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Residents Oppose Commercial Sale Of Country Club

Club Sold To Retirement Community Group

POSTED: 5:47 pm EDT July 15, 2008
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BALTIMORE -- The Baltimore Country Club approved the sale of 17 acres of land Monday to a long-term care facility, and many Roland Park residents said they aren't happy about it.

[Rob Roblin Reports](#)

The Keswick Multi-Care Center announced the sale Monday, saying they plan to use the land to develop a Continuing Care Retirement Community where the tennis courts currently are.

But many Roland Park residents said they've long considered the grounds of the country club part of their back yard and the idea of part of it being sold and developed isn't sitting well. Several signs have been put up throughout the neighborhood opposing the sale.

by homes, and it's obvious that the community wants to maintain it this way," said Dr. Phillip Spevak of the Roland Park Civic League.

Keswick officials said they plan to discuss the development with community leaders, as well as the preliminary design.

"We only have concepts, and part of the whole idea of concepts is to have a dialogue. They can have ideas. We can have ideas. We can respond to those," said Keswick Chief Executive Officer Libby Bowerman.

Initial plans for the land were to develop five acres, devote five acres to landscaped gardens and

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"People are very, very upset, and we have a right to be upset. This is a huge change that's been shoved down our throats, and we've had no input whatsoever," said resident Mary Page Michel.

"It would be really disappointing to lose the green space, but it's also incongruous to put a big institution in the middle of a neighborhood," said resident Elizabeth Rice.

"This is residential land surrounded

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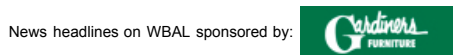
to leave the remaining seven untouched. The development would consist of 225 independent living units, 58 assisted living units and 40 beds for residents in need of skilled nursing, Keswick officials said.

Community leaders said they're open for talks, but they strongly oppose a change from residential zoning.

"We have suggested other alternatives to Keswick and Baltimore Country Club, and we would work with them to find a more suitable alternative. We have a green plan which we would like to sit down with the country club and discuss," Spevak said.

Residents are meeting at the Roland Park Library Tuesday night to discuss their next plans.

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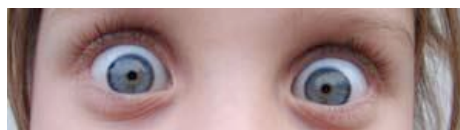
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