

August 21, 2006 Speech to Springfield City Council:

Good evening esteemed town council members. I Am Deborah Atwood 1441 S Estate Avenue, Springfield, Missouri, 65804.

I stand in front of you tonight trying my best to represent about 1/10th of Springfield, Missouri registered voters' desires on the technology park issue. This is certainly not about me but about expressing the peoples' wishes for their rights to be heard concerning their desires for better jobs and higher wages.

Technology parks are a strategy to restructure and refocus the economy from decreasing manufacturing and industrial concentrations into other sections of employment. Technology parks will keep economy going when industrial parks are declining. A research park may be perceived as an insurance policy to maintain levels of employment, as well as carry economy into the next century. Research parks have been defined by Luger & Goldstein in 1991 as "organizational entities that sell or lease spatially contiguous land and/or buildings to businesses or other organizations whose principal activities are based on applied research or development of new products or processes."

The 1st industrial park was the Central Manufacturing District in Chicago in 1905. The idea of concentrated industries in one location caught on in the U.S. after World War II. These parks have advantages which are close to universities, so if Hammons, Height or Morris wants a share please invite them!

The AURRP reported December 1993, 4000 companies were located in 133 research or science parks nationally employing 225,000 workers in over 100 million square feet of space. In 1998, the number has increased to over 200 Science & Technological parks in the United States. State and local governments are investing many dollars into this economic development strategy in the hopes of creating jobs, expanding the corporate tax base, creating a name for a region to keep from losing our competitive edge globally and to compete in the "information age". There is a research park in every state in the Union. Japan has developed 3,269 industrial parks since 1992.

Springfield has a challenge to meet as the 3rd largest city boasting of universities, where Kansas City and Saint Louis have Science and Technology parks, we have NONE. These parks allow for incubators which allow new company start-ups that create new processes and products to make lives easier for people. It is no secret we are losing our competitive edge globally. Ask the money people to join in on this effort. We could use the 2nd industrial park near the airport and change it into a Technology park.

I am delivering material for you to read including the great success of Ft. Leonard Wood's research park. Included in the hand-outs I present are the types of businesses Technology parks foster and there are over 40 click-on sites of technology parks on the website www.technologypark2006.org please visit this site. These technology parks are designed to facilitate the production and commercialization of advanced technologies by forging synergies among research centers, educational institutions and technology based companies.

As Tatjana Fink stated “Companies such as ours that operate on the global market must ensure constant, recurrent excellence. It is not enough to simply adapt to the changes. We must also ourselves create change, if we wish to achieve long-term success in global competition.”

You can do this council with two words—Do It! Please tell me how you can do this – no taxes but maybe by ordinance or a ballot vote of the people. I am willing to help you and educate you by answering questions.

Let’s have a forum or a meeting.....What do you say Council?

Don’t stop thinking about tomorrow....Don’t stop- It will soon be here. Yesterday’s gone...Yesterday’s gone.

John Lennon Power to the People audio