

# No disc golf for Schumann Lake Park

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SEBASTIAN — It looks like Schumann Lake Park is safe from flying discs, at least for the time being.

At its meeting Wednesday night, the City Council turned down a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommendation to install a disc golf course on Schumann Island, opting instead to ask staff to investigate other potential sites within the city.

It was the second time the council considered approving a disc golf course site, only to be met by significant neighborhood resistance. The first time, residents complained that disc golf would interfere with walking trails and wildlife at Stormwater Park so that plan was scrapped.

About a dozen people spoke at Wednesday's council meeting against the Schumann Island site, claiming disc golf would interfere with their "quiet enjoyment" of the park, and would negatively impact wildlife on the island, including gopher tortoise and birds. A petition signed by 56 residents against the disc golf course was presented to City Clerk Sally Maio during the meeting.

At times, audience members grew vocal in their comments to the council from the floor, prompting Sebastian Police Chief Michelle Morris to issue warnings about the need to maintain order within the council chambers.

Council member Andrea Coy said she would give her personal guarantee that "no gopher tortoise would be harmed in the process" of installing a disc golf course but that did not dissuade residents from speaking during public comment against the disc golf course.

Resident Karen Schuster told the council she is very concerned about the Schumann Island site because it lacks water and bathroom facilities, and would disrupt the ecological balance of wildlife at the park.

“The installation of a sports facility would interfere with the original purpose of the park,” Schuster said. “Please leave this island to wildlife and nature lovers.”

Even Pelican Island Audubon Society President Richard Baker weighed in against the location, asking that another site be found for the disc golf course.

“This is a very unique park,” Baker said. “We need to preserve this refuge. There must be another place in Sebastian for disc golf.”

Council member Jim Hill said the arguments against the course Wednesday were the same sort of complaints the council heard when it considered the previous location. He asked the city manager to approach the St. Johns

River Water Management District again to see if it would reconsider the idea of disc golf at Stormwater Park, and if not, refer the disc golf course proposal back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for further options.

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