



Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association

July 20, 2022

Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Statement of Support for Passing the Hiawatha Golf Course Property Master Plan

To the MPRB:

The Standish & Ericsson neighborhoods are bound on the north by 36th Street, on the east by Hiawatha Avenue, on the south by Minnehaha Parkway and on the west by Cedar Avenue. We are home to both Lake Hiawatha and Hiawatha Golf course. We currently have over 4300 households and more than 10,000 residents.

On behalf of the Standish Ericsson community we represent, the SENA board of directors is in favor of moving ahead with the major aspects of the Hiawatha Golf Course Property Master Plan as outlined in the Park Board's overall "Parks for All" Comprehensive Plan.

We endorse the Master Plan because it meets the MPRB's own criteria as adopted in its Comprehensive Plan: "Make golf courses and golf course buildings welcoming multi-use recreational and ecological facilities."

The Master Plan process was begun by the Park Board in 2015, after the extensive damage caused by the flooding in 2014, that ultimately cost 1.5 million dollars to repair. MPRB assembled focus groups, formed committees, and took hours of testimony and comments from the community. After several options were considered, the MPRB ultimately selected the current modified 9-hole, 36-par course and multi-use plan.

It is our understanding that the Master plan will:

- Mitigate flooding through establishment of natural wetlands in order to reduce the over 400 million gallons of groundwater pumping required to maintain 18 holes.
- Preserve golf at Hiawatha Golf Course through conversion to a 9-hole, championship-level course
- Help mitigate the inflows of pollutants into Lake Hiawatha.
- Meet the MPRB metric of inclusion and accessibility , including ADA compliance, through the addition of year round recreational features.
- Honor the history of Black Golfers in Minneapolis through meaningful educational exhibits and youth outreach efforts.

- Other features of the Master Plan will also elevate and honor the original stewards of the land Hiawatha Golf course is built upon: the Dakota people.
- Reflect the results of overwhelming community input, engineering surveys, vetted information and the recent election of a new slate of commissioners who ran on supporting the Master Plan.

In addition, the MPRB Community Engagement Policy adopted in 2019 highlights promises from the MPRB to its constituents: to acknowledge and act upon stakeholder feedback into the Master Plans. We believe further delay is harmful to our neighborhood, our natural resources, and our quality of life.

We understand that this plan is not universally embraced. However, the MPRB's surveys have shown majority support for change and more inclusion at the Golf Course Property. We believe the Master Plan is the best path forward and that more inaction and delay harms the goals of both those who support the Master plan and those who don't.

Sincerely,

Standish-Ericsson Board Members

Nathan Shepherd, President

Tae Whang, Co-Treasurer

David Austin, Secretary

Carol Dungan, Member

N.P. Cichowicz, Vice President

Megan Drake-Pereyra, co-Treasurer

Brynn Kasper, Member