




**CITY OF DELRAY BEACH**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
BUILDING | HISTORIC PRESERVATION | PLANNING & ZONING



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**HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MEMORANDUM**

TO: Terrence R. Moore, ICMA-CM

THROUGH: Anthea Gianniotis, Development Services Director 

FROM: Michelle Hoyland, Principal Planner

DATE: August 2, 2023

SUBJECT: May 3, 2023 – Historic Preservation Board Support of Historic Designation of the City of Delray Beach Golf Club

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At its meeting of May 3, 2023, the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) was presented with a proposed resolution from the Delray Beach Preservation Trust (DBPT) regarding the organization's support of historic designation of the City of Delray Beach Golf Club. Mr. Price Patton presented the resolution during public comment and during board discussion, HPB discussed the resolution and their interest in seeing the golf course historically designated.

The board made a motion to have the HPB chairperson work with staff to create a memorandum to the City Commission that expresses their support of the DBPT's proposed resolution for historic designation of the Delray Beach Golf Club.

The DBPT's proposed resolution is attached for reference.

# DELRAY BEACH PRESERVATION TRUST

## A Resolution by the DBPT Urging the Historic Designation, Preservation and Restoration of the Delray Beach Golf Course

Whereas Donald Ross designed some of the nation's greatest golf courses;

Whereas the Donald Ross Society has stated "his designs are works of art that merit close care and attention."

Whereas Ross designed 18 holes for the City, nine of which were ultimately built and are now considered the Back 9;

Whereas Dick Wilson, one of the most prominent golf course designers of his generation, designed what is now considered the Front 9;

Whereas Wilson once served as general manager of the Delray Beach Golf Club;

Whereas Delray Beach has one of the few, if not only, hybrid municipal courses designed by two such prominent golf course architects;

Whereas famous golfers, including Gene Sarazen, Toney Penna, Ladies Professional Golf Association Hall of Famer Beth Daniel and Betty Jameson (one of the founding members of the LPGA) graced the course and grounds for many years;

Whereas the City's Comprehensive Plan (see note #1) states precious open spaces should be protected;

Whereas the Comprehensive Plan (see note #2) for the first time included an Historic Protection Element to further protect and preserve our historic landmarks;

Whereas the City is a Certified Local Government and has encoded certain protections for historic properties and places in its Land Development Regulations (see note #3);

Whereas the Ross 9 was built in 1925 and the Wilson 9 was built in the 1950s, making them both eligible for historic designation;

Whereas through lack of oversight and proper funding the course is in deplorable condition; and

Whereas the course is nearing its centennial year of operation.

Resolved that the Delray Beach Preservation Trust

1. insists that the City Commission direct staff to take

immediate steps to add the Delray Beach Golf Club to the Local Register of Historic Places;

2. urges the City to pursue alternative forms of funding for needed repairs rather than selling any land;

3. urges the City to take any advantage of the opportunity to restore both 9s to their original configuration;

4. urges the City to reach out to the Donald Ross Society for guidance in restoring the Ross 9.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Price Patton, DBPT chair

Rhonda Sexton, DBPT secretary

April 27, 2023

# DBPT Notes

Note #1: Goal OPR 3-4: Provide for the **preservation and enhancement** of open spaces and environmentally sensitive lands. Promote public-private partnerships **to acquire, maintain and enhance** parks, open spaces and recreational facilities. (emphasis added). The goals in no way suggest giving away parks, open spaces or recreational facilities to promote a P3.

Note #2: Historic Preservation Element: “It is important to recognize that the preservation, protection & enhancement of cultural & historic resources have public value, as they are visible & tangible reminders of the historic heritage of the city, state & nation; thus, creating a sense of place. Further, historic preservation has proven to be a significant economic driver for heritage tourism, a legacy industry, resulting in a positive & stabilizing impact on property values. Finally conservation of historic resources is a bona fide form of sustainability as protection of finite & non-renewable resources...”

Note #3. See Section 4.5.1: Historic preservation: Designated Districts, Sites and Buildings.