

Park concept considered for Spicer property

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make a financial commitment, Gaynor said.

"We have to study existing recreational areas such as tennis courts and baseball and soccer fields to see if they're being used to their fullest extent. Then we can only recommend what we think is best, take it to the (City) Council and back to Spicer."

"Before we spend any money on a professional appraisal, we'd like our in-house engineering and assessing people to give us an idea."

A ski slope and an outdoor pool were identified by Gaynor as recreational facilities the city lacks but could acquire by buying the centrally located property.

"PROFESSIONALLY, I see the need for a large parcel in the dead center of the city. Eighty to 100 acres is all we'd need. It would provide for recreational opportunities without driving a great distance," Gaynor said.

Residents whose youngsters cross-country ski at Farmington Hills' Glen Oaks Country Club each winter "rave about it," he added.

"They've told us how wonderful it is to be able to drop off the kids for an hour or so of skiing and still be home

for dinner. Fuel is expensive, and during the week, time is short. Families don't always have the time to drive out to Kensington (Metro Park)."

GAYNOR FAVORS letting the people decide via a ballot proposal whether the city should buy the property.

By law, the city would pay no greater than an 11-percent interest rate if it buys the land. Among feasible financial options Gaynor sees are:

- Buying over a 30-year period.
- Selling general obligation or revenue bonds.
- Setting up trusts.

Headlee said they favored closed meetings for performance evaluations of college presidents, school superintendents and city managers.

• Day care — Both favor granting state income tax deductions for day care expenses of working parents. But they said they would oppose the state's requiring employers to offer "flex-time" — allowing people to modify their own working hours.

"There are about 2,200 laws on the books (regarding women) that need reviewing," Blanchard added.

BUT THEY disagreed on "prevailing wages." State law presently requires

that contractors working on projects financed by local Economic Development Corporation bonds pay Michigan's prevailing wage law, 20 percent higher than the federal government's. The candidates were asked if "prevailing wage" should be dropped from state law.

"It ought to be as big as the demand indicates as long as it's determined fairly," said Blanchard, who has much organized labor support.

Headlee countered, "I think those contracts ought to be put out for bids, and people who bid the lowest should get the bid."

THROUGHOUT THE DEBATE, Headlee said Michigan could become the "Miracle State," after he turns its economy around.

The man who led the campaign for the state tax limitation amendment in 1978 said he favored taxing workers 60

cents per week to help bail out the state's unemployment compensation fund.

Headlee favors reinstating a week's wait before a person could receive unemployment aid. He also favored changing — from 18 to 20 weeks — the length of time a person must work before being eligible for unemployment.

"The issues are jobs, taxes, spending and leadership," the Republican said before quoting Cicero, who spoke to the Romans several years before the birth of Christ.

"The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be rebuilt, public debt should be reduced and citizens should be required to work," Headlee said.

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