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Area officials looking for answers on proposed motor sports complex

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By Patrick Fisher, Staff Writer

Elko New Market area residents and officials from the city, New Market Township and Scott County will be looking for answers concerning a major motor sports complex proposed for the area at a public meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29.

The meeting, to be held at at Eagle View Elementary School, 25600 Nevada Ave., will include representatives of International Motorsports Entertainment and Development Corporation (IMEDC) who will present information on the complex. The company's website, minnesotaspeedwaypark.com, states "We are proposing to build an international motor speedway and event center 35 minutes from the Twin Cities in a community and region with a rich, well-established racing and entertainment tradition."

The facility would include an oval track, road course and drag strip, along with hotels and restaurants. Plans are also being considered for motocross, snocross and karting. The facility would cost around \$500 million.

The Minneapolis-based corporation had earlier proposed facilities near Big Lake and Lino Lakes.

Members of the Elko New Market City Council, the city's Planning Board, the Scott County Board of Commissioners and the New Market Township Board will all be at the meeting. The public is also welcome to attend.

Scott County Board Chair Tom Wolf, who also represents the Elko New Market area, said no application has been put forward yet. The area being considered is around the northwest corner of the intersection of Interstate 35 and Scott County Road 2 in New Market Township. He noted that if the plan moves forward, it is hoped the city of Elko New Market would annex the property.

Wolf said the group came to the county in July to discuss the complex.

"We don't have all the answers yet," said Wolf.

"I'm hoping to learn something," said LeRoy Clausen, Clerk for New Market Township. He understands it's a race track, but that has been the only information he's learned.

Elko New Market City Administrator Tom Terry said the city has been contacted by IMEDC regarding a motor sports facility, but no applications for it have been submitted.

The Times received no response from Jim Farnum, CEO of IMEDC, after several inquiries.

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