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Homewood trustees authorize sale of Ridge Road property

By ERIC CRUMP ewcrump@hfchronicle.com

Homewood trustees can authorize staff to move forward with sale negotiations for the property at 2052-2066 Ridge Road. No alternative bids were received by 5 p.m. on July 22, according to Economic Development Director Angela Mesaros.

The village was required by law to seek alternative proposals after Third Coast Development expressed interest in buying the property. The board declared the site to be surplus property and authorized staff to advertise for alternative bids in June. The deadline was set for July 8 but was extended to account for a problem publishing the notice.

Third Coast has worked with the village on redevelopment efforts before. The firm attempted to purchase the former Triumph Building at the southwest corner of Ridge Road and Martin Avenue in 2016. That deal fell through, but as part of the process, the firm purchased the building at 2049-2051 Ridge Road, currently occupied by Loulou Belle boutique and Artistix salon.

The Triumph Building was later purchased by HCF Homewood and was demolished last year. HCF Homewood is currently overseeing construction of the Hartford Building at the Ridge and Martin site. The four-story building will include a restaurant on the first floor and three floors of apartments above.

Third Coast might have a similar de-

velopment in mind for 2052-2066 Ridge Road, which is in a key location for transit-oriented development, a priority for the village's long-term downtown plan.

During the June 28 meeting, Homewood resident Nancy Gildart informed trustees that she and architectural historian Al Willis were inquiring with the State Historic Preservation Office about the possibility of submitting applications for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for the Ridge Road building and for another property recently purchased by the village, the former library building at 17900 Dixie Highway.

Willis said both buildings were designed by the late John V. McPherson, a prominent Homewood architect in the 1950s and 60s.

Gildart said the historic designation, if achieved, would be an honorary recognition and would not prevent the buildings from being replaced, but she wanted village officials to know about the effort.

The Ridge Road building is one of four sites in downtown Homewood that are at some stage of transit-oriented redevelopment.

In addition to the Hartford Building, the village is considering the sale of a portion of the village hall parking lot at 2024 Chestnut Road to HCF Homewood, which has proposed building a five-story, 59-unit residential building there.

Another developer has signed a letter of intent to purchase the site of the former Savoia T'Go restaurant at Dixie Highway and Hickory Road.



Chronicle file photo

Homewood trustees asked staff to begin the process of selling the building at 2052-2066 Ridge Road to a developer.