



Memo

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Dan Garvy, Director of Parks & Recreation

Date: March 14, 2024

Re: River Bend Golf Club Restaurant Request for Proposals Summary and License Agreement

The Park District received two proposals to operate the restaurant at River Bend Golf Club. We were hoping for more participation in the process because several interested parties contacted staff for more information. I followed up with all of them and some of the reasons I was given for not participating in our process included the agreement is too long, the park district would need to agree to make facility improvements as part of any license agreement, that timing just is not conducive, that "we're looking into other opportunities," etc.

The two proposals received were from Mr. Ramon Aguirre and Crane Golf, Inc. Mr. Aguirre and his family operated Bella Notte in Chicago for almost 28 years, having closed just last summer due to ongoing challenges with the City of Chicago. Crane Golf operates restaurants at golf courses in Elgin and an ice rink in Addison, having previous experience elsewhere. Both interested parties demonstrated extensive restaurant operations experience, and the internal review committee of Commissioners Hummel and Tapella; Superintendents Cerutti, Pratscher and Silver; and me viewed both as capable of operating a successful restaurant at River Bend.

Comparing the proposals from Mr. Aguirre and Crane Golf, Inc., each one is seeking a five-year initial term. However, based on the offers from both interested parties it was the unanimous consensus of the internal review committee to conduct due diligence and begin negotiations with Mr. Aguirre. References provided gave stellar reviews of Mr. Aguirre's integrity, attention to detail, restaurant cleanliness, friendly nature, food and service quality, and positive reputation within the restaurant industry. At the time of the writing of this memo we had not finalized the terms of a license agreement and staff recommends discussing our due diligence under Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Aguirre's attorney is reviewing the license agreement and will communicate any concerns. When asked if we should expect any red flags, I was told we should not. Once his attorney completes his review of the agreement, park district legal counsel and I will review any requested modifications and report to the internal committee and the Park Board. It is our hope to work out any remaining details prior to the meeting of March 21 when we expect to discuss our due diligence in closed session, followed by discussion in open session about whether the Park Board wants to authorize a license agreement and/or discuss next steps.

Thank you.

Action Taken at March 21, 2024 Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners:

Commissioner Hummel moved to authorize a food and beverage license agreement between the Lisle Park District and Aquirre Family Hospitality, LLC as discussed and in substantially the same form as presented in the Request for Proposals subject to final park district attorney review and approval. Commissioner Tapella seconded.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Hummel, Tapella, Wessel, Dombroski

Nays: Altpeter

Absent: None

Motion Passed.