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Water Front Usage Urged In Downtown Revitalization

Group Gathers At Public Forum

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A planning firm, specializing in research urban design, illustrated the potential the city of Winchester and its downtown has at a recent public forum at San Miguel's Conference Room Thursday night.

The large crowd, consisting of many downtown players, city officials and concerned citizens, listened as Looney Ricks Kiss (LRK) recommended using Tims Ford Lake to the downtown's advantage and other plans.

LRK made their presentation in PowerPoint format and included drawings of hotels off the lake, parks and plans for a revitalized Winchester downtown.

This project began when the state of Tennessee incorporated Winchester as a pilot project where state sales tax monies (5.5 percent on the dollar) go back into the downtown.

To break it down, sales tax money coming from a

come back to the downtown area. That money is then earmarked only to be spent on revitalizing the downtown area--the purchasing of buildings and so on.

This money will be generated back into Winchester's downtown until June 30, 2013.

Winchester Downtown Program Corporation President Sean Crabtree said the nine-block radius project is much bigger than the city of Winchester because it affects all of Franklin County to its betterment.

Crabtree also explained the reasoning for hiring a firm like LRK as one of the top planning firms to "maximize the project."

LRK has been involved in the Fanning Bend project, working with the TVA and Bolivar (one of six cities included in the state's pilot project to enhance the downtown).

Part of LRK's presentation included the discussion of parking. For years citizens have complained about parking in the