

The owner and county commissioners are planning to turn Pebble Creek golf course into a Brownfields Redevelopment site.

They are rushing the process with 2 hearings less than 24 hrs apart (Nov 30 and Dec 2nd) with a vote on Dec 16 2020. This is a blatant attempt to “back door” the rezoning of our golf course for development of apartments and houses. If the commissioners vote for the Brownfield designation they have to then approve the rezoning, approving construction for development or it’s “waste, fraud and abuse” of tax payer funds.

A quick look at Google maps will show that Pebble Creek is already by far the most densely populated community in the area. Development will eliminate all of the green space of the neighborhood, something no commissioner or zoning board should vote for. Brownfield designations are for underutilized commercial and industrial sites to stimulate the economy and revitalize the neighborhood and degrading eyesores. Pebble creek doesn't qualify as any of those, in fact the development will make our neighborhood WORSE and would be an example of “waste, fraud and abuse” if approved.

Pebble Creek is not underutilized. The owner claims he put apartments on the driving range to “make the course better”. Yet in 15 years he still hasn't figured out how to grow grass on more than half the tee boxes. It is amazing as many golfers play here as they do, with playing on dirt. Conditions found nowhere else! The owner has no plans to make the course better as it was just a real estate investment. He also closed his driving range in Brandon and built apartments on it.

The contaminants on the golf course pose **NO** health hazard as it now exists. The main contaminant is arsenic. The standard to treat arsenic contamination is to plant grass and sod and **NOT** dig in the area. Digging creates aerosol arsenine gas which can travel for hundreds of yards all over Pebble Creek, Cross Creek and Live Oak effecting thousands of homes, homeowners and their children and pets who are most at risk. Health effects of arsenic dust are: **Cancer of skin, liver and bladder/respiratory compromise/ weakness/kidney damage/numbness & pain in extremities/ heart disease/diabetes**

I suggest the residents of the area retain Personal Injury attorneys to hold the owner, cleanup/ remediation company and the county commissioners responsible. The owners lawyer and clean up company tried to smooth over the situation by saying it would be “small areas” and that they'd keep the dust down by keeping the soil wet. It is impossible to keep it wet 24/7 for the clean-up of all the tee boxes and greens. It is ludicrous to think of the amount of dust blowing over our communities once the bull-dozing of the entire golf course as the fairways are contaminated too.