

Notes for Aug. 22 Meeting

There has been a lot of discussion about the expense of operating our amenities, especially the pool and golf courses, and where the funds can be better spent. All the talk about the perceived financial woes of Holiday Island revolves around the assessment of benefits, with no mention of amenity fees. Bear in mind, amenity fees represent 45% of the budget.

Holiday Island can best be described as a lifestyle community. That means the residents share similar social, recreational and fitness interests and activities. At Holiday Island, we enjoy amenities, facilities and programs tailored to those interests. We are also by definition a rural community, with all the joys and problems that come with that.

What are the consequences of closing the rec center complex and the golf courses? What happens to property values when potential buyers first impression, at Hiway 23 and Holiday Island Drive, is an ugly, overgrown two miles of weeds? Even the rumor of a golf course closing lowers property values. What's the plan to take care of the property? The Rec Center building has served its purpose for nearly 50 years. It's time for a new, smaller, more efficient facility that will provide an attractive addition of our District. The Island Room has worked as a fallback, but isn't the long-term solution. For public safety, the staff needs to be closer to the pools. Revenue from Island Room rentals has been lost.

How do you replace income from vacationers who see a decline in the activities that bring them here? The money they spend here is important to our community. We are seeing interest and improvements in our commercial areas. Vacationers are important partners in the success of those businesses.

The ramifications of losing our amenities and the income they produce cannot be overstated. Do we really want a 45% decrease in our budget?