STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

**RRCC Student Life Director Brad Krasaway and area resident Chris Beyer discuss a proposal to create a disc golf course at RRCC with the KDA Board. The men said the course would benefit students and members of the community, and could draw players to the college and community from other areas.**

## DISC GOLF

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KDA Board instead of KCDA, which he said needs more funding. The KDA Board is made up of county commissioners. The KDA Board provides funding to the KCDA for community projects.

Skoe said the next meeting of the KCDA is set for the end of the month and is expected to consider four other funding requests. He said he did not know if the KCDA has enough money to fund those requests and whether the money, if granted to the disc golf project, would be available in time to establish the course by Aug. 24.

Skoe said given the loss of jobs at the International Falls paper mill by October, KCDA funding may be needed for other projects that would create jobs.

Board member Wade Pavleck said that he would ordinarily support Skoe, but because of the tight time line would vote in favor of funding the project.

The project, said Pavleck, is also a way to support the college. "We need to protect the assets we have instead of pie in the sky projects," he said. "Keeping the college viable is critical for moving forward."

Because of the time frame, he said he could support a one-time exception to referring projects to the KCDA for funding.

Pavleck also said Skoe raised another bigger issue — adequate funding for KCDA — that ought to be considered separately from the disc golf request.

Beyer and Krasaway said they would develop a marketing plan, as requested by city officials, to promote the course countywide. Beyer noted that the closest disc golf course to the community is a two-hour drive and said the Falls course could be a draw to the college and the community.

Board member Brian McBride supported the proposal, saying disc golf is a growing activity. He said the college course could serve as an example for smaller communities in the county that lack affordable activities and exercise options.

McBride also reminded board members that anyone has the option to propose a project for funding at the KDA Board meetings.

Board member Kevin Adee applauded the pair for proposing the idea and recalled that when he attended school in Hibbing, tossing flying discs to one another was commonplace.

In other business Tuesday, the KDA Board agreed to seek state bonding money in 2014 for the Island View sewer project. A deadline for submission of projects for funding to Gov. Mark Dayton is approaching, they said.

## AUDIT

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around the July 4 celebration to include more of a connection to the July 1 Canada Day festivities in Fort Frances. Dragon boat races, conducted by Fort Frances community, may be included in the Falls' future plans, she said.

In related business, Anderson told the council that Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton had proclaimed July 2 as Peaceful Borders Day in Minnesota.

### EDA COMMISSION

Prior to the council meeting, members met in special session as the International Falls Economic Development Authority Commission to consider a resolution encouraging state officials to allow the city to retain a $657,400 state grant received by the city last year.

The commission, with Kalar absent, approved the resolution.

However, Anderson questioned how the special meeting was called, noting that the agenda simply stated "multimodal district" without explaining the need to act in special session.

Anderson said the bylaws assert that special meetings are for the purpose of transacting business, but the agenda did not notify what type of business was to be conducted.

The League of Minnesota Cities handbook section on special meetings states "The council should, however, only transact business for which notice has been provided."

EDA Pres. Gail Rognerud said the special meeting was called because she felt action needed to be taken on the grant, as state officials consider whether to withdraw it from the city.

"The grant... may be in jeopardy," she said. The resolution will ask Dayton, and commissioners of the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Department of Employment and Economic Development to "step up and help us make sure we keep it, even though circumstances have changed since we applied," she said.

Potential developers for the site have changed; and a local, private developer, who has never been publicly named, has changed a proposal for the site, officials have said.

Rognerud said state and federal officials have recently pledged support to the community as it attempts to find ways to recover from the loss of 265 jobs by October at the Boise Inc. paper mill in the Falls. She said the timing is right to ask those people to help the community retain the grant.

Anderson also wondered why the EDA was taking action on the resolution when the grant was provided to the city.

"To raise questions about economic development is heresy," he told fellow EDA commissioners.

Rognerud said the grant is for property, the multimodal district, which is owned by the EDA. And, she said, the grant was intended to be used to install utilities to the property. She said the city council will also be asked to take action on the resolution.

Jaksa said she respected Anderson's knowledge of proper procedure, but said procedure should not get in the way of development. She said she would attempt to learn more about procedures.

"In this case, time is of the essence," she said

Commissioner Paul Eklund suggested the EDA Commission ask the Koochiching County Board to consider adopting the resolution, and encouraged the commission to adopt the resolution despite the procedural error.

Anderson said he didn't oppose the resolution itself, just how it was handled: at the EDA Commission and in a special session.

Rognerud said she would take responsibility for calling the special meeting without following proper procedure.

## TAX

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Bob Anderson vacated the at-large seat on the commission, made up of International Falls and Koochiching County representatives, in 2012.

However, Tuesday, International Falls City Attorney Steve Shermoen said the commission does not have bylaws, but rather an operating agreement that was signed by city and county officials in 1997.

"It says if there is a vacancy, it is to be filled for the unexpired portion of the term," Shermoen said.

To comply with the agreement, Shermoen said, Nevanen's term shouldn't expire until January 2015. He added that an amendment would correct the misunderstanding.

"I'm not sure the motion would have passed," Pavleck said referring to the information Shermoen provided. "It has nothing to do with Mr. Nevanen, it has to do with involving the public and letting them have a voice to sit on that board...we have a history of having a non government official sitting in that capacity."

Nevanen serves as director of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority, and Shermoen assured the board that it wasn't a conflict of interest with him serving on the airport commission.

"In the interim, Paul will do a good job," Pavleck concluded.

The board also Tuesday awarded the Benike family of Birchdale with the 2013 Koochiching County Family Farm Award.

The award, which is given through the county's Extension program, recognizes the farmers in the community.

See Saturday's edition of The Journal for a full story on the Benike family.

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