



Savage Depot relocation moves forward

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The effort to relocate the Savage Depot back to the city took another step forward on Monday, with the City Council authorizing an agreement for the depots transfer of ownership and move.

The agreement with Three Rivers Park District, which currently owns the depot, specifies that the city is responsible for all costs associated with the move, as well as the cost of restoring the former site of the building at Murphys Landing in Shakopee, where the depot currently sits.

Site restoration at Murphys Landing will include utility work, restoration of fences, establishing turf grass and remedying any other impact of the move to the park district property, City Administrator Barry Stock stated in a memo to the City Council.

The agreement between the city and Three Rivers Park District expires Sept. 1 of this year.

Mayor Tom Brennan said the Sept. 1 deadline seems like more than enough time to move the depot.

The Dan Patch Historical Society hopes to have the depot relocated to the Town Square parking lot by this spring.

The depot project is a joint effort between the city and the Dan Patch Historical Society. Murphys Landing bought the depot in 1973 and brought it to Shakopee. Three Rivers Park District, which assumed ownership of the depot in 2000, determined they could not afford to maintain it and agreed to give it back to Savage.

Members of the Dan Patch Historical Society first approached the city in fall 2004 with a proposal to relocate the depot.

In 2005 the historical society launched two fundraising campaigns to foot the costs of the project. In the summer, envelopes soliciting donations were distributed, and in November the Walk of Fame commemorative brick fundraiser was launched.

Also in November 2005 the city began a search for a tenant to lease the depot.

How the city and the historical society will share the project costs is still being hashed out, Stock said.

The original proposal calls for the historical society to pay for the depots move, placing it in the Town Square parking lot, and restoring the site at Murphys Landing, said Janet Williams, member of both the City Council and the Dan Patch Historical Society.

Stock said that perhaps the city will be responsible for building the foundation on which the depot will sit in the Town Square parking lot.

At Monday's meeting Williams called the depot project a nice way to preserve our history and expressed hope that the depot will be like a travel destination.

The depot is one of the last original buildings from Savage we haven't done a very good job of preserving those things, Williams said.

Councilman Al McColl called the depot the backbone of the city as a shipping hub and stopping point for trains, it helped put the city on the map.

For those of us that have been around a couple years we understand the historical significance of the depot, he said. It is basically what made the city of Savage.

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