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URA chooses TREK to take on remaining properties in Garden Theater block

By Tim Schooley



Downtown-based Trek Development Group is preparing to pick up where another developer left off on the Garden Theater block on the North Side.

The board of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh voted today to enter exclusive negotiations with Trek to sell the company the remaining properties still to be developed in the Garden Theater block, taking over for Allegheny Development Group LLC.

Trek, working with Rothschild

Doyno Collaborative as the architect, is considering a plan to build 53 units of market rate and “workforce” rentals, financing the plan with a mix of private investment and historic tax credits.

Trek’s participation would join Allegheny Development as it works on the Garden Theater building and the City of Asylum, which is working with the URA to redevelop the Masonic Building into a new literacy center called Alphabet City.

Tom Cummings, director of housing for the URA, said there

were seven responses to the URA’s RFP for the remaining 10 parcels within the Garden Theater block. But the URA has full confidence in Trek, an active firm which has pursued projects in Uptown, downtown and the South Side, working often in collaboration with the city.

“They’re a real high-quality developer,” he said. About the prospects of Trek succeeding where Allegheny Development couldn’t, he added: “They’re confident they can make it work with available resources.”