Focus Group to discuss wish list for Downtown

(By Lloyd Jojola)

The "Downtown lifestyle" will be the focus of a group meeting tonight.

Housing Resources was hired by the city to conduct a market study focused on potential uses for land at Sixth and Central NW.

A focus group will meet tonight, as part of that analysis, to provide insight into what people would like to see Downtown.

"Mostly, we just want to hear what people think," said Todd Clarke of Housing Resources. Questionnaires will be passed out and a series of topics will be discussed.

Housing will be a big focus, Clarke said.

Now that an initial wave of new development has been undertaken – projects such as the old Albuquerque High lofts and the Villa de San Felipe apartments – the consultant would like to know what else people would like to see, he said.

"If you're not down here, what would it take to get you down here?" Clarke said. "If you are down here, is there a change in lifestyle that you would like?"

Clarke said he would welcome anyone who wants to attend. The focus group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 123 Central NW, on the corner of Second and Central, north of the movie theater. There is free parking on the Copper Street entrance. People will meet in the dining area on the second floor. A guard will escort people.

Pizza will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.