

City Council Workshop

Agenda Item #1

December 15, 2014

Waldorf Golf Grant

Kevin Adams, Recreation Coordinator and Rick Towle, Director of Parks and Recreation would like an opportunity to present the Waldorf Golf grant opportunity to the City Council. The grant would be geared towards updating the municipal golf course through alternative design concepts. In addition to design, the grant could be used for renovations to the course.

Please refer to Rick Towle's attached memorandum for more information.

  
City Manager



**Parks, Recreation & Waterfront**

# Memo

**To:** Jim Gailey  
**From:** Rick Towle  
**CC:** City Council, Kevin Adams  
**Date:** December 9, 2014  
**Re:** Collaborative Partnership with Wadsworth Foundation for Municipal Golf Course

---

The Department was contacted by a non-profit foundation specializing in design, building, and updating nine hole municipal golf courses called the Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation based upon finding articles published locally regarding our seeking to study how we can improve our course. Their goal and philosophy states that "In golf, as in successful living, there is a unique emphasis on the gentle behavior of qualities of self- discipline, culture and etiquette, in order to conform to a higher standard of propriety and respect between human being. Golf also embodies the qualities of charity, a lenient judgment of others and the opportunity for enriching the lives of all who come in contact with the game." The Department believes in these values surrounding the game of golf so when they offered to partner up with us to improve the course it seemed to us like a good opportunity.

Our specific request is to gain permission from the City Council to enter into a partnership with the Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation to do the following at their cost:

1. Permit us to use their prequalified professional architects under contract to write a report as well as perform preliminary design concepts that identify safety issues, advise us about how to improve play, and design infrastructure changes that meet our needs today in and in the future.
2. Permit after consultation with the City Council, City Manager and Public to utilize their golf architect to make construction documents so that agreed upon changes can be planned and implemented over time as funding allows.
3. Permit the Department to oversee their prequalified golf construction contractors to perform the work as is able to be funded so as to insure the quality and standards of the architect and foundation are met.

4. Allow the foundation and its funding supporters related to the project to display a sign at the course to recognize their contribution to the updating of the facility and our partnership.

The Department's goal for the Golf Course is to become the top community based golf learning center in Southern Maine. An Action Plan has been developed internally to move the course in that direction. Among the challenges identified within such a plan are the courses current layout, safety, and lack of practice/teaching areas. In specific, there are teaching areas, not at the course, which are needed, including a practice putting area, chipping area, and driving facility. Wadsworth Golf Charities Foundation has valuable expertise to offer us so we can incorporate safe, accessible practice areas into the footprint of the golf course, a redevelopment of holes, and redesign course layout is necessary. Partnering with an established golf development organization, the Wadsworth Golf Foundation, will provide funding and a network of industry suppliers to bring the Golf Course to the desired goal.

Please see the foundations website [www.wadsworthgolffoundation.org](http://www.wadsworthgolffoundation.org) for more information.

Please see the website [www.davidjohnsongolfdesign.com](http://www.davidjohnsongolfdesign.com) for more information on the Golf Course Architect who would most likely be assigned by the Wadsworth Foundation to develop the plans for the renovation project.

Please go to [www.Buttonhole.org](http://www.Buttonhole.org) and watch the video about Buttonhole Golf Course in Providence Rhode Island. This course is very similar to the direction that we would like to take The South Portland Municipal Golf Course. The Wadsworth Foundation partnered with this course, and David Johnson Golf Design was the Golf Course Design Company who designed the renovation.

**Take Care,**



**Rick Towle**  
**Director**



## **Action Plan**

**Objectives - Become the top golf learning center in Southern Maine**

### **Program Offerings**

- The First Tee Youth Development Program
- Junior Golf Programs
- Adult Lessons for Beginners and Experienced Players
- Socials/Scrambles for Beginners and Intermediate Players

### **Infrastructure Needs**

- Practice Putting Greens & Chipping Areas
- Driving Area or Range
- Green Repair/Hole Re-alignment
- Updated Classroom Facilities
- Clubhouse Needs – Re-location? New Flooring and Counter
- Parking Areas
- Irrigation Updates
- Land Purchases
- Restroom Facilities Updated
- Cart Options
- Food & Beverage Operations
- Pro Shop Sales & Needs