

Plan for Spicer land to be drawn

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A local landscape architect has been given the job of developing a master land use plan for the 212-acre Spicer property and of updating the Farmington Hills master plan for parks and recreation.

Farmington Hills City Council Monday agreed to pay John Grismis & Associates of Farmington Hills a maximum \$27,500 to complete plans by Jan. 1, 1986. The money to pay for the work has been allocated from the city's capital improvement fund.

Updating the city's eight-year-old parks and recreation master plan is a necessity if city officials expect to apply and receive federal and state grants for the development of the 212 acres on

the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Miles, said Doug Gaynor, Hills director of special services.

The Spicer property — a term that city officials want to discontinue using — is the largest tract of publicly held land in Farmington Hills. Purchase was completed in April with the help of a \$12-million grant from the Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF) and \$800,000 from the city.

THE FARMINGTON Hills Parks and Recreation Commission is expected to develop a procedure for renaming the Spicer property.

"We are starting to diminish the use of the name Spicer. The acreage has been referred to as the Spicer property because it was purchased from Nicholas Spicer, son of the late Eleanor Spicer, a naturalist who had a large role in the Farmington area's heritage."

City officials have asked Grismis for a comprehensive plan for the 212 acres will be used. The plan will include site analysis, design, a master site plan, detailed cost estimates and a year-by-year development plan.

Grismis's plan will also include design details for botanical gardens, an adventure playground, nature and cross country ski trails, a nature center, picnic areas, a working farm, parking lots, a natural outdoor ice rink, an outdoor amphitheater, and both active and passive areas.

The plan is also expected to analyze the possible addition of a community center, an indoor ice rink, and an indoor/outdoor swimming pool.

A RECENTLY completed citizens' study of the type of activities and facilities that should be included on the acreage will form the basis of the park's design.

The updated master plan for parks and recreation will include the city's history, population characteristics, natural resources, an inventory of local recreation, existing facilities, and programs, bike paths, goals, evidence of community support, needs of handicapped residents, proposed projects and priorities.

The consultant is also required to prepare a survey and subsequent presentation of comments from the Farmington Public Schools, Farmington Hills Planning Commission, Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission and city residents.

Technion head to speak here

Melvin Bloom, executive vice president of the American Society for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, will speak at the 37th annual dinner of the ATS Detroit Chapter at 6:15 p.m. Monday.

Keynote speaker will be Winston S. Churchill, the grandson of Sir Winston S. Churchill, Great Britain's wartime prime minister. The younger Churchill is a vice president of the British Technion Society and a member of the House of Commons.

Bloom will bring greetings from the Technion, Israel's sole technological university, and the officers and board of the American Society.

ATS HAS contributed to the advancement of the Technion since 1940 by supporting educational needs and objectives. Bloom, a United Jewish Appeal national executive for 15 years, came to Technion in January, 1985. He is a recognized leader in the profession of Jewish communal service.

"The accomplishments and potential of Technion — its major role in Israel's phenomenal scientific and technological progress and in the development of precious human

resources offer a marvelous opportunity for service," said Bloom.

"The task ahead requires vision and a lot of hard work. I hope to contribute both and, in so doing, to building a peaceful, economically viable future for Israel and the Jewish people."

AS CHIEF professional officer of ATS, Bloom will oversee the activities of some 65 chapters nationwide and operations of 10 regional offices.

Bloom services on the executive boards of the Conference of Jewish Communal Service, the International Conference on Jewish Communal Service and the Association of Jewish Community Organization Personnel.

He has been an innovative leader bringing to the field a number of new professionals who serve throughout the country.

With bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Northwest-

ern University and a master's degree in political science from the New School for Social Research, he has served on the faculty of the New School graduate program for fund raising.

BLOOM is the author of "Public Relations and Presidential Campaigns: A Crisis in Democracy," other publications, and has been a producer of documentary films.

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is a

cornerstone of Israel's development and its most comprehensive academic center for advanced technology and applied research.

In the metro area, the American Technion Society, East Central Region is headquartered in Southfield.

Tickets for the Oct. 21 dinner, scheduled for Adat Shalom Synagogue, Farmington Hills, can be reserved by calling 559-5190.

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