

THE ROMEO OBSERVER

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[Home](#) | [Sports](#) | [Community](#) | [What's Happening](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [News Summary](#)

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Pedestrian park designs given go-ahead by DDA

by CHRIS GRAY
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The Romeo Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has given the thumbs up for improving the alleyway between Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow and the BP gas station.

At the Nov. 5 meeting, the board unanimously approved a \$1,499 contract for local architect Jason Arnott from Earth Environments to create a final concept plan combining the three ideas into one, calling it "Taylor Park."

The contract was approved pending insurance issues being resolved with Earth Environments, as the company has no employees.

The board's Alleyways Design Subcommittee reported during the Oct. 15 meeting that it reviewed 19 concept plans for the alleyway, submitted by local architect students and residents.

Of them, the committee picked the "Taylor Alley" plan submitted by Romeo sophomore Manny Tapia, the "Heerah Alley" plan submitted by Romeo junior Maddinah Ahmed and plans by Arnott as its top three choices.

"There is definitely some creativity, some good research put into the project," said Arnott, a Romeo native. "It's interesting to see how (students) wrote descriptions, to see what was important to them."

Arnott said he will do a walk-through of the alleyway with the students and show them the steps he went through to complete his concept.

A group consisting of Arnott, two students, former and current Romeo architect teachers, DDA and village officials are scheduled to meet Thursday to discuss how the concept will pan out.

"I'm excited about changes going on, for the chance to work together with the community; it should be a lot of fun," he said. "There are some great things planned for Romeo."

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