

sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/tamarac/fl-tamarac-golf-20100323,0,2536426.story

South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

Tamarac advisory board nixes golf course-to-housing plan

Issue headed to City Commission for consideration

By Lisa J. Huriash, Sun Sentinel

5:07 PM EDT, March 23, 2010

TAMARAC

Woodmont residents managed to do what Colony West residents could not – persuade a city advisory board to turn down a plan to replace a golf course with housing.

To cheers, hoots and hollers, the Tamarac Planning Board voted 5-1 Tuesday to deny the Woodmont Country Club rezoning request. The issue will still go to the City Commission, but residents said they already feel victorious.

In the board's chambers, Joanna Rohrback held aloft a warning sign: "Protect our homes, we'll save your jobs."

Asked why her side prevailed, when Colony West didn't, she theorized, "There is more clout in our community, more revenue."

In Woodmont, a builder proposed 255 single-family houses and nearly 61,000 square feet of commercial space for offices and restaurants. The Pines course would be closed, leaving only the Cypress course.

Before Tuesday's vote, residents complained about pollution and losing their golf course views.

"There is no better place to live" because of the view, Lee Viverette said. "This plan destroys that."

Three years ago, residents defeated an earlier plan for housing. Justin Schmidt, son of Woodmont owner Mark Schmidt, argued it's time for an economic revival.

"If you have a club struggling to survive, it does not benefit anybody," he said.

Last week, despite the presence of about 200 protesters, the same board voted to recommend approving the rezoning of The Glades course in Colony West. The plan was for 422 homes and townhomes, plus 51,900 square feet of commercial property, but the board recommended approving fewer units.



Happy. Secure. Inspired.

5-week Summer Program & 2010-11 School Year Grades 7-12

- Since 1968
- SACS Accredited
- Small Setting
- College Prep
- ADHD & LD
- Scholarships

Center Academy
 "Your Child's Link to the Future"
www.centeracademy.com • 954-575-1251
 Coral Springs • 4700 Riverside Drive

Stan Sudler, a member of the planning board, said he could not explain why he voted to deny the project at Woodmont, but approve the one at Colony West.

"I can't tell you," he said. "It's personal as far as I am concerned."

One board member who voted against the Woodmont rezoning is Pamela Le Melle, who lives in Woodmont's Avalon Estates. Although she said she doesn't live on a golf course, her neighbors do.

She said that didn't sway her vote. It was based on "too many communities [proposed] in a small area."

The City Commission will discuss Woodmont on April 14 and the Colony West development plan on April 15. Their votes on both projects will either end negotiations, or move the plans along to county and state officials for approvals.

Lisa J. Huriash can be reached at lhuriash@SunSentinel.com or 954-572-2008.

Copyright © 2010, [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#)