Details not known on museum project

City, KU in 'exploration stage'

Science and art could complement the great outdoors if Olathe and the University of Kansas agree to develop museums near Bass Pro Shops.

The City Council heard the proposal during Tuesday's meeting.

Developers of the Olathe Gateway destination district at 119th Street and Renner Road signed a letter of intent with the University of Kansas to build extensions of KU's Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center and Spencer Museum of Art.

John Petersen, an attorney representing the developer, told councilmembers the museums would occupy the former Benchmark furniture store site, which developers bought earlier this year.

But university spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said the university and developers need to iron out a lot of details before development begins.

"We are in the exploration stage," Bretz said. "The letter of intent is really like a letter of agreement to keep discussing."

Developers approached the university with the idea late last year.

Bretz said the university has not determined how much the project would cost or how much space the development would require.

Developers said they would seek sales tax and revenue bonds, known as STAR bonds, to pay for the project. Under new legislation
Project in discussions

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that begins July 1, a museum is eligible for STAR bonds if it is owned by government or a nonprofit organization as a freestanding structure and is not in any retail or commercial building.

City spokesman Tim Danneberg said the city plans to publish a notice of hearing for the project within the next week, but the date of the hearing has not been determined.

Danneberg said the development could benefit Olathe in several ways.

The museums would make the development a cultural destination for Olathe residents and tourists.

“There is obviously an economic perspective in terms of tourism dollars coming into the city,” Danneberg said.

The financial implications the development would have on the city have not been determined.

Kris Krishtalka, director of the biodiversity research center, said the project would be a great opportunity to strengthen the university's presence in Olathe.

The university's museums display only a small portion of the school's collections, Krishtalka said. The Olathe project would give it the chance to display more.

“We are intrigued by the possibility because Olathe is an important segment of the Kansas population,” Bretz said.

— Contact Arley Hoskin at 764-2211, Ext. 133.
Are museums the right fit?

The new proposal for the Olathe Gateway development sounds like a great opportunity for the community if that district includes University of Kansas museums and a biodiversity research center.

Like the Olathe City Council, however, we're cautious about jumping on the bandwagon given this development's history with sales tax and revenue bonds, popularly known as STAR bonds, which are needed to build the museums, which would be extensions of KU's Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center and Spencer Museum of Art.

It's not so much the development's history, but the state's reluctance to approve STAR bonds for Olathe or any project in Johnson County.

It's interesting — almost ironic — that Johnson County produces such a large amount of sales taxes for the state, but no projects here have received STAR bonds since the bonds' inception.

Maybe KU is the golden ticket to receive approval, but we're putting the cart before the horse. First, KU has to consider whether this 150,000-square-foot center is feasible. The university is conducting a study to determine whether this would be the right project in which to invest.

The city must make sure local taxpayers are protected. Council members told developers Tuesday they would not obligate the city to funding, operating or maintaining the museums. They need to stick to that promise because another concern is museums don't make money. They're subsidized projects communities either choose to support or don't.

Several museums and cultural centers in the Kansas City area that wouldn't survive without subsidies or grants, and they do not draw in the public as expected. Union Station is a good example.

Maybe the combination of museums and the research center placed in a destination shopping district would work and become a model for how to make museums feasible. The museums would be across from Bass Pro Shops, the development's major tenant. But until the financial data and funding mechanisms are in place, we want to reserve judgment on this proposal. We don't want to see this turn into another sports arena proposal — everyone jumped on board with support, but it crashed and burned when the city and developers couldn't obtain STAR bonds to finance the project.

We're also concerned developers want the city to expand the tax increment financing district with this proposal. Right now the TIF district is underperforming because it's not fully developed. A museum
owned and operated by a nonprofit doesn’t help generate money to pay back TIF bonds. Maybe the council should step back and wait until more retail is built before expanding the district.
The Class of 2007 at The University of Kansas numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who have completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of the candidates for degrees will return on Sunday, May 20, for the university’s 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 are expected to participate.

Candidates for degrees from Augusta: Elizabeth Ann Gash, daughter of Richard and Sharon Gash; Lindsey I. Owen, daughter of Carleton Owen; Bobbi Faye Rising, daughter of June Frakes; Ashley Marie Thornton, daughter of Daryl and Robin Thornton; Juliana Patrice Whisman, daughter of Ron and Sabrina Nibbelink.
KU business students stock portfolio wins first in national competition

LAWRENCE — For pulling down a nearly 30 percent return on their 2006 stock portfolio, business students at the University of Kansas earned first place in the Redefining Investment Strategy Education portfolio competition, outperforming teams from more than 40 universities across the United States.

The KU students won in the "Hybrid" category of the competition conducted in April at the University of Dayton in Ohio. The Hybrid category is defined as portfolios that include short securities and/or invest in derivative securities, such as options. KU's Applied Portfolio Management class placed first in the Hybrid category two years ago, as well.

The first-place achievement honors the work of more than 70 students from the spring 2006 and fall 2006 Applied Portfolio Management classes taught by Catherine Shenoy, assistant professor of business and director of Applied Portfolio Management. Three KU students represented the two classes at the event: Douglas R. Goehl of Olathe, Sydney Gilbert Hayes of Topeka and Jonathan David Horne of Richardson, Texas.

The Applied Portfolio Management class manages a real investment portfolio, currently valued at $2.4 million.

"This was a well-earned award for the students in the APM class," Shenoy said. "They spent countless hours researching companies in our portfolio, meeting with executives and drafting research reports. It's great to see their hard work pay off in such a big way."

Stocks with the biggest gains in the students' 2006 portfolio included a cutting-edge medical device developer, a Chinese provider of low-cost organic fruits and vegetables, a manufacturer and distributor of ceramic tiles and a designer, manufacturer and distributor of innovative global positioning technology.

The KU team was also selected as one of 12 elite teams to present their portfolios to a national panel of senior investment professionals. In his feedback to students, one judge wrote that the KU students "find interesting stocks and do thorough analysis and valuation. I like the global focus."

The University of Dayton sponsors R.I.S.E., and the portfolio competition is part of a larger conference that brings leading students, faculty and investment professionals together to discuss significant financial issues. This was the seventh annual R.I.S.E. forum.

KU's Applied Portfolio Management class started in 1993 with a $250,000 gift from Kent McCarthy, an alumnus of the business school. McCarthy retired from Goldman Sachs in 1994 and currently manages several hedge funds. The returns of the portfolio help fund an annual men's basketball scholarship and an annual master's student scholarship.

Contributing class members currently enrolled are listed below:

El Dorado — Aaron Michael Arnett, master's student in accounting and information systems; son of Mike and Gayle Arnett; bachelor's degree from KU; El Dorado High School
KU announces spring candidate for degrees

LAWRENCE — The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas — representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 52 other countries — have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU's Class of 2007 numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these former students will return Sunday, May 20, for the university's 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 are expected to participate.

Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble about 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which begins at 2:30 p.m. The program begins about 3:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, participants should call KU Info, (785) 864-3506, or listen to local radio and television stations to learn the exact time of the commencement ceremony. Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online.

Candidates are listed below.

EL DORADO
Aaron Michael Arnett; Master of Accounting and Information Systems; son of Mike and Gayle Arnett; El Dorado High School
Lydia Anne Buster; Bachelor of Arts/French & Bachelor of Arts/History; daughter of Greg and Beverly Buster; El Dorado High School
Rusty Evan Glenn; Juris Doctor; son of Ginger Glenn.

El Dorado High School
Jonathan Allen Lore; Bachelor of General Studies/Economics; son of Cathy and Ben Lore; El Dorado High School
Heidi E Mehi; Master of Arts/Indigenous Nations Studies; daughter of Jerry and Jeanne Mehi; Circle High School
Laura A Wagner; Master of Urban Planning

LEON
Jeff Alex Sphar; Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts/Latin American Studies; son of Gary and Patsy Sphar; Bluemont High School

TOWANDA
William Hecker; Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering; son of Stacey Pyle and William Hecker; Circle High School
The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring have been announced.

KU’s Class of 2007 numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall of 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees will return Sunday, May 20, for the university’s 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. The procession along Memorial Drive begins at 2:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Local students graduating are Charles Forsyth, son of Jim and Becky Forsyth of Anthony, with a BS in strategic communications; Kelly McKee, daughter of Richard and Toni McKee of Anthony, with a Doctor of Pharmacy; Michael Nichols, son of Sandy Nichols of Anthony, with a Juris Doctor; and Megan Swingle, daughter of Chauncey and Junell Swingle of Zenda, with a Doctor of Pharmacy.
Students to be honored at KU

Two Montgomery County students will be among 150 recognized at the University of Kansas honors program on Saturday.

The ceremony recognizes KU seniors who have completed the University Honors Program and the University Scholars Program, a mentorship program students participate in during their sophomore years. Students receive gold cords to wear during commencement activities.

Teresa Lo, daughter of Jihn Charng and Ruey Ling Lo and a graduate of Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville, and Zachary Viets, son of Jon and Deborah Viets and a graduate of Independence High School, will receive the University Honors Program cord. Viets will also be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society during ceremonies Saturday morning in Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

In addition, Elizabeth Gregory, daughter of Jack and Marilyn Gregory and a graduate of Topeka High School, will receive the University Honors Program cord.

The university’s formal commencement takes place at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.
KU proposes freezing tuition for four years

TOPEKA, Kan. — In an effort to make the cost of getting an education predictable, the University of Kansas has proposed a plan that would freeze tuition rates for incoming freshmen for four years.

If the plan is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, first-time freshmen also would have the option of paying a fixed rate for student housing for two years.

The "Four-Year Tuition Compact" was presented Thursday to the regents, who will vote on tuition proposals next month.

Kansas State on Thursday proposed a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident students; Wichita State, 6.4 percent; Emporia State, 9.5 percent; Pittsburg State, 7.1 percent; and Fort Hays State, 5.1 percent.

The University of Kansas plan, which would begin next fall for incoming freshmen, would increase tuition rates at the university nearly 16 percent over current levels but keep that rate the same for four years.

Freshmen also would get a schedule showing annual increases in course and campus fees, meaning they would know about 80 percent of their college costs in advance.

Under the plan, resident freshmen would pay $213 per credit hour, which is 15.9 percent more than the current rate of $183.75. For full-time, resident freshmen, tuition would be $3,408 per semester, $468 more than this year.

A full-time, out-of-state resident would pay $8,960 a semester.

"We want to get away from the whip saw effect of tuition increases over the past 30 years," university Provost Richard Lariviere said.

The program has another goal: increasing the number of students who complete degrees in four years.

"Completing four-year academic programs in four years is a high priority," Chancellor Robert Hemenway said. "By offering no tuition increases for four years, we are giving students a powerful incentive to finish their degrees on time."

Lariviere estimated it would cost students who take more than four years to complete a degree an extra $1,000 per semester.

To protect against inflation, Lariviere said the university would ask for a new tuition rate for each incoming freshman class.

Although expressing some hesitations, regents generally liked the idea, which sets the tuition for incoming freshmen by averaging an anticipated 6 percent annual tuition increase over four years.

In the last 30 years, tuition has increased an average of 9 percent a year. But those increases have varied widely, ranging from no change one year to increases of up to 25 percent.

Hannah Love, student body president, said she supported the proposal.

"I think it is a solution to help stabilize those numbers and curb those increases that we continue to see," said Love, a junior from Dodge City.

For other students, the university is proposing a 7.3 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident undergraduates and 6.3 percent for nonresident undergraduates. And the university has asked for a 7.3 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident graduate students and a 6.6 percent for nonresident graduate students.
LAWRENCE - The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring - representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and 52 countries - have been announced by the KU registrar.

KU's Class of 2007 numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees will return Sunday, May 20, for the university's 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 are expected to participate.

Laney B. Allbritten, daughter of Frank Allbritten, Anthropology BA, Senior, Bachelor of Arts/Anthropology & Bachelor of Arts/Psychology, Cunningham High School, Cunningham.

Becky Jo Harbert, daughter of Charles and Margaret Harbert, Social Work BSW Senior, Bachelor of Social Work, Kingman High School, Kingman.

Kale Dean Langley, son of Dean and Linda Langley, Human Biology BA, Senior, Bachelor of Arts/Human Biology, Kingman High School, Kingman.

Kingman Kelsey Jane McCabe, daughter of Gregg and Cheryl McCabe, Senior, Business, Minor &Bachelor of General Studies/Communication Studies, Kingman High School, Kingman.

Glen David Mies, son of James Mies, History of Art BA, Senior, Bachelor of Fine Arts/Art Kingman High School, Kingman.

Kara Nicole Williams, daughter of Chauncey and Junell Swingle, Zenda, Pharmacy PD Prof I Doctor of Pharmacy, Kingman High School, Kingman.

Megan Elizabeth Swingle, daughter of Chauncey and Junell Swingle, Zenda, Pharmacy PD Prof I Doctor of Pharmacy, Kingman High School, Kingman.

Lisa Marie Coulter, daughter of Maurice and Carol Coulter, Milton, Accounting and Info Systems MAS Graduate Master of Accounting and Information Systems, Norwich High School, Norwich.
Local students graduating this spring from the University of Kansas are announced as Winfield High School graduate Hyriam James Fleming, son of Mary Fleming of Oxford, who graduated with a Ph.D. in pharmacy, and Oxford High School graduate Andy Short, son of Don and Sharon Short of Oxford, who graduated with a senior bachelor of general studies in geography.