Civic center revisions approved

By DON POLOVICH

The Civic Center Plaza Corp. board of directors finally approved the concept of the revised plaza for the civic center complex Friday but not before nearly two hours of argument over the number of meeting rooms and the locations of some on a second level.

The architects, Craig Associates of Sioux Falls and the McVicar & Partners of Chicago, had been instructed at the last meeting to add four more meeting rooms to the six in the preliminary plans. The board also asked the architects to add the drawing board to include space to house the Chamber of Commerce and Convention-Visitors Bureau.

To accommodate the chamber and add the four meeting rooms, they had to cut out three meeting rooms on the second level above the administrative area and exhibit-dining hall. While the second level concept added about $120,000 to the cost, the architects commended it did give the opportunity for a more attractive interior design.

The board spent little time discussing the sports areas or audiumum, centering its debate on the exhibit hall, administrative area and concourse connecting the two structures.

Wally Stearns of The Spitznagel Partners explained the architects elected to place some of the meeting rooms on the second level because they did not want to block the exhibit hall-dining area to the east. With the administrative area on the west and all 10 meeting rooms on the east, the exhibit hall could not be expanded, he said.

The board was split 5-3 on the concept with Larry Litzinger, who did not object to the two-level concept but to the added cost, and Mayor Bill Abernathy, Pat Tracy, Ron Campbell and Robert Amsden generally supported the concept but had some reservations about the cost.

Amsden said the plan presented would be outstanding for a city the size of Rapid City or, for a larger city like Des Moines, but he said it would be a "safety valve" in case the lease came in too high. He suggested postponing, or building separately, on an exhibit hall until it was paid off or it was to be doubled as a banquet hall.

Mary Peterson of The Spitznagel Partners said it would be possible to "slice off six feet at a time" to bring down the costs. Abernathy pointed out, however, that every time the board saw the architects back to the drawing board it added another month delay and the money would be earned because of inflation.

Amsden said the board is going to have to "accept what the architects are telling us or they can go ahead with final plans."

There was some argument over the need for 10 or 11 small meeting rooms, but Mayor Don Barnett, board president, said he felt that number gives the flexibility needed as a wedding point to attract conventions.

Tracy noted that most conventions are held between May and September, while school is not in session. It is possible, he said, that some conventions might be held in the new Central High Auditorium and meeting rooms.

The space for the chamber office, which will include space for the Convention-Visitors Bureau and an office for the Western South Dakota Development Corp., also came in for some discussion. It was the first time a chamber office was included in the plans.

Estimated cost to the chamber for about 7,000 square feet of space would come to about $200,000 but Bob Barbour, chamber president, said the chamber could not afford another $100,000 on top of that because of the added cost for the second level meeting rooms.

Other estimated costs at today's prices with an inflationary factor built in are $4.2 million for the sports arena, $2.9 million for the auditorium, $1.2 million for the exhibit hall, convention area, concourse and administrative offices, and $1.6 million for a joint-use energy plant, including heating-cooling plants, at about $2.5 million after defraying the chamber-office costs and

Finance committee recommends raising parking fees

By DON POLOVICH

The committee of the Rapid City parking committee recommended raising parking fees to $1 for each hour beginning Sept. 1.

The committee's recommendation will go to the Rapid City parking committee for action at its next meeting, but no date has been set.

The parking board recommended the proposal and recommended the city go ahead with building lots but to forego the parking because of the 76-day cancellation clause.

The parking board reviewed the proposal and recommended the city go ahead with building lots but to forego the parking because of the 76-day cancellation clause. As a temporary solution Bill Abernathy, public works director, said the city could go in and smooth out the holes and lay an oil surface for about $300. It would last less than three or four months, he said.

Members of the committee felt that at the higher rate the city should consider increasing the number of vehicles to be used, but not to recommend:

The committee referred the proposal to Mayor Don Barnett to enter negotiations with John Vucurevich of the United National Bank to see if some adjustment can be made in the proposed rate or both.
second level concept added about $1,000,000 in the cost. The architects commended it did give the opportunity for a more attractive interior design.

The board spent little time discussing the sports arena or auditorium. Centered in debate on the exhibit hall, administrative area and concourse connecting the two structures.

Walter O'Neil of the Spirtagem Partners explained the architects elected to place some of the meeting rooms on the second level because they did not want to block expansion of the existing buildings into the west. With the administrative area on the west and all 10 meeting rooms on the east, the exhibit hall could not be expanded, he said.

The board was split 5-4 on the concept with Larry Lytle stating he did not object to the two-level concept but to the added cost. Mont Wilkins, Bill Abraham, Pat Tracy, Ron Campbell and Robert Aborn generally approved the concept but also had some reservations about the cost.

Wilkins said the plan presented would be outstanding for a city the size of Rapid City or for even a larger city like Omaha. But, he said, it would have an "affordable value" in case the bids came in too high. He suggested postponing or building separately on the exhibit hall until it was pointed out it is planned to double as a banquet hall.

Mary Peterson of The Spirtagem Partners said it would be possible to "slice off six feet at a time" in bring costs down. Wilkins pointed out, however, that every time the board sent the architects back to the drawing board it meant another month delay and delay is costing money because of inflation.

App said the board is going to have to accept what the architects are selling us so they can go ahead with final plans.

There was some argument over the need for 10 or 11 small meeting rooms, but Mayor Don Barnett, board president, said he feels that number gives the flexibility needed as a setting point to attract conventions.

Tracy noted that most conventions are held between May and September, while school is not in session. It is possible, he said, that some convention meetings could be held in the new Central High auditorium and meeting rooms.

The space for the chamber offices, which includes space for the Convention-Visitors Bureau and an office for Western South Dakota Development Co., was also discussed. It was the first time chamber officials had seen the plans.

Exceeded costs to the chamber for about 7,000 square feet of space would come to about $200,000, but Bob Bur- bourn, chamber president, said the chamber could not afford another $100,000 or so on top of that because of the added cost for the second level meeting rooms.

Other estimated costs at today's prices with an inflationary factor built in are $4.3 million for the sports arena; $2.2 million for the auditorium; $2.1 million for the exhibit hall; convention area, concourse and administrative offices; and $640,000 for a joint-use energy plant, including heating-cooling mains at about $8.2 million after deducting the chamber office costs and the school's share of the energy plant.

The school would share in the cost of the energy plant at an estimated $250,000.

The total price tag for the civic center complex and energy plant comes up to more than $10.3 million but out at about $8 million after deducting the chamber office costs and the school's share of the energy plant.

The sports arena, which is in the planning stage, will seat 10,000 including 5,000 movable bleachers and the Crush is designing to seat 1,700. The exhibit hall will have about 15,000 square feet of open space and could accommodate about 1,000 at a banquet.

With the approval of the plan as presented, the motion also included instruction for the chamber officials to meet with the architects over the weekend to finalize and approve plans for the chamber offices.