
**PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING
ATTENDED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL
ON FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2002, AT 9:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS, MASSAGLIA, ORRICK, AND RICHMOND

ABSENT: MAYOR TEBBEN AND COMMISSIONER BARRA

Notice of a special meeting for consultant selection interviews and presentations for riverfront park development was received by Council on April 29, 2002.

A quorum of commissioners were present. Also present were City staff, Pekin Park District Director Robert Blackwell, Dory Lannert, Tom Elliott, board member Gary Gillis, and the press.

Jim Ash Project Manager and Grant Facilitator for Clark Engineers, Inc. introduced a team that would be working on the project including landscape architect, civil engineer and COST of Wisconsin Inc. for special construction water feature

Mr. Ash reviewed the key components of design, grant process, schedule and explained the company's knowledge and plans for making the project a success. A visual park model was presented showing grading and land forms, walkways, native plantings, family park facilities. Past examples of waterfalls, climbing rocks, fountain plazas with cost experience were explained. Mr. Ash felt the company's knowledge of the adjacent projects; pier, streetscape and City Hall were beneficial in coordinating the project. Clark's experiences in grant applications requirements, the need for acceptable facilities, funding information and tight grant schedule were key components the firm possessed for the project implementation.

Commissioner Orrick questioned Mr. Ash on the company's view of the complete vision of the entire Riverfront Project. The park was a small piece or Phase I that must reflect the total plan. Mr. Blackwell questioned how the firm could guarantee that the estimated cost would not escalate doing the project. Public Works Director Dennis Kief stated there were structures such as the utility sub station, the combined sewer overflow, railroad and asked how Clark would approach and integrate those challenges into the project.

At 10:10 a.m. representatives from Farnsworth Group presented the firm's background and credentials. They stated they were able to approach the project as a team with all available architects, engineers and knowledgeable grant personnel available in-house. Representatives said they came with ideas and enthusiasm for the interview portion and if selected would present ideas and solutions. They felt the design or Phase I should set the standard for the complete plan and reconnect downtown to the riverfront in a cohesive design. They spoke of an interactive park as a focal point connecting people to the waterfront.

Commissioner Orrick left the meeting at 10:20 A.M.

The same question on the firm's abilities to meet the challenges presented by the sub station, the sewer, railroad was asked of Farnsworth by Dennis Kief. Mr. Blackwell felt the cost estimate of this project was so crucial to the grant process and questioned if the firm had the experience to meet the award criteria.

Project Coordinator Caius Jennison stated Farnsworth had the abilities to take the Council and Pekin's vision to reality.

A third consultant Hanson Professional Services, Inc. began their presentation at 10:45 a.m. Project Manager, Paul W. Mueller, P.E. described their proposed project design from Court to St Mary limits and divided into three site levels for consideration.

- Blufftop - focal point unobstructed view of the river
- Terrace – transition to existing grade, fountain, bike path, lighting, stage
- Riverfront – flood plain, wetland, natural plantings, paved train, decorative railing

Because a true vision has not been defined for the Turner property area, the firm felt the Miller Park should be updated to an interactive water park because you would not want to complete a family oriented park and have a developer propose a restaurant/bar over the grain bins next to it. Project timeframe was important to grant application deadline of July 1, 2002.

There was no action taken by the City Council and Council members left the meeting at 11:25 p.m.

Persons attending the meeting discussed strong and weak points of each firm. A recommendation would be made to enter into an agreement with the Farnsworth Group for consulting services.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:50 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk