

\$8 million development with hotel, conference center finds funding in Bellevue

By Roseann Moring / World-Herald staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:00 am

Bellevue is officially committed to spending nearly \$7 million on a hotel and conference center project that officials say will spur economic development.

The City Council on Monday night approved issuing \$6.9 million in bonds to help pay for the conference center. The city received a \$1.1 million grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to finance the rest.

A developer, Kinseth Hospitality Group of Iowa, will pay for the hotel — a 124-room Courtyard by Marriott. The conference center will have 25,000 square feet and seating for 800 to 1,000 people in the main ballroom.

The hotel and conference center will be built north of Highway 370 and 36th Street.

Kinseth Hospitality will own and operate the hotel and will manage the conference center, which the City of Bellevue will own.

The development will be similar to, though smaller than, the Embassy Suites hotel and conference center in La Vista, which was built about 10 years ago, Bellevue officials said.

They have touted the project as a way to increase economic development.

Mayor Rita Sanders has said that the city needs a venue for events such as large weddings and conferences. Groups are now leaving Bellevue to hold such events, Sanders said, and she wants to keep the tax money in town.

Contact the writer: 402-444-1084, roseann.moring@owh.com