



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Rod Erskine

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History of the Golf Course Cut Through

Access to Jones Rd. via the golf course parking lot continues to be a topic of debate. Before Jersey Village purchased the golf course, it consisted of a privately owned driving range along with nine holes located off Jones Rd. north of the bayou, and eighteen holes plus the clubhouse and other service buildings west of Rio Grande St. south of the bayou. A narrow, private road connected the parking lot of the driving range with the small parking area on the north side of the golf course bridge, which in turn connected with the main parking lot accessed off Rio Grande St. Because of the additional capacity afforded by the extra nine holes, the parking lots on both sides of the bridge would be full during times of peak business. The parking lots, bridge, and road were private property, and cut through traffic was not an issue.

The city did not purchase the entire facility. What was originally the driving range was sold by the owner to a developer - ultimately becoming The Lakes of Jersey Village. The area that included the nine holes east of the driving range was deeded to, and is owned today by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) - site of the detention pond. JV purchased the property where the remaining eighteen holes are located, including the parking lots on both sides of the bayou.

Jersey Meadows Dr. was built by the developer and deeded to the city. Despite what Google Map indicates, that road ends at the parking lot, and does not continue across the bridge and through the parking lot to Rio Grande St. - the parking lot is a parking lot. The bridge was designed for limited vehicle traffic, and golf carts accessing the nine holes on the north side of the bayou, and not for heavy vehicles. The Fire Department does not use this route due to the load limits and width of the bridge. Also, it is not a primary access for the Police Department as they have a regular patrol vehicle in the Jones Rd. area for quick response to The Lakes. The construction of the parking lot itself is an issue. When a road is built, it has a foundation that is significantly thicker in order to withstand the expected load of traffic. In contrast, a parking lot does not have the same foundation, and will not hold up to the amount of traffic we are experiencing in the long term - the surface has been patched and sealed several times, and costly repairs are likely in the not too distant future.

HCFCD staff worked with our city staff and council on the design of the detention pond. The city funded the jogging path, and the Flood Control District will be planting trees in the near future. Regarding the potential future extension of Jersey Meadows Dr. to Rio Grande St., HCFCD staff positioned the southern edge of the detention pond to allow room for an easement on the north side of the bayou should we request access in the future. Because of the requirement for a bridge over the concrete weir, the extension of Jersey Meadows Dr. is estimated to approach \$4 million in cost, and will likely require a bond election. When that happens, I predict we may see residents turn out in record numbers to vote.

In closing, kudos to Chief Foerster and the Police Department for stepping up their presence on Wall St. in response to residents over the past few weeks.

Until next month.