

City councillors expect improvements to the Canoe Club Golf Course after unanimously voting for the city to take over operations. The city already owns the course but had leased it to a third-party.

The original lease agreement with B.S.E. Limited expired in 2022 and it has failed to pay the property tax in the last two years. It has also not paid the rent in the last year, leading to a letter of termination sent in October.

The conditions at the course have continued to worsen, with repairs needed for the irrigation and turf expected to cost \$60,000.

“It’s a glorified dog park at this point in time,” said Coun. Evan Duncan (Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood) at the meeting.

Leaving the grounds fallow would cost the city an estimated \$214,500 annually. Other options were discussed, such as a new third-party lease agreement, but it was ultimately declined as there was no guarantee a tenant could be found in time for the 2025 golf season.

Eight new seasonal unionized staff will be hired to work the course.

Coun. Markus Chambers (St. Norbert-Seine River) spoke about using the space in the winter season as a cross-country skiing trail.

“There are opportunities to create something more than is currently existing,” said Chambers at the meeting. “I think it’s a great opportunity.”

The golf course is expected to bring in \$75,000 in 2025, and more the following year.