

Interview with Mayor Robb cont.

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ice rink. More people would also visit the area of Trace Fork due to the new ice rink. The Mound Business District, where the rink was supposed to be located was viewed negatively by people travelling back and forth across MacCorkle Avenue. In fact, one of the benefits of putting the rink at the FMC site was that it would help in the rejuvenation of the Mound Business District. Even though I was not wholeheartedly in favor of putting the rink at the Trace Fork Shops, it was a better alternative. There were also other reasons, as some Council members preferred the Trace Fork site while others preferred the FMC site. We also had to consider the existing skating community, which has diminished over the years due to inadequate facilities in the area, and many of them are not made-up of South Charlestonians. The Trace Fork site was a better alternative.

Kittredge: What should South Charleston citizens expect to happen over the next several months regarding Trace Fork, remediation at East Plant, and redevelopment at East Plant?

Robb: As far as the skating rink situation, negotiations with the Trace Fork developer have not been as smooth as initially expected, but they are still ongoing. I don't know what FMC's timetable is concerning rebuilding a facility of some kind on their site, but we are nonetheless still looking at alternate sites for the ice rink. The East Plant site is not really an alternative, but if push came to shove, it might be necessary to go back to FMC again, and I certainly would not have any qualms about doing that.

Kittredge: Are you personally keeping in touch with FMC to assure that a community friendly redevelopment plan will be implemented?

Robb: Indirectly; we have a council member that serves on the East Plant Public Advisory Group. We also have a number of public-spirited citizens, whose abilities I respect and whose efforts I value. My role in the specifics of the redevelopment of East Plant is indirect, but through the values, abilities and trust of people involved in the project the outcome for the facility looks promising.

Kittredge: Where can people get more information about the new ice rink and about activities on the former East Plant?

Robb: To obtain information on the ice rink, my office is the best contact point, even though many of the specifics are still up in the air. With respect to the East Plant site, again my office should be able to help put you in touch with the necessary people. Information can also be found on East Plant's website at www.eastplant.com.

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Redevelopment at East Plant - Interview with Mayor Robb

Tom Kittredge, President of Terradon Communications Group., interviewed Mayor Robb about his views on the former East Plant site, located in South Charleston. The interview is transcribed and provided below:

Kittredge: What is your vision for the East Plant property?

Mayor Robb: I would like to see an attractive asset for the community culturally, recreationally, aesthetically, and eco-

nomically. If we could combine all of those elements, it would be the most beneficial for our community.

Kittredge: For a while, it appeared that the City would use FMC donated land to build an ice rink, but that just didn't work out. Why was Trace Fork selected as the better site?

Robb: It wasn't necessarily selected because it was a better site. It was selected because the developer at Trace

Fork, during the Spring, made an offer that appeared to be saving the City a lot of money on the construction of an ice rink facility.

Kittredge: How does the South Charleston community benefit from the ice rink moving to Trace Fork?

Robb: I would say that the primary benefit was the amount of savings made by the City in changing the location of the

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