

Kuhlmann, Kay

From: John Kjolhaug <JKjolhaug@vitaplus.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2013 9:02 AM
To: Kuhlmann, Kay; Egan, Dennis; Sebion, Jason; Bayley, Lisa; Hove, Dean; Schultz, Michael; Rehder, Peggy; Rauterkus, Ralph; Meinke, Marilyn
Cc: robbrutledge@msn.com
Subject: Dr. Robb Rutledges' letter to council and chair regarding MNGL

Red Wing City Council,

Dr. Robb Rutledge asked that I forward this email to you regarding MNGL.

John Kjolhaug
RWMGC

To: Red Wing City Council
Re: Mississippi National Golf Links

Dear Council Members:

I am writing at the request of the local non-profit Red Wing Municipal Golf Corporation about the future of Mississippi National. I am not a member of this group, but am in sympathy with its goals. I would like you to consider the story of Detroit Country Club, in Detroit Lakes, Mn. It is my home course, my home town, and I think has many parallels to Red Wing and Mississippi National.

Detroit Country Club (DCC) is a public golf course, owned by the City of Detroit Lakes. It is managed by a board of approximately 12 or so elected non-paid citizens who oversee the hiring of a superintendent for the maintenance of the grounds, the hiring of a pro to run the pro shop, the leasing and renting of golf carts, and the leasing of the kitchen, bar and dining / banquet facilities. They have been running the course since the early 1930's in this way, through good times and bad, through an expansion to 36 holes in the 1970's, through the building of a new modern clubhouse in the 1990's, and have never asked the City of Detroit Lakes for a penny! In fact they have at times set aside up to 13% of their budget in escrow to give back to the city.

In other words, for better than 80 years, DCC has found a way to do this. Is it not possible that Red Wing, a much larger city much nearer a major population area, could also find a way?

I challenge you to think outside the box. Find reasons for non-golfers to come to Mississippi. What would bring YOU there? How about a good new restaurant? (Red Wing could use another!) The horticulture society could get involved in wildflower and garden planning. The Audubon society could get involved. The Friends of the Bluff just received a huge grant for Memorial Bluff - what about walking and nature trails at Mississippi? Make it truly a Red Wing public space for all citizens.

You are sitting on a rare and unique asset. Your council president was recently quoted in the Republican Eagle that you are poised to do great things this coming year. We are also poised, and waiting for you. Let's get started.

Sincerely,

Robb G. Rutledge