

CENTER

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history of Columbus that would put the river to a useful purpose."

Twyford and Pfeifer submitted their plans and drawings Wednesday to Gordon Jelliffe, president of the City National Bank and chairman of the Ohio Convention Center Commission. The commission has members appointed by the mayor, county commissioners and the chamber of commerce's Downtown Area Committee

Prior to the Twyford-Pfeifer proposal, the commission had been studying three site-only proposals. Reportedly, commission members have been leaning toward a Union Station location, several blocks north of the Broad and High hub of the city.

TWYFORD AND Pfeifer, who propose offering stock shares to the public to finance the center, stress their program would "be funded with public financing and not a single penny would be charged to the taxpayer, the property owner, or city or county government."

They envision a stock subscription of 2.5 million shares at \$10 per share. The entire issue would first be offered to residents of Columbus and Franklin County "to give people the psychological lift of owning a piece of Downtown," Twyford said.

Twyford and Pfeifer say the river-top location would be more central to the now decaying Downtown, would save land acquisition costs —

an estimated \$10 million — and would satisfy the self-interests of divergent groups on the commission.

WITH THE west bank of the Scioto available for a future expansion of the center, the complex would be a weighty factor in revitalizing Veterans Memorial and the Civic Center development, the backers added.

Engineering studies indicate that pilings can be sunk, probably 50 feet, into the solid rock beneath the river bed to support the proposed 410-by 684-foot platform. The studies show that 5,000 parking spaces are available within a block of the proposed site, which itself would have "basement" parking space for 875 automobiles.

The base of the platform would be above the March 26, 1913, record height of the Scioto, the proponents said.

THE PROPOSED center would include:

A 16-story or taller facility, a mall, hotel accommodations and a domed sports arena with a 10,000 spectator capacity. Space also would be available for a shopping center, and dining facilities.

THE HOTEL segment of the facility would have a capacity of 1,000.

Twyford and Pfeifer estimate that construction of the center could be completed in 30 months. During this period, they asserted, approximately 200 workers would earn a total \$12 million and generate about \$30 million in additional income for the area.