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Subject: Course Master Plan - A Beautiful Vision

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Dear Fellow Members,

Reasonable people can disagree. That is why I feel it is important to state the reasons which persuaded me that we must gather behind the beautiful vision of the proposed Course Master Plan and find a compromise to implement its most important elements.

Planning and investing for anything in life requires delaying immediate gratification for future needs. Some people are better equipped to plan for the future than others but there is little doubt that planning is an important component of any successful endeavour, be it a personal or collective one.

The vision which brought our club into existence was a great one, and I submit we are shirking our responsibility towards our founding members and our future ones, if we do not ensure that our golf course has the viable and sustainable infrastructure to withstand the most powerful force in the universe. That force is entropy which as we know moves only in one direction, i.e. everything moves from an ordered state to a disordered state unless work is done to prevent it. Do not let the magnificent but superficial beauty of our golf course fool you; it is in dire need of major investment in its infrastructure (greens, bunkers, irrigation, and practice facility) because as Ian Wetherly demonstrated on Saturday, we have underinvested in our golf course over the last twenty years. Does it make sense that we have invested more into our clubhouse (where we eat, drink, and change our shoes) than in the very reason for the existence of our club?

As someone who has been trained to assess risk, I do not easily go against the consensus of experts. In this case the experts are entirely on the side of bringing our greens to the highest industry standards, which means converting them to 100% bent grass with the appropriate drainage to withstand the ravages of our climate and the clear environmental movement towards reducing and even eliminating pesticides. It is clear in my mind that we are overdue for a 1 in 50 years event which will take out 6 or 7 greens for an entire golf season. And when that happens, we will without a doubt ask

ourselves why we didn't delay our gratification and invest in the future. I mention delaying our gratification because I believe the opposition within the membership which has arisen against the proposed Course Master Plan, is in large part based upon not wanting to lose full access to our beloved golf course for two years.

I say this without any intention of maligning or impugning the motivation of my fellow members because I understand that sentiment without reservation. Would I feel differently about my support for the Course Master Plan if I were older? I readily admit that it might be the case but I submit that if Mount Bruno's statement of values mean anything, it first and foremost means that we must put the interests of the club ahead of our own; I believe that if we do not follow the experts' advice, our club will over time bear a heavy burden. We will either suffer a major weather event which will take out many greens for an entire season, or the forces of entropy will inevitably continue to degrade our golf course, to the point that in 10 to 20 years, it will be unrecognizable.

I have spent much of my writing space here on the need to improve our infrastructure because once we accept that this is the major reason to undertake the proposed plan, the other elements of the plan fall naturally into place. If we agree that our greens need to be completely redone, we would be remiss if we didn't at the same time improve other elements of the golf course as presented by Andy Staples. Is the historical renovation of our golf course required? As Ian mentioned during his presentation, the answer is that some of the elements are a "nice to have", and I completely agree with that but it would be a missed opportunity of significant proportions not to try to improve on what we already have. Anyone who has played Pinehurst #2 after the Coore/Crenshaw renovation of 2011, will agree that the Donald Ross masterpiece was improved and brought up to one of the top 5 courses in the US. I believe Andy Staples and the long-range planning committee have brought us a similar opportunity. Am I willing to trade the "nice to have" for the "must have", absolutely but let's make that choice after full consideration.

The other reasons which have been raised against the plan certainly deserve to be addressed. As far as affordability, as mentioned above, if the membership felt comfortable spending over \$5M on a splendid restoration of our clubhouse, can there be any doubt that our course deserves at least twice as much to sustain it? And as far as the rising interest rate environment we find ourselves in, do not forget that rates are only returning to normal, and are far from being "high". Finally, regarding Mr. Staples' proposed routing change, if our members prefer to continue making the long walk between #11

and #12, instead of between the proposed new #18 (current #14) and the clubhouse, then so be it.

Simply put, my points in favour of the proposed Course Master Plan are:

1. In order to be sustainable, there is a consensus among industry experts that our golf course infrastructure requires at minimum the conversion of the greens to bent grass and reconstruction of our bunkers;
2. Undertaking #1, provides the club with the singular opportunity to concurrently implement an attractive historical renovation of the golf course at a relatively modest incremental cost;
3. A risk-based approach and Mount Bruno's statement of values (which, inter alia, calls for a well-maintained, sustainable golf course which is treated with respect and maintained at the highest level of playing conditions attainable in our climate) support the adoption and implementation of #1 & #2.

Thank you for reading this and thank you to the long-range planning committee for your dedication and commitment to our venerable club.

David Angel

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