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Written by Pat Ferrier

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Woodward is eyeing the 100-acre Link-N-Greens golf course in the heart of Fort Collins as a potential site for new corporate headquarters.

Rocky Scott, director of business development at Woodward, announced the possibility during a neighborhood meeting Monday to discuss potential development plans for the golf course at the corner of Lemay Avenue and Lincoln Street.

The announcement took much of the crowd by surprise leading to multiple questions about what might happen to the existing Woodward plant at Drake and Lemay, how many local jobs a new corporate headquarters might create and when Woodward would make a decision.

Woodward opened a plant in Fort Collins in 1955 and moved its corporate headquarters here from Rockford, Ill., in 2007 after Fort Collins resident Tom Gendron was named chief executive officer two years earlier.

Scott said Woodward hoped to make a decision as soon as possible but would neither give a specific time frame nor commit to the future of Woodward's existing headquarters, known for its expansive and manicured green lawns and brilliant holiday lights display in December.

Developer Allen Ginsborg stressed Woodward is looking at several communities, including Fort Collins and could decide not to go ahead with new corporate headquarters at all, depending on market conditions.

If that happens, Ginsborg said he will not pursue any other development for the land on the banks of the Poudre River.

"This is my last hurrah for this project," he said. "This is absolutely the best use for this property and would generate the least amount of traffic" and maximize open space along the river. "I am hanging my hat

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on Woodward, but it is not a certainty at all."

Preliminary plans, which have not been submitted to the city for approval yet, show 32 acres of open space and 69 acres of development, including small retail and commercial shops along Lemay. The historic Coy-Hoffman barn will be preserved, said Ginsborg.

Woodward, which designs, manufactures and provides energy control systems for the aerospace and energy industries, employs 6,500 workers worldwide and most recently leased a facility in Iron Mountain Business Park in Windsor to temporarily meet its project needs.



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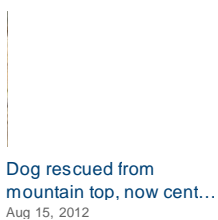
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