

**From:** [Friends of Toronto Golf Courses](#)  
**To:** [General Government Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Alex Deighan](#); [Craig Loughry](#); [Mayor Chow](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] Committee Meeting October 2: Agenda Item GG6.17  
**Date:** October 1, 2023 12:39:05 PM

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Re: Agenda Item GG6.17

My name is Lucy Falco and I am the Chief Golf Advocate writing on behalf of a group I organized and represent called Friends of Toronto Golf Courses. We are a group of Torontonians that are passionate about Toronto's municipal courses, we are not funded by industry or any group. We are completely grass (or turf) roots led.

Our group followed the operational review closely and submitted suggestions to the review team prior to the Council motions passed in February 2022. We saw the review as an opportunity to improve public golf by undertaking a long-term plan for golf, environmental sustainability and community inclusion into these green spaces.

We are excited to learn about the proposal from Thistle Golf Inc. being considered by the Committee.

Having reviewed the proposal details made public for the agenda, we believe the plans put forth by Thistle meet the objectives to transform Toronto's golf courses into a progressive world class model for municipal golf.

We are particularly supportive of the commitment to reducing barriers to participation, Indigenous placemaking, and expansion for other uses during non-golf times. Though we are enthusiastic golfers, we have a strong commitment to making these green spaces more accessible to all residents through learning the game and using the areas during non-golf times. We would love to see an Indigenous presence at the courses to celebrate and learn the history of the land, the culture and further Indigenous participation in the game.

The game has never been more popular and Toronto's public courses provide affordable access to the game for residents of all demographics. Some of us are regular players at Scarlett Woods, where we see a young visible minority autistic man escorted to the course by his mother on transit to play. We see an older Asian couple where a spouse with dementia is driven by his wife on the power cart to play nine holes as best as he remembers every week. We see 90 year olds who gather weekly at the course to play from April to November. And we see 7-year olds with bags of collected coins hoping to buy golf balls at the pro shop.

The course Leagues are packed with older women, many of whom live alone and for whom their weekly golf game is their main social outlet. We also see an increasing number of youth playing the game and we believe programs such as First Tee are the ideal forum to provide opportunities for youth mentorship and personal growth.

Municipal golf in Toronto is a key recreational offering that is highly valued by so many of us with the benefit of much needed revenue generation for the City. We believe Thistle Golf's action plan will achieve our objectives of rendering the courses more accessible and enable them to continue to enhance the quality of life in our city for young and old.

Lucy Falco

Friends of Toronto Golf Courses