

# Hinckley News

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(320) 384-6188 • e-mail: hinckleynews@sdcable.net •

## Developer donates land for station



Top: Grindstone River Plaza developer Jerry Schultz had this station design created. Above: The City of Hinckley paid for this architectural design for a depot.

### Ailene Croup Hinckley News

The City of Hinckley has been offered land valued at a \$1 million to build an NLX depot.

Jerry Schultz, owner and developer of Grindstone River Plaza, presented the land donation at last Tuesday's regular city council meeting and showed architectural drawings he'd commissioned.

Schultz' rendition of the station is at the east end of the Plaza property across from Grand Casino Hinckley. The station is attached to the complex he has planned which includes a water park, hotel and park and ride ramp. Riders would exit through the hotel lobby and catch shuttles to town or to the casino. Or, they could pick up their vehicle in the parking ramp.

"From Hinckley south, they are talking about commuter rail. That's why the park and ride is essential. With a park and ride, it will help grow the community and increase the tax base," Schultz said.

He said he wanted to offer the city an alternative - something the city can be part of at minimal cost and the best value to the taxpayers.

Schultz said he would "cost

share" with the city. "Other communities are rallying and we want to help you."

City administrator Jim Ausmus said plans are up in the air according to the meeting he attended in Sandstone.

Ken Buehler, director of the Rail Alliance technical committee, gave the Sandstone presentation and is willing to do the same in Hinckley, Ausmus told the council. "The reason this thing works is because of the casino traffic."

He added that the city needs to be on top of the situation and have some designs.

Ausmus said, "The casino has some money to throw at it, but NLX is frustrated because things aren't happening sooner."

Schultz said his plan is more family oriented. The hotel and water park gives families another option who don't want to get off at a casino. Those who do can get off the train and be at the casino in three minutes.

The city council had authorized up to \$2,500 for sketches of a depot and that sketch was also presented

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at the meeting

An amended affiliate agreement with the Minneapolis to Duluth Rail Alliance was also approved by the council. As part of the agreement, the city, as part of the East Central Region-

al Development Commission (ECRDC), is offering its services as part of a Community Station Development Advisory Committee.

Hinckley is also offering a minimal contribution to the Alliance, redirecting the bulk of the original \$10,000 offered by the ECRDC cities toward the city's station development.