Golf: Like I know anything about Golf

This is more about how I learn and less about golf, which I know little about.

A golfer plays pool with my neighbor, my neighbor let's on that his neighbor (me) is running for City Council.
That golfer asks what his neighbor (me) thinks about a plan to build a walking path straight through the golf course at Reid Park. I tell my neighbor that I don't know much, though I've heard about it on the street. It sounds like a pretty dumb idea, I tell him. My neighbor knows that I'm telling him my impression, much like a hypothesis. Not a made-up mind. A closed mind doesn't do well in science, even at the high school teaching level which I am retired from. So, it's not in my training.

On day one, Sunday, as part of my slow slog of collecting nomination signatures, I decided to investigate the golf course. Again, I should note, I know very little about golf. I know the rules, sort of, but the subtleties that are in any sport are just not in my tool kit.

In talking to a good deal of people, I seem to confirm that the idea is really a bad one. Worse than my initial impression. Here's why.

Here is the proposed "Reimagination"

The plan seems to be to construct a walkway (see the graphic), a hundred-plus feet wide between the two separate courses. It should be noted that I didn't even know that there were two courses. This I do know, what goes up, comes down at the same angle and with the same velocity minus air resistance ($v=gt^2$). This means that being hit in the head with a driven golf ball is close to the experience of being hit by a driving golf club. Thus, it can kill you. Safety is a big concern on a golf course. Of course this is true, but who knew? Just about everyone at the golf course agreed and there were a lot of people enjoying the golf course that day.

Therefore, very tall fencing on both sides of any walkaway would have to be constructed to avoid liability. It could be likely that netting over the top would become necessary. Some walk in nature and I'm also having a problem understanding who such an expensive walkway would serve. There is a very popular walking course around the golf course that is being enhanced along 22nd Street. This project is taking more course area causing additional reconstruction on a reduced footprint. This seems like another mess and a very expensive one.

The golf courses at Reid Park have been there for over a hundred years. This chopping plan sounds more like a divide and conquer plan then a plan to serve the people of Tucson. That is what it looked like to me at the time. So, I have a current position opposing such a waste of government resources and endangering our citizenry.

CERTAINTY IS THE BANE OF FREETHINKING

I've written before that we should avoid the "Sin of Certainty". Thus, I must understand that I could be getting wrong. Now, though, I don't see that my opinion is unstable. I don't see a purpose of the project, but I do see the harm to a historic part of Tucson. I'm also fully opposed to Tucson's history of destroying its history, so it seems that I have a strong position.

I've come to this decision with a formatted learning style. I came to the problem with an open mind, but not one without a hypothesis. On this day I could have gone either way.

To be fair, I hadn't seen a plan, but I talked to no one who thought the walkway was a good idea. Some of the language was quite colorful regarding the Mayor and Council. I can envision the requirements of a walkway in a missile field, and it just doesn't seem smart or prudent. Though this is a strong position, I will listen to anyone who has a counter opinion with an open mind, though I don't see the opposing reasoning.

Enter the plan. One beauty of a modern democratic tradition is that plans for golf courses can be found online. So, the counter study began.

See the plan at the address below:
(https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/living-and-working/parks-and-recreation/documents/park-plans/randolph-opportunity-study.pdf)
This document is better read online. If you are someone who would rather study paper, as I am, most of the important information is in sub-6-point type. Hard to read. Even when scaled up, this document is still hard to read. It is not something that encourages study.

To be fair, the report shows a good deal of effort that included a chosen committee. That's a good thing. I was interested that in outreaching to the general public by forming focus groups, each group was encouraged not to consider the needs of other factions. I find this odd, because it leaves a strong opening for manipulation. There is not indication that these groups ever came together to find compromise. There is also no indication of the details of what each group actually decided. The end result of the study was placed in the document as a set of Guiding principles. Frankly, the "Opportunity Study" seemed biased and it read like a sales brochure.

Look at it for yourself and see if you agree.

The mapping shows a drastic reduction in the golf complex with little enhancing it. Compromise requires that all sides get a say and that should certainly come around a common table. The document gave me more information, but it didn't solve any of the issues I witnessed at the complex itself. Thus, I was glad that the work was done, though I found the methods questionable. Therefore, I am still left with all my previous questions. The physics problem looms as primary.

The plan doesn't help me understand who is being served, but it does show me that the golf complex is giving pretty much all with little return.

I seek the Council seat for Ward 6. If I were to acquire the honor of that seat, I would vote against such a plan as I see it now. It seems like a poorly thought-out waste of resource that destroys our history and harms a cherished part of our city with little reasoning toward all involved. On the other hand, in scientific tradition, I'm open to being convinced that I'm wrong about this. --JS--