

NEWSRELEASE **ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT** MAKING MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

From: Rockford Park District

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Rockford Park District Board Reviews Midway Village Museum's Land Development Plan

ROCKFORD IL - At tonight's Rockford Park District Board meeting, commissioners reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Invitation for Public/Private Partnership which will form a partnership between the Park District, museum, and a private developer. The Board is considering the possible sale or lease of land for a six-acre commercial/retail and/or mixed use development located on the museum's southeast corner, the allocation of the potential revenue, and term highlights for entering into a public-private partnership with a preferred developer. The Board will vote on the MOU and Invitation at the March 9, 2010 Board meeting.

BACKGROUND: During the annual Park District Museum Board meeting held on March 15, 2005, the museum presented a Master Site Plan which included a six-acre parcel to be reserved for potential commercial development. At that time, Midway Village Museum made known its desire to consider leasehold improvements to the parcel to generate an alternative revenue source. At the June 15, 2005 Board meeting, the Park District Board conditionally approved the use of land for the construction of a road from Garrett Lane to Crimson Ridge Drive and noted that plans for the site (road) would be brought back to the Board for its full review and approval.

Midway Village Museum President David Byrnes gave an example of the Living History Farms located outside of Des Moines, Iowa as an example of what he envisions as a good public/private partnership with the museum. "They had hotels and a restaurant. I liked the idea that you could shop, eat, and visit all within the same area," he said.

The Invitation for a Public/Private Partnership outlined the project scope and the process for selecting a preferred developer. The document would be placed on DemandStar, a notice published in the newspaper, and forwarded to various developers to illicit a response.

(more)



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“Based on responses from our previous citizen surveys, feedback suggested that the Board seek alternative revenue sources, maintain our current facilities, and not raise taxes. Consideration and approval of Midway Village and Museum’s MOU and Invitation for Public/Private Partnership would allow the Park District to sell or lease the six-acre tract located on the museum’s property in keeping with the overall Museum master plan and would generate additional revenue for the museum center and the District,” said Deputy Director of Capital Planning & Management Laura Pigatti Williamson. “Additionally, the Park District’s Advisory Committee, consisting of seven private local business leaders, recommended that potential sources of revenue could be generated by the sale and/or lease of strategic pieces of property,” she continued.

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