



Bobby Jones Golf Club, Rosemary District could see improvements



Posted: Tuesday, September 3, 2017

SARASOTA, FL (WWSB) - Among the big discussions at Monday night's City Council meeting was whether or not to spend more money for the city owned Bobby Jones Golf Club and more affordable housing in the Rosemary District.

Commissioners are talking about what to do with a consultant's suggested \$21 million dollar improvement at the course. They don't plan to spend that much on it, but they are looking into various ways to fund several enhancements.

The only commissioner to vote against it was Hagen Brody who referenced the millions of dollars the complex has lost over the past ten years.

"I didn't feel like we were presented enough viable options for us to move forward and what my fear is that we are going to shelve this project and do nothing and continue to lose half-million dollars every year at the Bobby Jones Golf Club, when we really should be taking steps forward," said Brody.

Monday night's meeting also had city commissioners taking the first steps toward building affordable workforce housing in the Rosemary District.

The city agreed to \$3 million toward a project called "The lofts on Lemon" at Lemon Ave. and 9th St.

William Russell, Sarasota Housing Authority President, said this project will be affordable to a wide range of people.

"On the high end, up to the area median income of \$44,000 and then some tax credit units that will be about 60% of that, and then some units for extremely low income families," explained Russell.

Russell hopes for a combination of city, state, federal and private funding will make the plan a reality.