

## Jack Norton

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**From:** Jack Norton [JNorton@MeaseManor.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 05, 2009 6:24 PM  
**To:** Judy Campbell (E-mail)  
**Cc:** Dick Takas (E-mail); Jane Baird (E-mail); Jim Erwin (E-mail); Norma Tillges (E-mail)

Judy,

As you are very aware, I have clearly expressed my concern to the Board over the past many months about what I believe to be the Club's perilous financial condition, and my firm belief that unless we make some "hard" decisions about how the Club will operate, our ability to continue operations into the future is highly suspect. While we are currently experiencing positive cash flow, the surplus is nowhere near enough to cover repair and replacement of capital items already identified, much less rent and taxes that are being required by the City to be part of any future agreement.

In my past discussions with Rob DiSpirito, Dunedin City Manager, I did share my opinion in the hope that together Rob and I could convey to the members of the Dunedin City Commission, individually and collectively, the Club's need for rent and ad valorem tax concessions as recommended by Richard Singer, the City's consultant. Rob and I have had conversations with the Commissioners but unfortunately the situation has evolved to a point where the Commission appears to be looking for a political solution to a financial problem.

At last Tuesday's meeting the Board made the decision to pay back rent, which I agreed with, and the decision to withdraw from participation in the RFP process, which I did not agree with. Based upon my role in this process for the past 22 months, I don't think the Club should have withdrawn from this clearly stated exploratory exercise because it sends a very negative message to the City. My belief and opinion about how we should proceed are clearly at odds with the Board's action. As I said at the meeting, I voted for both actions to be sure the Board presented a united front and could say, without hesitation or qualification, that the vote to take both actions was unanimous.

At our members' meeting this past Thursday it was very clear that the great majority of golf members present supported the Board's action to withdraw from the RFP process and the Board's announced intent to continue operating independently from the City. Following our meeting I watched with you and others still at the Club the Commission meeting during which Rob DiSpirito shared his surprise at the Board's action of paying back rent. The public discussion by the Commission of my opinion that the Club could not perform financially under the new agreement, much less the current one, has cast serious doubt by many Club members about my commitment to the Board's stated goal of continued independence from the City. I can only guess what the members of the Commission might be wondering about my sincerity in representing the Club in our discussions. In an article in Saturday morning's St. Petersburg Times, Rob DiSpirito reiterated my "repeated acknowledgment" that I didn't think the Club could perform financially under the new licensing agreement. This only further reinforces my position as being inconsistent with the Board's stated intent.

With that said, it is my firm belief that I can no longer effectively represent the Club in our negotiations with the City. I respectfully request that you immediately appoint someone to replace me in that role as I will no longer participate in those discussions. I will defer to you, as President, to notify Rob DiSpirito that I am no longer representing the Club in the negotiations. Further, because of my now very public difference of opinion with the Board's action and stated direction, and because of the need for a unified front by the Board, I offer for the Board's consideration my resignation as the Treasurer and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Dunedin County Club. The Club must present a unified front in any future negotiations with the City. I believe my future involvement, even as a Board member, would only serve as a distraction from the ultimate goal of a successful negotiation.

I will be out of town on work related business until Sunday, July 12th. I'll contact you when I return.

Jack