Y committed to Keowee River plans

Developer not threatened by possible expansion to Highway 11 site

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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SENECA — The developer of a large-scale mixed-use complex that would include the future home of the Foothills Area Family YMCA near Seneca does not feel threatened by Oconee County's plans to have a YMCA presence at a proposed Highway 11 site.

Keowee River project developer Scott Vick said Wednesday that he sees a role by the Y at the Highway 11 property as "very positive."

Oconee County Administrator Scott Moulder said recently the YMCA is interested in partnering with the county to offer recreational programs on a 415-acre tract that county officials are trying to buy.

While some might see the Y's presence at the Highway 11 property as undermining or diminishing Keowee River's plans, Vick does not look at it that way.

"Some people look at it as an either or proposition and it's not," Vick said. "We're really in support of anything that makes the Y stronger and makes Oconee County better."

Vick said that in speaking with Moulder he got the sense the county is interested in having the Y oversee programs at the fields and other

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YMCA: Base of operations

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facilities that might be built at the Highway 11 property. Vick does not think the county wants to have a building for the Y at the property.

Vick said the proposed future home of the Y at land donated by the Keowee River Preservation Group is the best location to have a base of operations for the Y.

"The demographics likely will be at the Keowee

consider additional options that would promote positive impact throughout the organization's service area.

Connelly said many YMCAs operate multiple branches within their areas. She said she feels confident in the ability of the current volunteer and staff leadership "to do amazing things throughout our service area."

Still, Y officials have no doubt of where their future home base would be.

"The Foothills YMCA is committed to moving forward with the Keowee River facility," Connelly said.

Foothills YMCA Board President Jim Woods reiterated that commitment in a recent statement.

"We're pleased with the opportunity to develop this project in cooperation with the visionary leaders at Keowee River," Woods said.

The Y staff is set to begin moving in December from its location at Clemson

River location, Vick says

University property to the River House, a temporary home Vick is preparing next to the river site.

Keowee River developers see the Y as an integral part of their outdoor-themed development.

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