



Member

American Society of Golf Course Architects

October 14, 2025

RE: Support for Miniature Golf Text Amendment – SD1 & SD2 Zoning

To the Honorable Members of Detroit City Council,

As a golf course architect with experience designing traditional and non-traditional golf spaces, I strongly support the proposed text amendment that would allow miniature golf courses in SD1 and SD2 zoning districts, with reduced parking requirements. I am currently collaborating with Karasi Development Group on the design of Urban Birdies, a nine-hole putting course that blends recreation with community storytelling and green space activation in Detroit.

Miniature golf and putting courses have long served as accessible entry points into the game of golf, offering low-barrier, family-friendly experiences that require less space, lower investment, and bring high community impact. In my professional experience, these courses do far more than entertain: they activate underutilized land, create intergenerational gathering spaces, and support local business development when thoughtfully integrated into mixed-use or residential corridors.

Unlike full-scale golf courses, miniature golf courses are particularly well-suited for dense urban areas where creative land reuse is essential. They require minimal environmental disruption, can be paired with green infrastructure, and promote foot traffic and safety in neighborhoods that benefit from ongoing activation and investment.

I encourage the Council to support this amendment and help ensure that future land use policy includes room for play, connection, and inclusive recreation. These courses have the potential to heal land, bring neighbors together, and create economic and social value far beyond the fairway.

Kind Regards,

Patrick Burton, ASGCA

