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Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council:

I am writing this letter to make you aware of what is going on at Johnson Park in hopes that you can rectify the situation there. Johnson Park is a public golf course in the city of Racine; however, I feel it is run as a private club, which is unfair to anyone who would like to play golf at that park.

I recently tried to get a tee time on a Saturday or Sunday at Johnson Park, which I found very difficult. First of all, they had a very limited amount of open tee times on weekend mornings – usually only three or four. This means the people who run Johnson Park are reserving the same tee times to the same people week after week, year after year, which is unfair and not how a public course should operate. Secondly, the people who run Johnson Park have come up with two unrealistic rules for weekend play: Rule #1: You **must** have at least a foursome; Rule #2: you **must** play 18 holes of golf. What this means is that two or three people who want to only golf 9 holes cannot get a tee time at Johnson Park on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Again, does this sound like the way a public course should be operating? I think not.

Dismayed by Johnson Park's unrealistic rules, I called five other public golf courses in Racine County and discovered that none of those courses have rules about how many people can play or how many holes are to be played, such as the rules of Johnson Park. These five golf courses are: Maplecrest Country Club, Brown's Lake Golf Course, Petrifying Springs Golf Course, South Hills Country Club, and Ives Grove Golf Links. How is it that Johnson Park can get away with something that other public courses in Racine County would dare even think of? Reserved tee times on weekend mornings at Johnson Park should be open to the public to sign up for. Names could be submitted and then a drawing could be held. This is how other golf courses handle this situation.

I brought the information in this letter to the attention of the Parks and Rec. Board four years ago. After their careful consideration, I was told my suggestions would be put in place. Unfortunately, it looks like nothing has changed. Something needs to be done to make sure Johnson Park is run like the public golf course that it is. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Christensen