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PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL
111 S. CAPITOL STREET, PEKIN, ILLINOIS
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003, AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
LYNDELL N. HOWARD * MAYOR * PRESIDING

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS, MASSAGLIA, MADDOX, JONES, AND RICHMOND

ABSENT: NONE

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Notice of a special meeting to discuss the Plan Design submitted by Farnsworth Group as part of the Riverfront Development Project was received by Council on May 29, 2003.

Roll was called and all commissioners were present. Roll was also called for joint meeting of the Pekin Park District Board. Present were Director Robert Blackwell, Ron Maquet, Marv Brown, Bill Harmon, Greg Maloney, Gary Gillis, Barb Owens, Paula Helm

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Howard.

Park Director Bob Blackwell opened discussion on revised plan of the riverfront development green space area and potential park. He said the Pekin Park Board and City Council were meeting jointly to come to agreement on the concept of design to provide recreational opportunity that would be unique and not available at other parks. He stated the plan was more passive than a year ago when the board had some recreational concerns to an original design. He felt the meeting was intended to define the cooperative relationship between the City and the park that would ultimately benefit the same taxpayers of the community and asked that the City and Park agree in writing to what they wanted to accomplish.

Caius Jennison of Farnsworth Group, Inc. gave overview of the revised design of the Pekin Riverfront Park Preliminary Master Plan which included a vehicle overlook on St. Mary Street, a renovation of Miller Park and deletion of sail covered band stage in the event meadow.

The following comments, questions and concerns were a result of review and discussion:

- Park District and City contribute $200,000 each to the project to match a $400,000 OSLAD grant to be submitted. Total costs estimated were $1.4 million. City share of matching funds would be from the Tax Increment Financing.
- Board member Gary Gillis suggested stonewall fountain angle around the CILCO substation for additional exposure to Festival Plaza and Court Street. Also suggested coniferous trees to avoid maintenance and operational problems caused by dropping of leaves in fountain.
- Concern discussed as to placement of the raised stage substantially blocking sight lines of the river from many park locations. To be truly riverfront park, elevations would be critical. Suggested existing "hump" between Front and bluff be removed.
- Discussed shared costs of showmobile portable stage
- Discussed Park ownership of property north of Elizabeth to meet funding requirements for park purposes/City ownership of property South of Elizabeth to provide flexibility in converting park to development purposes. Proposed exchanging ownership of properties for parking lot construction in NE Miller Park.
- Public Works Director Dennis Kief presented his revisions to the Farnsworth costs breakdown noting recreational components that are helpful in securing OSLAD award and those outside the scope of the grant that do not get applicants points.
- Imperative that Park and City provide a formal opportunity for public input. Suggested "open house" format held at the riverfront park site scheduled after submittal deadline.
- Kim Uhlig Planning and Development Director informed Council of the joint grant requirements. Project timeframe was important to application deadline of June 30.
- Mayor Howard expressed commitment to the project because he felt it would bring development downtown and tourists.

Commissioner Richmond left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Initial elements identified for agreement were: design approval, funding, ownership of property, park operation/control and maintenance of park.

There was consensus from all present that the City Council and Park Board agreed in concept to the revised design, the potential content of a proposed intergovernmental agreement and submission of a joint application for a state Open Space Land Acquisition Development Grant.

There was no formal action taken by the City Council.

Motion was made by Com'r. Maddox, seconded by Com'r. Jones that Council adjourn. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk