to exploring the concept of rerouting holes 4-5-6 would prevent the development of a plan that reduces property flooding for our neighbors and provides a safer golf course for both users and neighbors – all while improving the golf experience.

Terry McCartney
Rye Golf Club Commission Chair

Jim Buonaiuto
Rye Golf Club General Manager