Group seeks alternative to downtown BID plan

By Barbara Soderlin 01.09.10 Journal staff

Downtown business owner Dennis Halterman and Rapid City Alderman Aaron Costello on Friday announced the formation of a group that will design a plan for economic growth in downtown Rapid City. The group would be an alternative to Destination Rapid City's proposal for establishing a Business Improvement District to tax downtown property owners to support the Main Street Square city park, skating rink and comfort and connect the corner of Sixth and Main streets.

Halterman and Costello said they have discussed the idea for a while and believe it could be a better idea for a comprehensive plan that can boost business in all of downtown Rapid City. Rapid City has the major businesses and the culture to make downtown stronger, he said, adding that they would like to work with a council, but they will not participate with the city council.

The group will meet at least once a month, with the next meeting scheduled for Jan. 11, and work on the idea to find ways to help downtown businesses and to create a better quality of life in downtown. The group will also discuss the proposal to support the Main Street Square city park, skating rink and connect the corner of Sixth and Main streets.

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