

Hudson, Wis., school board, city council to discuss purchasing part of St. Croix Meadows dog track

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Posted:Thu Jun 05 23:01:00 MDT 2014

The Hudson, Wis., school board and city council will meet Monday to discuss a proposal by the school district to purchase a portion of the St. Croix Meadows dog track.

The board and council will discuss a proposal for a new 3-year high school and multi-use concept proposal for the long-vacant St. Croix Meadows Greyhound Racing Park in Hudson.

Up for discussion during the meeting is the potential for rezoning the land, a district proposal to buy a portion of the site and the planning of any next steps.

A district spokeswoman said Superintendent Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten was not available to discuss the proposal Friday.

The district offered the dog track's owners \$8.25 million for the property, and voters approved the purchase in the districtwide referendum in April 2012. But the property, which was shuttered in 2001, needed to be rezoned from commercial to public use before the purchase could be finalized, and that request was ultimately denied by the city council.

Some council members at the time expressed a desire to keep the site a commercial property, citing a potential for future development and the annual tax revenue that would accompany that. An estimate by the city suggested Hudson could receive as much as \$1.2 million in tax dollars from the property if it were to be developed.

The district argued the property would offer benefits and cost savings over other potential school sites.

The property was the right size for a new school -- which the district says it needs to meet space issues -- and already has roads, utilities and a 150,000-plus square-foot building that could be repurposed, according to the district.

Monday's meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

The school board will also meet Tuesday and will be going into closed session to "deliberate for negotiating the purchase or sale of property," according to the agenda.

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