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Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Keswick Multi-Care Center sets sights on city council approval for \$195M project

Baltimore Business Journal - by [Ryan Sharrow](#) Staff

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The next step for **Keswick Multi-Care Center** in its bid to construct a \$195 million facility on 17 acres of **Baltimore Country Club** land will be submitting a plan to the city locking in the number of buildings and the square footage to be built.

That's because the vast majority of the members of the Baltimore Country Club approved Monday night the controversial sale of the highly coveted land in Roland Park to the company, which offers health care services for senior citizens.

The \$12.5 million land sale has been met with strong opposition for weeks from Roland Park residents, who want to preserve the property as open space. The proposed \$195 million Keswick project along Falls Road is slated for 300 housing units, underground parking and 7 acres that will remain untouched. Five acres of the project also call for landscaped gardens.

Keswick officials said 90 percent of Baltimore Country Club members voted in favor of the deal. Approval from two-thirds of the club's voting members was needed. Around 2,000 members were slated to vote. Roland Park residents are vowing to lobby political leaders to oppose the project.

Keswick CEO Libby Bowerman said in an interview Tuesday the retirement community will be a boon to the local economy, estimating the facility will employ 150 full-time staffers once it's up and running. More than 200 jobs will also be created during the



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construction phase of the project.

Dallas-based senior living developer Greystone will build the facility.

Baltimore Country Club President John L. Daue said in a statement the club "received an overwhelming show of support" from members on the sale.

Bowerman said Monday night's vote was just the first step in the effort and she will continue to seek input from Roland Park residents on the project.

"At this point we're ready to start talking to the neighbors and officials," she said.

After the dialogue with locals, Keswick will introduce what's known as a planned-unit development outline, or PUD, to the **Baltimore City Council**. No building on the development will exceed three-and-a-half stories, Keswick officials say.

Bowerman said she does not have a timeline for the project but Keswick is "anxious now to begin the process."

The country club land was formerly home to a tennis complex that was relocated to the Baltimore Country Club's Five Farms facility in Timonium last year. The Roland Park location is strictly a dining facility that is home to banquets and receptions.

The country club plans to use the \$12.5 million to upgrade the Roland Park facility.

Keswick Multi-Care has been in business in Baltimore since 1883.

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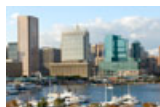
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