

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

U.S. Open Community Legacy Project at Maggie Hathaway Golf Course

In June 2023, Los Angeles will host the U.S. Open Golf Championship for the first time in 75 years. To commemorate this significant event for the region, the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) in collaboration with the U.S. Golf Association and the 2023 U.S. Open host site, the Los Angeles Country Club, launched the FORE Youth: 2023 U.S. Open Community Legacy Project (Legacy Project) as a commitment to expand golf access to underserved and underrepresented youth in Los Angeles. The campaign aims to raise funds to expand youth programming and to make a significant investment in the infrastructure needed to expand access to the sport.

The Los Angeles County (County) Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has a strong commitment to diversify and grow the sport of golf, especially among communities of high need, youth of color, and women and girls. DPR's commitment has been demonstrated through their work to launch their first competitive golf sports program for middle-school youth and their free Golf in the Park program. DPR has also had a long-standing partnership with SCGA to provide youth with golf programs at County golf courses, including the Maggie Hathaway Golf Course (Maggie Hathaway), located in South Los Angeles, which has been selected as the site for the Legacy Project.

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In the racially segregated Los Angeles of the 1950s, the course's namesake Maggie Mae Hathaway was a widely admired African American sports columnist for the Black-owned Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper. In this role, she became a tireless local advocate for desegregating the game of golf and expanding access to golf for the Black community at a time when opportunities did not exist for people of color to participate in the game. In 1997, Jack Thompson Golf Course - where she had served as the director in the 1970s - was renamed the Maggie Hathaway Golf Course in her honor before her passing in 2001 at the age of 90.

First opened in 1962, Maggie Hathaway is a 9-hole, 1,008-yard, Par-3 golf course that occupies a roughly 16-acre site and shares parking with the neighboring Jesse Owens Community Regional Park. The site includes a small, 1,200-square-foot office building and 450-square foot concession stand. The facility also includes a driving range. On September 29, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved a ten-year lease agreement with American Golf of Glendale (AGG) for the operation and maintenance of the Chester Washington and Maggie Hathaway Golf Courses.

For decades, Maggie Hathaway has operated as an inclusive golf course focused on expanding golf access to Black and Latino youth. AGG operates Maggie Hathaway in partnership with Western States Golf Association (WSGA) and the Southern Area Youth Program, Inc. (SAYPI). Both WSGA and SAYPI focus on providing affordable programming and mentorship to the local community, especially young golfers.

The Legacy Project will include capital improvements that support Maggie Hathaway as a

place to learn the game of golf. The purpose of the proposed work is to improve the golf learning experience. The Legacy Project is anticipated to include a new practice pitching area and putting green, reconfiguration and renovation of the driving range, restoration of existing buildings and outdoor spaces, and other related improvements. Contingent on availability and sufficiency of funding, the Legacy Project may also include additional work such as a complete redesign and renovation of the 9-hole course by world-renowned golf course architect Gil Hanse and a new community building. Funding will also be set aside to support youth development golf programs, local partnerships, and maintenance of the improved amenities over time.

The FORE Youth Campaign, led by the SCGA and the Fore Youth Golf Foundation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, organized and operated for public and charitable purposes, has already secured generous pledges and commitments of approximately \$7,000,000 dollars from donors, and seeks to raise additional funds throughout the remainder of the year.

The Legacy Project is consistent with DPR's equity goals, detailed in the 2020-2025 Golf System Strategic Plan, which include expanding strategic partnerships, investing in development-based facilities, and expanding equity-focused programming. The campaign and partnership present a significant opportunity to support County-owned golf courses, like Maggie Hathaway, in expanding access and affordability to the sport and ensuring public golf facilities are available for youth and players of all levels across the County's diverse communities.

In order to formalize the partnership and implement the Legacy Project, the County, will enter

into a three-party donation agreement (Donation Agreement) with the Fore Youth Golf Foundation and current operator, AGG, to set forth, without limitation, the following terms and conditions:

- Fore Youth Golf Foundation will donate an initial amount of approximately \$7,000,000 to the County with the option to increase the donation amount to a total of approximately \$15,000,000 during the term of the agreement for the Legacy Project.
- DPR, the Fore Youth Golf Foundation, and AGG, will work together to develop, among other things: scopes of work and design; cost estimates and timelines for the Legacy Project consistent with the existing lease agreement between AGG and the County; DPR golf course guidelines; and secured funding available for the Legacy Project.
- AGG will implement and construct the Legacy Project in a manner consistent the existing lease agreement with the County and in coordination with Fore Youth Golf Foundation (and its project manager).
- Should the Lease be terminated for any reason, Fore Youth Golf Foundation and DPR will coordinate to ensure the Legacy Project is implemented consistent with the vision set forth herein and in the Donation Agreement.
- Fore Youth Golf Foundation will ensure coordinated and timely communication with DPR about the Legacy Project and all activities leading up to the U.S. Open Golf Championship.
- To promote the partnership, Fore Youth Golf Foundation and its partners will ensure that DPR and County Logos are included in all promotional materials related to the Legacy Project and activities leading up to the U.S. Open Golf Championship at Maggie Hathaway .

- The parties to the Donation Agreement will also coordinate, as appropriate, with SCGA, WSGA and SAYPI, and community stakeholders as the Legacy Project moves forward.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find that the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an activity that is excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) of the State. The proposed action is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment. Further, instruct the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to return to the Board, as necessary, for approval of any proposed capital projects and appropriate CEQA findings.
2. Instruct the Director of DPR, or her designee, to initiate discussions with the Fore Youth Golf Foundation, and American Golf of Glendale (AGG) to develop, among other things, scopes of work and design, cost estimates, and timelines for the FORE Youth: 2023 U.S. Open Community Legacy Project (Legacy Project) at Maggie Hathaway Golf Course and return to the Board for project approvals as necessary.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DPR, or her designee, to negotiate and execute a three-party donation agreement (Donation Agreement) among the Fore Youth Golf Foundation, AGG and Los Angeles County (County), approved as to form by County Counsel, in which, among other things: the Fore Youth Golf Foundation will initially donate approximately \$7,000,000 to the County with the option to increase the donation amount to a total of approximately \$15,000,000 during the term of the Donation Agreement; AGG will implement construction of the improvements in coordination with DPR and the Fore Youth Golf

Foundation; and the County will accept the donation and permit the improvements at Maggie Hathaway Golf Course.

4. Authorize the Director of DPR, or her designee, to execute any other ancillary documentation, approved as to form by County Counsel, necessary to effectuate and implement the Legacy Project and the Donation Agreement.
5. Authorize the Director of DPR, or her designee, to accept donation funds from Fore Youth Golf Foundation for the Legacy Project and deposit the funds into the Golf Capital Improvement Fund.

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