

## Oro Valley Golf Recommendation

At the Feb 7 meeting, the town council was presented the recommendation to support two 18 hole golf courses and invest \$4MM for repairs. To evaluate this recommendation everyone must understand that the current operation consists of two completely different business models, one is a Municipally funded Country Club, and the other is a Traditional Daily Fee Municipal Course.

So why, as the Town Manager suggests, are we, the Public, forced to fund the present losses plus spend an additional \$4 million for upgrades at two golf courses? The ONLY conceivable reason for the second course is to provide a separate and exclusive golf course for the Country Club Members. Some believe the revenue from Country Club Memberships is the glue that holds the golf course financials in place. (Surprisingly, this is the same argument put forward by the membership). But this is true only if this revenue covers the entire cost of operating a separate golf course. If it does not, as the records show, the loss requires a subsidy from the community.

If the number of courses were based on demand, the total yearly rounds played on both courses at 42,000 rounds, would be easily satisfied by one 18 hole course. Some on the Council say golf is a public benefit and deserves a subsidy, but does a Country Club that serves only a few citizens really qualify as a Public Benefit? Many of us believe it does not. .

Is it the responsibility of the entire community to be taxed to subsidize a lifestyle for only a few hundred residents? Certainly, a golf course is an asset to the adjacent properties, but changing underused courses to linear parks, family biking and walking trails, will also support property values and benefit the entire community.

**BOTTOM LINE.....**A single Municipal 18 hole golf course, (with two 9 holes loops), is the best solution.. The size meets the need, decreases operating costs, all golfers experience affordable golf, and junior and senior play is offered. Most importantly, the Sales Tax revenue can then be used to renovate the Community Center as we were originally told..

Dick Leonard