

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES 2022

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING METRO PARKS PROPOSAL TO
REPURPOSE CHEROKEE GOLF COURSE PURSUANT TO
LOUISVILLE METRO CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 42.44.**

SPONSORED BY: SPONSORSHIP WITHDRAWN

WHEREAS, Metro Parks recommends that Cherokee Golf Course be repurposed and seeks the approval of Metro Council to do so pursuant to Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances (“LMCO”) § 42.44; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks currently operates Cherokee Golf Course and Cherokee Golf Course is the only golf course currently operated by Metro Parks; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks sought requests for proposals in 2019 to operate the golf course; and

WHEREAS, Olmstead Parks Conservancy was the only respondent for a 2019 Request for Proposals for Metro Golf Courses; and

WHEREAS, Olmstead Parks Conservancy’s plan creates an active and diverse parklands instead of continuing to operate the land as a golf course; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks does not have the resources to continue to operate the golf course and must rely on an outside organization to operate the land; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks financial records indicate that, since 2011, golf has lost \$1,614,200 with Cherokee being responsible for \$532,422 of that deficit; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee has operated at a deficit for 9 out of the last 10 years, with its only profitable year coming in fiscal year 2021 when it showed a \$60,000 profit because it operated the course with staff reassigned from other divisions, while the cost of those staff remained covered by their respective divisions; and

WHEREAS, the enterprise relationship of all Metro owned golf courses means that Cherokee Golf Course continues to strain the finances of the other golf courses; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks has identified nearly \$1.1 million in deferred maintenance needs to the Cherokee Golf Course clubhouse, maintenance facility, and cart barn; and

WHEREAS, the nine hole golf course at Crescent Hill is located 2.8 miles away from Cherokee Golf Course and offers a similar golf experience; and

WHEREAS, Crescent Hill has also struggled over the years with revenue and rounds played, and would benefit from anticipated play if Cherokee Golf Course were to close; and

WHEREAS, the Olmsted Parks Conservancy has pledged to pay homage to the historical nature of the course in the development of the land and will engage the public on how to do this; and

WHEREAS, among those who spoke at public meetings (85 people) and submitted written feedback (245 people), 55% supported the Olmsted proposal, 42% supported maintaining Cherokee as a golf course, and 3% supported other options; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks has complied with the provisions of LMCO § 42.44 to repurpose Cherokee Golf Course by holding two properly advertised public hearings, receiving public comments on the repurposing of Cherokee Golf Course, and supplying Metro Council all the necessary information and documents in support of its request for approval; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks supports its request by providing the public interest reasons for repurposing the golf course, the intended future uses for the golf course, the relevant public hearing notices, and the financial records for Cherokee Golf Course, as compared to all Metro golf courses, for the previous ten (10) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (“METRO COUNCIL”) AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: Pursuant to LMCO § 42.44, Metro Council approves Metro Parks’ proposal to repurpose Cherokee Golf Course consistent with Olmstead Parks Conservancy’s 2019 Request for Proposals for Metro Golf Courses response.

SECTION II: That the Mayor and other appropriate officers and employees of Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government are authorized and directed to execute, acknowledge and deliver on behalf of Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government any and all papers, instruments, certificates, affidavits and other documents, and to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for the repurposing of Cherokee Golf Course.

SECTION III: This Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and approval or otherwise becoming law.

Sonya Harward
Metro Council Clerk

David James
President of the Council

Greg Fischer
Mayor

Approval Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Michael J. O'Connell
Jefferson County Attorney

By: _____

R-082-22 Resolution Approving the Repurposing of Cherokee Golf Course jdf 051122