



**SOUTH PARK GOLF CLUB**  
2539 South Park Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14218

**For Immediate Release: April 15, 2019**  
**Contact: South Park Golf Club at SouthParkGCNY@yahoo.com**

## **South Park Golf Club Issues Statement Regarding Potential Move of Course Out of South Park**

On April 13, 2019, the South Park Golf Club sent the below letter to Mr. Kevin Gaughan of the Nicklaus Olmsted Buffalo, Inc. regarding the potential closure of the current South Park Golf Course in Buffalo and the building of a new course at an adjacent parcel of land. The Golf Club will not be responding to any media inquiries and the below letter will stand as the statement of the Club at this time on the matter.

In response to the below letter, on Sunday April 14 Mr. Gaughan contacted the golf club and graciously offered that 2 members of our club join his Advisory Council and he looks forward to presenting his plans before the club members at a future public meeting.

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April 13, 2019

Mr. Kevin Gaughan  
Nicklaus Olmsted Buffalo, Inc.  
2140 N. Forest Road, Suite 301  
Getzville, New York 14086-1503

**By E-Mail – [info@nicklausolmstedbuffalo.org](mailto:info@nicklausolmstedbuffalo.org)  
and Regular Mail**

Re: Future of the South Park Golf Course and our Club

Dear Mr. Gaughan:

We write to express our disappointment in the lack of communication, or even any discussion at all, with the users of the South Park Golf Course (“Course”) as you and others discuss the possible moving of the Course out of South Park. We are also distressed by those who disregard the viewpoint of the current users of the course, or those who say our little 9 hole course is “just a golf course” and why would we care about the future of the course.

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In case you are not aware, the members of the South Park Golf Club are the majority of the users of the Course, We are proud of the Course and our club's history. We are a member club of the United States Golf Association, New York State Golf Association, Buffalo District Golf Association, WNY Public Links Golf Association, and in fact are an original signatory to the Buffalo District Golf Association.

The Course has a proud and long history. Opened in 1915, the Course was the second golf course open to the public in WNY after Delaware Park and was the first for those who lived and worked in the burgeoning mills in south Buffalo, Lackawanna and the southtowns. The Club has a proud history and for decades was the club for members of the public to join. Stories from the 1930s and 1940s *Courier-Express* describe how thousands came out to watch the final day of our club championship, and those who won that tourney were recognized as being one of the best amateur golfers in our region.

Our members come from all walks of life and are proud of our little Course because it is more than a golf course to us. For most of us it was the first place we played a round of golf, perhaps with a deceased parent or grandparent, learned life lessons that make us the men and women we are today, and the place we come to together to celebrate life, or as we did last year, mourn the unexpected loss of a cherished member and friend.

The Course may not be Augusta National, but we have our own "Amen Corner" when you play the fourth, fifth and sixth holes, holes that often make or break a player's round, match, or chance at winning the club championship. It is the place we come to enjoy a game we all love, meet lifelong companions we call friends, and then sit on the patio and watch the most beautiful sunsets you can ever see in Western New York. It is the place where lifetimes of our memories have been made, and after our families, the place and people we love more than any other.

With that being said, our members are not opposed to the moving of the golf course out of South Park if a new course that is equal to or better than the current one is built nearby, is still affordable for our members and the golfing public, and our club will still be considered the home club for the new course.

In regards to the first point, considering there are approximately 107 total acres of land at Hopkins Street location Nicklaus Olmsted Buffalo, Inc. purchased, perhaps no more than 75 of which are usable, we question what type of course would be built – would it be a nine hole course, an 18 hole "executive" course or a regulation 6,500 yard or greater 18 hole course?

For example, published reports and your own statements have noted that a "world class championship" golf course would be built, as well as a full scale practice facility, clubhouse and workforce training facility. However, we seriously question how a regulation golf course could be built on such a small portion of land when 18 hole golf courses require at least 150 acres of land, and most new courses are being built on 180 acres or more parcels of land. Perhaps you intend to purchase additional land, but if not we question how anything other than a 9 hole course could be built on the land you recently acquired.

We are also very concerned about the cost to play such a "world class" course if it is built. Golf courses are very labor intensive to maintain, and in today's environment where courses are closing because of the inability to break even, nevertheless to make a profit, we question how a world class facility could succeed without charging rates that would preclude our members from playing it.

Currently the Course is owned by the City of Buffalo and managed by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Inc. The cost for our members and the general public is affordable for our members. The vast majority of our members cannot afford to join a private course or even pay the annual fees being charged at higher-end public courses in WNY. Therefore if the Course is moved to a new one we are very

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concerned our members would not only lose their beloved Course but they then would not be able to afford to play the new course. We therefore seek assurance that the cost for our members to play if such a course is built would continue to be affordable for not only our members but the golfing public in general.

We also question what role would the South Park Golf Club have, if any, at a new facility? As stated, the Club has been a fixture of the southtowns' golfing community dating to when our great-grandparents played at the Course. Our members not only play on the Course, but recently have performed major renovations to the clubhouse and the course: the current clubhouse's patio roof was installed by the members, the interior has been repaired and painted by the members, and annually we perform a major cleanup of the park and Course.

We have a proud tradition of golfers who played on the Course through the years, members who have gone on to compete in major local, state and national tournaments (including our 2006 and 2010 club champion Liam Friedman who will be competing at the PGA Professional Championship at the end of this month with an invitation to the PGA Championship on the line), and we would hate to see that tradition end with the closure of the current Course.

Therefore, we would like written assurance that the South Park Golf Club would be designated as the official golf club for whatever new course is built as a replacement for the current one. This also includes assurance that our club would retain priority in reserving tee times for all of our monthly weekend tournaments, as well as our Tuesday and Thursday Skins games. Our members currently support the Course and we would be disappointed if after a new course is built our Club is shut out from holding our events, thereby leading to our Club's demise.

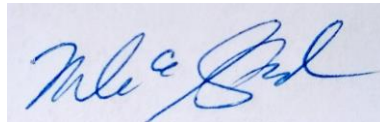
The members of the South Park Golf Club hope you will not just discuss this matter with us but consider us a necessary partner as you continue in your efforts. We believe our voice and opinion not only matters, but must be heard as this process moves forward.

To discuss this further please contact the undersigned at \*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*.

Sincerely yours,

South Park Golf Club

By:



Mark Staniszewski, President

cc: Hon. Byron W. Brown, Mayor  
Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz, County Executive  
Jack Nicklaus, c/o Nicklaus Design  
Peter Hunt, Nicklaus Olmsted Buffalo, Inc.  
Stephanie Crockatt, Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy

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