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Vermillion

# PLAIN TALK

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## City seeking public input on pool project



CONCEPT A



CONCEPT B

These two renderings from TSP, Inc., show alternate options for the layout of Prentis Park following the completion of the project to replace the pool with a new aquatic center.

(Courtesy photos)

By Travis Gulbrandson

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The public is invited to offer its input regarding two alternate designs for the layout of Prentis Park following the completion of the project to replace the current swimming pool with a new aquatic center.

An open house will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, in the City Council Chambers.

The Vermillion City Council got a preview of the two plans during its special meeting this Monday, at which there seemed

to be a preference toward Concept B.

"We like it a little bit better because I think your playground structures can remain where they are without being disrupted and relocated," said Paul Boerboom of TSP, Inc., which is acting as a consultant on the project.

The movement of playground equipment in Concept A would be necessitated by the placement of the aquatic center and a new parking area on the east side of it.

"(In Concept A) you can see the big move is to bring in a drive and parking one-way circulation

of vehicles and parking off of Prentis Avenue on the east, bringing that in and a drop-off to the new aquatic center, and somewhat of a formalized plan with sidewalks coming from each corner," Boerboom said.

Under Concept A, the drop-off would wrap around the existing water tower.

Concept B features a different configuration in parking.

"(There's) a leg of parking that would wrap up tight along the south edge of the baseball field," Boerboom said. "We pulled it back toward the east

as much as we could, knowing that there are foul tips flying over the fence from time to time, so (we're) just trying to protect those vehicles a little bit."

One section of the parking area would be at the southwest point of the baseball field, and another would be farther below it along Prentis Avenue.

The parking areas for Concept A and Concept B have 63 and 96 stalls, respectively.

While Concept B has more spaces, there is more of an open area in Concept A.

"There was a lot of discussion about this area along the west side of the park, and how important it was to develop an active zone there related to USD and the students that are in the neighborhood that really use the park as a place to go and get some relaxation and recreation," Boerboom said.

He added that in planning Concept B, "The thought there was that (the southeastern area) would serve the baseball

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## Fee reduction granted for apartment complex

By Travis Gulbrandson

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The Vermillion City Council has granted a reduction in fees to a company that wants to build a 40-unit apartment complex at the corner of Madison and Norbeck streets.

Haan Development needed the reduction in the building permit, water tap and sanitary sewer fees so it would qualify for a share of federal tax credits

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## Memories of JFK's assassination still fresh after 50 years

By David Lias

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Superintendent Mark Froke was a fourth grader, attending class at Vienna Elementary School.

Maxine Johnson was in the student housing in Minneapolis, MN, that she shared with her husband, Allen, and was caring for their two young children, Mathew, 3, and Sharon, 1, while Allen was attending class.

Mayor Jack Powell was teaching mathematics on the University of South Dakota campus.

Jerry Wilson was walking across a university campus in

Oklahoma, preparing to take an exam.

Like million of other Americans today, they all remember exactly where they were and what they were doing 50 years ago, Nov. 22, 1963, when they heard that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated.

"That day is our wedding anniversary," Johnson said. "My husband was in graduate school at the University of Minnesota. He was taking classes, and I remember calling him to tell him what happened."

The couple had been married for six years on that day. She learned of Kennedy's

death from news bulletins on television.

"Our kids were little, and there was a cartoon they watched every day, and it was interrupted for the news," Johnson said. "The thing I remember the most is when Walter Cronkite cried when he said the president was dead. For some reason, that sticks in my mind."

Days after the shooting, Johnson joined the nation in viewing the president's televised funeral, and the procession of his family and mourners who followed his casket to Arlington National Cemetery.

It was fitting, she said, to view such a somber occasion on a black and white television.

It wasn't until reading a book about those dark days that included a color photo of the cemetery that she was reminded that it was a bright, colorful day, despite the sadness.

"It took me a long time to see that (in my mind) in color," Johnson said. "Now, when I see it, it was so black and white and so sad. We watched every segment of it—we saw Lee Harvey Oswald get shot, and it was just a very

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