My Experiences With Brad Sears

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I have heard about how Brad had worked hard to get the golf course established in Cedar Hills and I have heard from people in his ward boundaries that he is a good man. Following are my personal experiences with him.

I first met him at the first golf course committee meeting prior to becoming a council member. He was invited to tell a history of the golf course. He told a history of the golf course from his perspective and threw in negative comments about the detractors of the golf course and would glare at me each time he would mention them. To this point, all I had done was research into the finances of the golf course in a very unbiased way (I thought). He reiterated that the golf course is a great asset to Cedar Hills and has made Cedar Hills a better place. I raised my hand and asked him a question about the 50 years of free golf given to Lone Peak Links. He got red in the face and appeared angry as he answered my question.

I really didn’t have much interaction with him for a long time after this. However, during the second golf course committee meetings on August 4th 2015 we shared an email thread in which he refused to answer some important questions. (see August 4th Brad Sears Email). Shortly previous to this email exchange, I had been asking people for his phone number and was planning on calling him. I had been documenting some things that didn’t flatter Brad regarding the golf course. However, he ended up calling me first. The conversation went something like this:

Brad: Hello is this Rob?

Rob: Yes

Brad: This is Brad Sears.

Rob: Oh, I am glad you called, I was planning on calling you.

Brad: It would have meant more to me if you called me first after what you have been saying about me.

Rob: I’m sorry, I really was intending to call you.

Brad: Too little too late. I have some questions for you.

Rob: I have some questions for you too.

Brad: I called you so you need to answer my questions.

Rob: If you promise to answer my questions, I will answer your questions first.

Brad: Agreed

Brad: Have you ever golfed at the golf course?

Rob: Yes

Brad: I am not counting the putting green or the driving range, have you ever golfed a full 18 rounds at Cedar Hills Golf Course?

Rob: Yes, I took my 8 year old son on the full course.

Brad: So you have only golfed it once?

Rob: Yes, but this is because I always take my kids to the driving range and to the putting green to help them prepare for golfing because they are very young. My family is important to me so I want to make sure I am doing things with them, so we have stuck with things my 5 year old and 8 year old can handle.

(Brad may have asked another question or two, but the above question was the most pointed question, I can’t remember what the others were).

Rob: Is that all the questions you have?

Brad: Yes

Rob: Ok, I will ask my questions:

“With a development centered around a golf course, the developer is able to sell the homes for a premium theoretically.  However, the premium received is offset by the cost of maintaining the golf course and taking the risk of loss.  When we purchased the golf course from the developer, we took on the entire risk and allowed them to benefit from all the upside on the sale price of their homes.  This contract appears to be very one-sided to me.  My question is, on such a one-sided agreement, why would we feel obligated to give 50 years of 30 rounds per week in free golf to the developer as part of the contract?”

Brad: Well I got all my questions answered, thanks for taking my call.

Rob: Brad, you aren’t going to answer my questions?

Brad: No, I am the one that called you, I don’t have to answer your questions.

Rob: Brad, you promised me, that is the only reason I answered your questions. So if I call you right back will you answer my questions?

Brad: I will answer your questions my own way.

Rob: What does that mean?

Brad: You will get your answers, goodbye.

Shortly thereafter, I emailed him and got a similar refusal to answer my questions (see our email exchange). I still have never gotten an answer from him on these questions.

Prior to being on the city council, I obtained a detail of all golf rounds for a 12 month period including part of 2011 and 2012. In that detail, I found that Brad Sears was not on record for paying for a single round. Also, I obtained a summary of the number of tee times that each customer had since using the software that was in use. Brad had over 500 tee times.

While I was on the city council, I heard from city employees that Brad had been golfing for free since the inception of the golf course. I told city leadership that this looks really bad. Considering that he was the one that set up the deal for the golf course and that it was a very one-sided deal in favor of the developers for him to be given a kickback from the developers looks really bad. The city has put over $13 Million into the golf course all funded by debt and taxpayer contributions (directly and through money diverted from other funds), for him to be golfing for free was a slap in the face to the entire city.

I have a mutual acquaintance with Brad Sears, who I will not name. He told me that he has golfed with Brad and that Brad was very arrogant about how he helped design the course and how he gets to golf for free whenever he wants to.

I was told that all golf course employees were told that Brad could not use the Lone Peak Links certificates to golf for free any more. I don’t know if he is still golfing for free or not at this point.