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Peabody Hotel proposed for Thermal site

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A Peabody Hotel/baseball stadium combo has entered the mix of potential uses for the 11-acre site formerly used by the Thermal Plant in downtown Nashville.

Today is the deadline for proposals to be submitted to a 19-member task force created by Metro Council to consider the best future use for the coveted riverside property.

Peabody Hotel Group has filed a proposal to construct a hotel on the land. Late last year, PHG, a division of Memphis-based Belz Enterprises, confirmed it was considering a \$90 million, 400-room hotel with nearly 50,000 square feet of convention space for downtown Nashville.

The company's proposal submitted today also provides space for a baseball stadium on the Thermal site. The total project cost is not known.

The Nashville Sounds have submitted their own proposal for a 11,000-seat baseball stadium, 60,000 square feet of retail and dozens of residential units. The cost for that project - which the team first proposed last fall - totals \$80 million. Half that amount has been committed by Baltimore-based Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse Inc., which wants to develop two mixed-used buildings to accompany the minor-league baseball stadium.

The Greater Nashville Hotel & Lodging Association is proposing a new convention center that could spur riverfront development. The size of the proposed convention center has not been outlined, but community officials say as much as 400,000 square feet has been considered.

With two proposals that include a minor-league baseball stadium, odds are good Nashville will have a downtown baseball park in the near future, says Glenn Yaeger, general manager of the Sounds.

"We feel very confident that one of those proposals that wins out will have a stadium on it," Yaeger told the Kiwanis Club of Nashville earlier today. "We've identified a site that we believe is one of the best sites for a Triple-A team in the country."