

Crystal group begins to pursue village idea again

■ Village proposal was denied by a 70 to 30 percent margin on Nov. 7

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CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP — Members of the Village Creation Group originally thought they had to wait two years before pursuing a village incorporation after the proposal was overwhelmingly shot down on Nov. 7.

However, according to State Boundary Commission Manager Christine Holmes, there is no waiting period to propose a village after a referendum vote. So the push for a village of Crystal Lake is under way — again.

Village Creation Group Spokesman Steve Meinhardt said plans will continue to move forward with village incorporation. "Community awareness of a village is there now and a lot of knowledge was gained over the entire process," Meinhardt said. "Our time was spent on legal requirements and that piece is now complete and available for future use. A new village effort could easily address the past issues and concerns. A new group could better involve the community and show the potential for improving the quality of living in Crystal."

"A village will happen," he said. "The question is when." Genevieve Werdehoff,

a member of the Stop Village Incorporation committee, said the village group should do some more investigating before pursuing another referendum vote.

"When such an overwhelming majority of the people rejected it, I mean, what part of no didn't they understand?" Werdehoff said. "I don't think they can just say, 'We want it on the ballot in February,' which would be our next election date."

The village proposal was rejected by a vote of 345 to 151 — 70 to 30 percent. A total of 496 people cast ballots on Nov. 7. The Village Creation Group wanted to incorporate 4.18 square miles of Crystal Township into the village of Crystal Lake. The proposed village would have represented 13 percent of the township geographically, including the 750 acre Crystal Lake and the Crystal business district.

About 1,380 residents — 48 percent of the township's current population — would have made up the proposed village and 57.4 of the township's tax-able value would have been inside the village

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Steve Meinhardt
Crystal Village Creation Group spokesman