

WEEK IN REVIEW

STATE AND LOCAL STORIES OF INTEREST

Zepnick seeks meeting with owners of Bucks

MILWAUKEE — State Rep. Josh Zepnick has sent a letter to the two owners of the Milwaukee Bucks and Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corp. Board Chairman Marc Marotta asking for a bipartisan meeting with state legislators from the county to discuss the construction of a new arena and where it might be located.

In the letter, Zepnick is asking owners Marc Lasry and Wes Edens, and Marotta to talk about any discussions or proposals being raised over the construction of a new arena and the use of public financing as part of the package.

“Given that nearly all the public financing methods so far on the table would require a vote in the Legislature, it is critical this conversation not be delayed until after the election. The taxpaying public deserves better,” Zepnick wrote.

Zepnick recently offered three proposed sites for the arena to be built.

The state representative also is asking that a meeting be set up where the media the general public can attend.



Zepnick

MILWAUKEE
COUNTY

POST

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Zepnick makes another proposal on Bucks arena

Post Staff

MILWAUKEE — State Rep. Josh Zepnick, D-Milwaukee, has made another proposal for the site of a new Milwaukee Bucks arena and wants more discussion on the subject.

Zepnick's latest proposal is to locate the arena on land west of the 16th Street Viaduct and relocate the Marquette University soccer field.

Last month, Zepnick wrote a letter to Milwaukee Bucks owners Marc Lasry and Wes Edens and Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corp. Board Chairman

Marc Marotta proposing that one location for a new arena be built northeast of the Potawatomi Hotel & Casino off South 13th Street and West Canal Street. That site is owned by the city of Milwaukee, which uses it for the Department of Public Works. The second site was a parcel owned by the Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, a nonprofit group located at 1301 W. Mount Vernon Ave. Zepnick said the two sites in the valley would be developed without any new taxes, and he says the city of Milwaukee could finance the project by creating a new tax incremental financing district.

Zepnick says his new proposal mirrors

his original proposal because it's close to Interstate 94. He also pointed out that the closing of the Cargill meatpacking plant on West Canal Street would create what he called “a huge opportunity to connect these initiatives that helps to transform the east side of the valley as well as pay for a new arena without raising taxes, creating new jobs in the valley and downtown's west side.”

Zepnick said in a release that he's confirmed discussions about an arena location are being held behind closed doors.

“This kind of good old boys club approach is exactly the process that the

public abhors and resembles the worst of the worst when it comes to building sports facilities. Secrecy helped fog the entire debate over the Brewers stadium and left collateral damage all over the city and state,” Zepnick stated in a release.

Zepnick is also calling on the city Comptroller's office to examine the Bradley Center's finances, review the income tax revenue of NBA players and related employees and its impact on Milwaukee's spending.

Lasry and Edens have pledged \$100 million toward the project, but have not revealed any location possibilities.