

City officials once considered moving the monument from the center of the square to make room for events, but some balked at the cost and the idea was dropped. Architect Don Arambula, Crandall's partner in Portland, Oregon, said the square can be designed so that the monument can be moved some day, but moving the monument is not part of the current plan.

"It's all about economic development," Crandall said. "If this is done right, Main Street will prosper and Sixth Street will prosper."

He said the plan could be pursued in stages, so that the city would not have to find the money all at once for the base price of about \$1 million and perhaps another \$1 million for options.

Before aldermen voted, Mayor Gary Becker urged approval for a plan that he said could help an ongoing revitalization process for Downtown.

Downtown is the heart of Racine, he said, and "Monument Square is the heart of our heart."

The consultants favor greenery instead of a wall to shield traffic from the square. They'd like to cut paths through trees to turn Monument Square into an easy pedestrian's connection between Sixth and Main streets. That will probably mean a diagonal path across at least part of Monument Square.

"One has to think about how the pedestrian moves," Crandall said. "If you fight it, you discourage people from using these kinds of spaces."

"Really, the big idea here is to unify Main and Sixth. Main Street will do better and Sixth Street will do better."

As for the next step, the consultants gave out surveys to Parks and Recreation Board members to gauge their preferences for a Monument Square redesign. The consultants will review the results and return with a new proposal for the area. A specific timetable for a redesign was not given.