

# MTMC's

# Highland site under review

## Group formed to determine future of current campus

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Middle Tennessee Medical Center is bringing together a strong group of local minds to help it decide the future of its current campus on Highland Avenue once the hospital moves to its new location in west Murfreesboro.

The hospital announced Thursday it has established an advisory council made up of community and business leaders whose purpose is to "ensure that the community's best interests are served after the medical center moves its operations to a new campus in November 2010," according to a news release.

Deputy City Manager Rob Lyons, who will take over for retiring Murfreesboro City Manager Roger Haley in August and is a part of the panel,



**MTMC's Highland Avenue site**

said he's looking forward to working with MTMC on the future of the use of the property.

"We know that this has been an important community landmark for many, many years," Lyons said of the Highland Avenue site, which is located east of the Public Square close to the MTSU campus. "We know there's a great deal of community interest about what ultimately will happen with that property."

The City Council has already

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LYONS



MURFREE



WEBER



FERGUSON



MCCARROLL



LAROCHE



HUDDLESTON



PARKS

# MTMC

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taken steps to approve expanded land use of the property in the transition, such as for college purposes.

"I think there is an opportunity for something cool and exciting to happen," Lyons said. "I certainly think it's in a strategic location since it is midway between our historic downtown and the university and is surrounded by residential areas."

Fellow advisory council member Holly Weber, the vice president of economic development for the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, said the committee is important for several reasons.

"The soon to be former MTMC campus is currently a destination within our community and strategically located adjacent to downtown and MTSU," Weber said. "It is also located within our historic district. It is important to ensure the highest and best use of the property while also retaining and furthering the integrity of the neighborhood."

MTMC President and CEO Gordon Ferguson,

## MTMC Advisory Council

Members of MTMC's advisory council include:

- Gordon Ferguson, president and CEO, MTMC
- Bill Huddleston, president, Huddleston Steele Engineering
- Ted LaRoche, attorney, retired General Counsel/SVP, National HealthCare Corporation
- Rob Lyons, deputy city manager and incoming city manager, city of Murfreesboro
- The Rev. James McCarroll, pastor, First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro
- Matt Murfree, attorney, Murfree & Murfree, PLLC
- Bob Parks, principal broker/owner, Bob Parks Realty
- Holly Weber, vice president of economic development, Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce

who will also serve on the advisory council, said the Highland site has been in service to the community for more than 80 years.

"While we are looking forward to moving to our new facility, we are also excited about exploring the opportunities our existing campus can offer to the people of Murfreesboro after our move," he said.

Covering 18.73 acres, the existing MTMC campus includes five buildings; a parking garage and six surface parking lots. The main building, located at 400 N. Highland Ave., was established as Rutherford Hospital in 1927 and contained 37 beds. Currently, the hospital operates 216 beds and sees nearly 90,000 patients a

year.

"There are a lot of possibilities for this campus," said Ferguson. "We will work hard to create the best possible use of the property, which means ensuring that whatever occurs will benefit Murfreesboro and Rutherford County."

Lyons echoed Ferguson in noting that the large, centrally located site offers great potential.

"I am excited about being part of the advisory council, where I see my role as looking after the best interests of the city in considering the future uses of the MTMC campus," he said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for all stakeholders in Murfreesboro's future to work together to help ensure

bright future."

Southeast Venture, a Nashville-based commercial real estate and architectural services firm, has been hired by MTMC to repurpose and market the campus in a way that contributes to the city's progress and is responsive to its citizens' needs.

"Southeast Venture has medical real estate brokerage, architectural expertise, and land use planning and facility retrofitting experience needed to handle this project," Ferguson added. "We look forward to working with them."

Axon West, a principal with Southeast Venture and J.T. Martin, director of business development for the Health-care Services Division of Southeast Venture, will work on the MTMC project.

"Our hope is that when this project is complete, the community will be as proud of the old campus as they are of the new hospital under construction across town," Martin said.

"This is a prime location in Murfreesboro, and we look forward to working with the hospital and the community to realize its full potential."

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