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MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT AND FRIENDS OF MEDINA PARKS

Partners become stewards of estate

Sara Crawford The Gazette

MEDINA TWP. — Among the construction on state Route 18, just past Medina Hospital, is nearly 17 acres of a historic property that the Medina County Park District and nonprofit partner, Friends of Medina County Parks, soon will be the stewards of.

The property at 4092 Medina Road, consisting of a Victorian home and two other houses and acres of farmland, was owned by prominent antiques dealers Edson Brown and Ross Trump.

According to a news release from MCPD, Brown and Trump wished that the property would be preserved as a working farm for cultural, educational and aesthetic purposes.

To protect their property, the two created a conservation easement that is now held by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Once both men had died, a selection committee was appointed by the estate to select an organization that could formulate a vision and make it a reality.

MCPD and Friends of Medina County Parks submitted a proposal for the property in February leading to the selection committee's decision in choosing the Friends to hold the title to the property and manage estate-provided funds for its long-term care, with MCPD acting as the property manager.

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From A1

"This would not be an 'open seven days a week' park because of the nature of how it would be run because of the conservation easement and just the limited footprint we can have on the property," said MCPD Director Nate Eppink.

Rather than being open daily to the public, entry to the property would be by invitation only for special events, programs, meetings, workshops and tours.

Eppink said that while it is going to be a different public space than the park district is used to, it will be used to make an impact on the community.

"We had proposed the Victorian home becoming meeting space, maybe a nonprofit hub that different nonprofits in the community could use," Eppink said.

Eppink said that it could be a space for meetings for nonprofits, along with providing the Medina County Historical Society a space to display items and have events.

In addition to MCHS, the park district has begun talking with other county organizations like Feeding Medina County, Medina County ADAMH Board, Hope Recovery Community and Cathy's House.

"There's a home that is less than 25 years old that's in very good shape," Eppink said.

He said that the ADAMH Board, Hope Recovery Community and Cathy's



PHOTO PROVIDED

An aerial view of the property at 4092 Medina Road shows it consisting of nearly 17 acres of land and three houses.

House may be able to help be stewards of the property.

In addition, Eppink said that it could provide a space for people in recovery to stay and fulfill the wishes of the former owners to keep it as a working farm.

With the working farm, part of the proposal suggested using the food produced to benefit Feeding Medina County.

"(Western Reserve Land Conservancy has) no objection to the farm ultimately benefiting Feeding Medina County," Eppink said. "So that's another really cool partner layer (and) another way to benefit the community through this property."

Eppink said that due to the location of the property, it provides a green space for people to pass as they enter the city of Medina from Medina Township.

"What a neat gateway to the city if you're coming from the east to have this historic property with a farm," Eppink said.

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