

Miller Urges Purchase Of Country Club

Purchase by the city of the Austin Country club property for operation as a municipal golf course and recreation center was in prospect Thursday.

Mayor Tom Miller said the city is interested in buying the 93-acre property on which is now located a clubhouse and 18-hole golf course. The Country club is interested in selling the property, located in the midst of residential development that has grown around it, and of building a new clubhouse and golf course outside the city limits, A. F. Ashford, president, and F. L. Kuykendall, chairman of a special committee seeking a new location, said.

Mayor Miller said the city would like to buy the property at a "reasonable price," and estimated that price at \$150,000 to \$175,000.

Kuykendall said his committee believes the property is worth at least \$200,000, and that the Country club had had offers from real estate operators to take over the property, subdivide it and sell it off as residential building sites, but that he had rather see the city purchase the property and operate it as a golf course and recreation center. The special committee and the Country club board of directors will meet in the near future to discuss the matter.

"We have been looking at a number of sites around Austin and have had Perry Maxwell of Tulsa, one of the nation's outstanding golf course architects down here to advise with us," Kuykendall said.

"We have several locations in prospect but haven't picked a definite site yet."

One consideration that may have a bearing on the negotiations was a proposal by Mayor Miller that the city permit the Country club to continue to use the property, after the city purchased it, until such time as the new Country club course has been developed.

"The city is interested in buying the Country club property at a satisfactory price and of operating it as a municipal golf course and recreation center, with other improvements, possibly including a swimming pool," he explained. "I know that it would be a good investment for the city from a financial standpoint as well as a civic and recreational standpoint. I know that it would be self-supporting, and in a few years, if the city found it advisable, the property could always be resold for sub-division into building sites. But we need it in the immediate future as a city recreation center,—a place where any good, reputable citizen of Austin can go and take his friends for a game of golf or other recreation.

"There is more and more demand for golfing facilities as people have more leisure time, and such a course, operated properly, could be a drawing card for people looking for a city in which to spend the winter."

Not only would the city-operated Country club property be a day-time attraction because of its golf course, but it would provide a night time recreation center for wholesome recreation for both youth and adults of Austin, and a place where visitors to Austin could be entertained by their Austin hosts at little cost, Mayor asserted.

"I say nothing is too good for the people of Austin," Miller declared. "The property would be a good investment, it would be self-supporting, and it would be a fine thing for Austin to have."
