

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. I'm Jim Burke, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

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Port Townsend City Council voted unanimously last evening to advance a vision and policy direction for the future of the Port Townsend municipal golf course. The decision comes after over 14 months of focused and intense community engagement including open houses, surveys, targeted meetings, and a regular stakeholder committee that met 13 times over the course of the past year. With the policy direction set by the City Council, staff will now work collaboratively and negotiate with an emerging non-profit organization on terms for operating the course and park.

Mayor David Faber said, "I recognize that this has been a challenging process for most of us with a range of perspectives to consider as part of the decision-making process. I'm encouraged that the vote tonight represents a creative solution and something for everyone, now and into the future. City Council looks forward to seeing the details emerge from staff negotiations with the community nonprofit as we put the vision into action."

The process this past year was a response to City Council direction to staff in late 2020 to enter into a 3-year operational agreement for golf, to investigate alternative use concepts for feasibility, and to develop and refine these concepts with broad community involvement, including the possibility of extended golf use. Engagement included, but was not limited to:

- An onsite project launch with over 100 participants
- Three sets of virtual and in-person open houses with hundreds of attendees
- An open house at the high school
- Three surveys with over 3000 participants
- Small group outreach to over a dozen groups
- Several City Council meetings and workshops during the 14-month engagement period

Director of Parks and Recreation Carrie Hite, in the City press release, said "I've been inspired by the level of engagement in Port Townsend, especially over the past year. In my entire professional career, I've never seen people show up in the numbers like they have in our community. I'd like to thank all those who have shared their perspectives and, in particular, members of the stakeholder group who worked really hard to identify common ground solutions."

A draft phasing and access plan was presented to City Council at their September 25 meeting. Find that plan at the last page of the 300-page packet below and here:

[https://cityofpt.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=4&event\\_id=3705&meta\\_id=219521](https://cityofpt.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=4&event_id=3705&meta_id=219521).

The four phases of the project would include (see next page):

Phase 1: 2024

Phase 2: 2025-2029

Phase 3: 2030-2034

Phase 4: 2035-2045

PHASE 1: 2024	PHASE 2: 2025 - 2029	PHASE 3: 2030-2034	PHASE 4: 2035-2045
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESTORE GOLF COURSE.</li> <li>PROVIDE COMMUNITY ACCESS + TRAILS.</li> <li>RELOCATE RECYCLERY TO GOLF COURSE SITE.</li> <li>PREPARE BASEMENT FOR COMMUNITY USE.</li> <li>APPLY FOR RCO GRANT TO FUND PLAYGROUND.</li> <li>COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES. NO PESTICIDES. MINIMAL IRRIGATION.</li> <li>RELOCATE TEE BOX 5 TO ACCOMMODATE FUTURE PLAYGROUND.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INSTALL PLAYGROUND.</li> <li>INSTALL MINIATURE GOLF COURSE.</li> <li>RENOVATE EXISTING PARKING LOT. PROVIDE ADA ACCESS.</li> <li>PROVIDE DISC GOLF / FOOTGOLF.</li> <li>PROVIDE YEAR-ROUND EVENT PROGRAMMING.</li> <li>PROVIDE AMPHITHEATER FOR EVENTS AT BASE OF DRIVING RANGE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INSTALL RESTORATION PLANTINGS SITE WIDE.</li> <li>CONSTRUCT BIRD BLIND.</li> <li>EXPAND RESTAURANT, FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CONSTRUCT PERMANENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING.</li> <li>CONSTRUCT COMMUNITY GARDEN TO SUPPORT PERMANENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING.</li> <li>VIRTUAL DRIVING RANGE.</li> <li>RELOCATE HOLES 5 + 6.</li> </ul>

\*Final arrangement of program elements to be coordinated with City and Lessee.

For more information visit the Envision the Port Townsend Golf Course and Mountain View Commons website (<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/envision-port-townsend-golf-course-and-mountain-view-commons>).

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Yesterday morning at approximately 9:25am there was a head-on collision on Highway 104 near the turnoff for Center Valley Road. A 78-year-old woman was driving a Toyota pickup eastbound on the highway when a passenger, a 26-year-old man was arguing with her and pulled the steering wheel to the right and she reacted by jerking the wheel to the left. This caused the truck to veer into the westbound lane and into the path of an oncoming Jeep Patriot, driven by a 22-year-old woman, causing a head on collision. Both vehicles were totaled and all three people involved sustained injuries. The driver and passenger in the Toyota truck were transported to Jefferson Hospital, and the woman in the Jeep was transported to St. Michaels in Silverdale. Traffic was slowed or stopped for a time while Washington State Patrol sorted everything out, and the 26-year-old man is being charged with reckless endangerment.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and noon on Saturday. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.