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Developer proposes skate-park land swap

Site wanted for retail, living space

By Andrea Uhde

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A group working to bring business to downtown La Grange is urging the City Council to work with a developer to build retail and living space on property where the city's skate park is.

Bill Lammlein of Discover Downtown La Grange proposed the idea to council members last week, saying his group has talked with a developer who is interested in the project, but he declined to name him.

"We'd like to help move this process along," Lammlein said.

He showed the council sketches he made of several buildings that could be on the site, which is at Second and Main streets where a small skate park is now.

Lammlein said the developer would probably work out a deal with the city to make another property available for the skate park.

He said he didn't know the current value of the property.

He said there could be about 18,000 square feet of retail space and about 11,000 square feet of living space. Parking space also would be allotted for the fire department near Second Street.

"Let's move forward and make that a piece of good, viable property," Lammlein said. "It would certainly add to the tax base of this city."

The City Council had little discussion of the idea but agreed to have its Visions Committee discuss the concept with Discover Downtown La Grange members.

The historic area of La Grange along Main Street has lured a number of businesses in recent years, and people in the area say it's the liveliest it's been in years.

But because much of the area is developed, finding more retail space is difficult, Lammlein said.

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