

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: September 11, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Aaron King, Assistant City Manager
Chris Murphy, Director of Planning and Development Services

Council Action Requested:

Request to Set the Public Hearing Regarding the Eligibility of the Winston Lake Golf Course for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. October 2, 2023 (East and Northeast Wards)

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods
Strategic Objective: Preserve Historic Resources
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The National Register is a federal program administered by the National Park Service and is the nation’s official list of historic buildings and districts worthy of preservation. Listing in the Register is predominantly an honor and does not negatively affect the rights of a private property owner. Unlike the Local Historic Landmark designation, there is no local property tax deferral associated with the National Register program. Since the Winston Lake Golf Course is currently owned by the City, and therefore tax-exempt, this designation will be strictly honorary.

The nominated property is located at 3535 Winston Lake Road and 27980 New Walkertown Road and is 221.34 acres. Federal and State guidelines for the Certified Local Government Program require that the City participate in the process of nominating properties to the National Register. This participation involves the review of nominations by the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) and City Council. The HRC and City Council are also required to submit comments to the State Historic Preservation Office relaying their findings as to the eligibility of the property under consideration for listing in the National Register, and whether they believe the property meets the criteria for National Register listing. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation have been attached for your information. The Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission will solicit public comments on this request at their September 6, 2023 meeting. The proposed nomination language for Winston Lake Golf Course is detailed on the following page.

Committee Action:

Committee	<u>CD/H/GG – 9/11/2023</u>	Action	<u>Approval</u>
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For	<u>Unanimous</u>	Against	<u></u>
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Remarks:

Winston Lake Golf Course National Register Nomination

Significance Requirement

Winston Lake Golf Course at Winston Lake Park in northeastern Winston-Salem is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A due to its significance in the areas of Black ethnic heritage and entertainment/recreation. The facility has played an important role in the recreational, social, and political life of the city's African-American population from its 1956 opening until the present. Built during an era of de-facto racial segregation, when discriminatory practices were perpetuated nationwide regardless of U. S. Supreme Court rulings that race-based exclusion from public accommodations was unconstitutional, Winston Lake Park manifested the city's initiative to "equalize" rather than integrate its Black and white recreational venues. Before 1956, African American golfing in Forsyth County was limited to the city-owned Reynolds Park Golf Course and private country clubs including Forsyth and Old Town, where Black caddies were permitted to play only when courses were officially shutdown on Mondays or otherwise not in use. Some aficionados of the sport traveled to Nocho Park in Greensboro, the first municipal course in North Carolina established for African American golfers, during its operation from 1950 until December 1955. The creation and expansion of Winston-Salem's first golf course to which Black players enjoyed unrestricted admittance was thus a significant achievement for local residents and organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) that demanded desegregation of municipal departments, programs, and venues including hospitals, schools, libraries, recreational facilities, as well as privately-owned concerns such as stores, restaurants, and hotels/motels. The Winston Lake Golfers Association, formed in May 1960, successfully challenged exclusionary practices and inequitable conditions at Forsyth County golf courses and compelled completion of Winston Lake's back nine holes in 1964. The course has always been an important recreational and social venue utilized by a diverse array of community members. A popular destination for local and regional African American golfers, Winston Lake has hosted myriad professional, amateur, and intercollegiate tournaments. Numerous Black players pursuing professional golfing careers have improved their skills and gained course management experience at Winston Lake. Interracial relationships strengthened through golfing stimulated civic and fraternal organization establishment and execution of community initiatives. Youth clinics and similar programs at Winston Lake developed leadership and teamwork skills and fostered personal growth, empowering young people to pursue higher education and contribute to community uplift. The period of significance for Winston Lake Golf Course begins with the 1956 completion of the first nine holes and ends in 1973, the fifty-year threshold established by the National Park Service for eligibility of historic properties.

Integrity Requirement

The Winston Lake Golf Course possesses the seven qualities of historic integrity—location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship—required for National Register designation.