

Talent offers theater \$457,500 for building


The Talent Urban Renewal Agency wants the land for road realignment

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TALENT — The town's urban renewal agency has offered Camelot Theatre Company \$457,500 for its building and land the agency needs in order to realign West Valley View Road.



Provisions in the offer would allow the theater to lease the building while its board explores relocation options.

"We are excited to have received the purchase offer from (Talent Urban Renewal Agency)," Richard Gleitsmann, board vice president and chairman of the long-range planning committee, wrote in an e-mail to the Mail Tribune.

"As you can imagine, the potential relocation of the Camelot Theatre is an important decision. We are currently reviewing the purchase offer and plan to respond to TURA soon," Gleitsmann wrote. He declined to comment further when contacted by phone as the offer may lead to negotiations.

"We're leaving all options available to them so that everything is as flexible for them as possible," said Marla Cates, TURA executive director. "Camelot has always been one of the primary participants in the project. We have been working together very, very closely and will continue to do so."

A lot just north of the current site is under consideration for either a new theater or relocation of the current building. Offer provisions allow the building and all improvements to be moved from the current site. A citizen design process for the project concluded that the lot was the preferred location for the theater.

The northernmost 15 feet of the current site would be left in Camelot's ownership so that it could be added to the new location. The strip is not needed for the realignment.

Camelot and urban renewal representatives have discussed acquisition with the lot's owner, the Sullivan family, said Cates.

Urban renewal directors voted unanimously to make the offer during a May meeting. The amount had previously been discussed with Camelot officials, said Cates. Camelot is the first to receive an acquisition offer for the realignment.

TURA's plan is to connect West Valley View Road directly with Main Street. Motorists currently must travel north a few hundred feet on Talent Avenue from West Valley View to connect with Main.

The new lot would "put the theater in an absolutely prime spot," Cates said. "It would be the central-most intersection of the downtown core area and give them a lot of exposure also.

"Camelot would need to move the building or build anew, but they are critical to the downtown. We have been working closely with them and will coordinate our time frames accordingly."

Road building probably won't occur until 2011, said Cates. The agency receives revenues from increased assessments in the downtown area to pay off its bonds, which fund the improvements.

Agency officials were scheduled to consider recommendation of ZCS Engineering to perform design and engineering services for the project at their meeting Tuesday evening. The firm engineered the new Civic Center and City Hall projects in town. A four-member committee of city and agency officials recommended ZCS over five other applicants.

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