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Tamarac board OKs housing on golf course

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By Lisa J. Huriash, Sun Sentinel
6:09 p.m. EDT, March 18, 2010

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TAMARAC

The owners of the Colony West golf courses are one hole closer to turning one of them into housing.

The city's planning board voted 4-1 Thursday afternoon to recommend that the City Commission approve the plan, on the condition that the number of units is trimmed. The proposal calls for 422 homes and townhomes, plus 51,900 square feet of commercial property.

The owner of the course, the Edward Rack Corp., proposed closing The Glades course. Located south of McNab Road between Pine Island and Nob Hill roads, it abuts the Spyglass, Westwood II, Plum Bay and Plum Harbor developments.

City staff initially approved the plan, saying it would generate \$1.8 million for the city in building permit fees alone. Colony West's second course, The Championship, will still operate, but Rack's attorney threatened to close it, too, if the plan for The Glades isn't approved, saying the company is losing money.

Nearby resident Michael Jacobs said he bought his house in 2008 because it was on a golf course. He thought it would stay that way.

"I feel like a crime victim," he said at the meeting. "Our property values are going to go down. ... There are more than maps involved, there are people's financial futures."

About 200 residents attended the meeting to oppose the plan for The Glades. They complained of traffic and the impact on schools, as well as the loss of their view.

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But the board wasn't swayed. "I would rather see one good golf course here than two that are falling apart," said Joan Hinden, the chairwoman.

The City Commission will discuss the development plan on April 15.

Golf course space is dwindling in Tamarac. Two former golf courses near Florida's Turnpike, Sabal Palm and Monterey, are scheduled for residential use.

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vweres at 4:39 PM March 18, 2010

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