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Tulsa projects pitched for Vision sales-tax renewal plan

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Posted: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 12:00 am

By JARREL WADE World Staff Writer | 2 comments

An overhaul to the Tulsa City-County Library system and a downtown multisport facility are two more ideas added Tuesday to compete for a proposed Vision 2025 renewal.

Pitches came at a noon meeting in front of the Tulsa City Council and mayor, whose debate on the project details can be watched at cityoftulsa.org/vision.

The Tulsa City-County Library pitch, made by CEO Gary Shaffer, was for Vision-renewal funding to match \$55 million currently raised for an overhaul of all 13 libraries in the system.

The system's Central Library is in the middle of its own remodel, but Shaffer said he hopes matching funds would bring all the city-county libraries up to Central Library's level.

Mayor Dewey Bartlett said he was concerned that some of the amenities the project would be adding at each of the libraries could be redundant to other services offered by churches.

"I think the key thing that the library always does is not be redundant," Shaffer responded. Each library would be outfitted with services specifically to the community it serves, he said.

City Councilor Karen Gilbert said she would support the upgrade.

"I think this is a phenomenal proposal, and I'm all about it," Gilbert said. "You're also improving the lives of the citizens of Tulsa throughout Tulsa County."

Another project pitched before councilors was for a multisport complex that would alter the way south downtown looks.

The Boston Avenue Multisport complex, and its developers, have made the rounds of pitching their project [to city officials several times in recent years](#).

The BAM project would swallow surface parking in downtown's Cathedral District while offering a public sports field and parking garage, according to the developer Kenton Grant.

"BAM is a parking garage. BAM is a park that helps pull people into downtown. BAM is retail and education space," Grant said.

Developers are asking for \$44 million to make the multiuse sports field a reality.

All proposals are competing for as much as \$300 million in funding over the proposed life of the Vision 2025 renewal. The effort, led by Councilors Blake Ewing and Anna America, has addressed putting 0.3 percent of Vision 2025's expiring 0.6 percent sales tax toward

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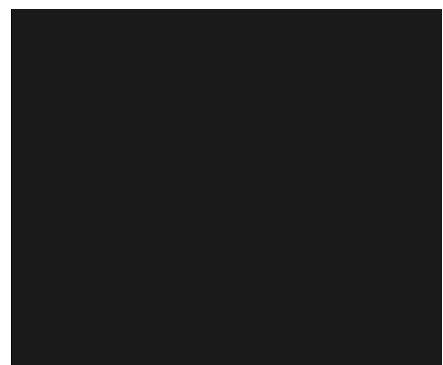
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economic development projects for the community.

The Tulsa Zoo also made a pitch Tuesday for improvements to the public-private partnership, including \$12 million for an upgrade to the zoo entrance. The new entrance would include moving the elephant sanctuary, a favorite for zoo-goers, closer to the front while updating amenities at the entryway to encourage quick and safe entry for patrons, according to the proposal.

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Rick Neal posted at 8:26 pm on Tue, Jul 14, 2015.




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Gordon Mills posted at 6:12 pm on Tue, Jul 14, 2015.



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Karen Gilbert, one of the Tulsey World councilors has not seen a tax or a government spending program she would oppose (in fact she put an even larger proposal recently). With no opposition for election she can ignore her constituents and concentrate on 'downtown' where her spouse is employed.

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Today's E-Edition

The image shows the front page of the Tulsa World newspaper. The masthead reads "TULSA WORLD" with the tagline "SERVING NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA SINCE 1910". The date is Wednesday, April 15, 2015, and the price is \$1.00. The main headline is "Fate of grand jury in court's hands" with a sub-headline "A decision for the Tulsa World and Sports' rights goes to the Supreme Court to hear Tuesday". Other headlines include "State GOP's post-stirrs aid fuss" and "Bomber Nichols wants guns released". A large photo shows a woman holding a trophy, with the caption "For sale: One Miss America trophy — mystery included". At the bottom, there is a "WorldExtra" advertisement for a "BIG ONLINE EVENT SALE" and a "WorldExtra" logo.

The image is a digital advertisement for the Jeep Cherokee. It features the Jeep logo at the top, followed by the text "THE JEEP® CHEROKEE" and "BEST-IN-CLASS 4X4 CAPABILITY.⁽¹⁾". Below the text is a photograph of a white Jeep Cherokee SUV. At the bottom, there are two yellow buttons: "CLICK TO SEARCH INVENTORY" and "CLICK FOR OFFER".

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