

Management group picked for Park Inn

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MASON CITY — A Wisconsin-based hotel management company that specializes in downtown projects has been selected to operate the Park Inn Hotel.

Inn Development & Management Group LLC, Fort Atkinson, Wis., will also help with the design of the hotel, said Jean Marinos, president of Wright on the Park Inc., the citizens group that owns the hotel property.

Marinos said IDM is the premier purveyor of boutique hotel development and management services in the Midwest.

“They specialize in developing and managing small hotels. They are experts. We are thrilled they have agreed to be our hotelier,” she said.

Terms of the agreement are still being worked out but both sides say it is a matter of dotting i’s and crossing t’s.

“We are thrilled to work with Wright on the Park and Mason City to carry out their vision of turning this historic landmark into a beautiful full-service boutique hotel,” said Connie Barbian, vice president of business development for the IDM Group.

“The importance of this property is significant worldwide, and we will diligently work hard to enhance this community asset to its full potential.”

Marinos said it is a tremendous advantage to have IDM be involved at this stage of the Park Inn renovations.

“It’s important because they know so much about what makes a hotel successful. We want them involved in the design.

“If you’re going to turn your keys over to someone, you want them happy when they walk in the door,” she said.

IDM operates several hotels in Wisconsin and is in the process of helping renovate the Hotel Julien in downtown Dubuque.

Barbian said the Park Inn is a good fit for her company.

“We founded our business on downtown redevelopment,” she said. “We think a hotel like this can animate a downtown. We love working with communities and being a part of the community.

“This is a good time for us to start. We know how hotels work. We know what guests want. We know how to plan a business that works,” said Barbian.

The Park Inn Hotel is the last remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world. It was completed in 1910 along with the City National Bank building adjacent to it.

Ann MacGregor is executive director of Wright on the Park Inc.

She said her organization has a goal of completing the hotel in 2010, the 100th anniversary of its opening.