

Rotary Park plans

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Council.

Meier said he was concerned with saving the trees in Rotary Park, as was the city's Shade Tree Commission.

Councilman Jack Wichter- man, who serves as liaison to the Shade Tree Commission, said the Rotary Park project sounded like a "fait accompli."

"We on council are the ones who have got to say yea or nay to this once it's had a public hearing and we haven't had that yet," he said.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said a public meeting for Rotary Park and a proposed Lafayette Street Park has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 29 in the City Hall auditorium. He said one of the major factors for Rotary Park has been making sure the city had enough money to do all the improvements to the roadway and park, so the city would not present a plan to the public that could not be carried out.

"We met with the chairman of the Shade Tree Commission with our outside consultants to look at the condition of the trees, and I think it's safe to say that virtually all the trees are going to be saved," Mahaney said.

He said Shade Tree Commission Chairman Jay Schatz indicted one or two trees may be better off being removed because of disease or growing into each other. Mahaney noted the Fund for Cape May, a nonprofit partnership organization set up by Curtis Bashaw, co-owner and co-managing partner of Cape Resorts, has been raising funds to augment city funding for the project.

Mahaney said the Sept. 29 meeting would start with Lafayette Street Park plans followed by a presentation on



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

A sign at Rotary Park advertises legacy giving opportunities presented by the Fund for Cape May, which is raising money to help fund improvements at the park.

Rotary Park.

During public comment, resident Al Beale said a conceptual design is on display in Rotary Park on a sign that contains the city's logo.

"It clearly gives the messaging and advertisement that this is approved and done," he said. "I believe if I'm not mistaken the authorization on beautification seems to be a hot button right now, which concerns me."

Beale said he did not believe the city was maintaining any beauty on Cape May Avenue, Harbor View Park or the Fisherman's Memorial. He asked where the resources would come from to maintain additional parks.

Beale said the business community was active in the Rotary Park project but he did not see the need to revamp the park.

"There are wants and needs. I think that's a want, I don't believe it's a need," he said.

While the mayor met with Schatz on the topic of preserving the trees in Rotary Park, Beale said the Shade Tree Commission still needed a letter from the city guaranteeing the trees would be preserved in the park.

Cape May settles

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authority to place a monitor in the city's police department for purposes of observing the performance of the law enforcement duties of its personnel and to report on such activities to the prosecutor, who is the chief law enforcement officer in the county with the oversight of all law enforcement personnel.

The city acknowledges that all internal affairs investigations and materials generated from the investigation are confidential under attorney general guidelines. The city acknowledges that it will adhere to the requirements contained in the attorney general guidelines and when immediate notification or prior notification to the county prosecutor is required prior to the commencement of any administrative investigation, "such matters will first be brought to the attention of the county prosecutor for a determination as to whether any criminal conduct is involved which the office of the prosecutor may choose to address through the criminal process and if no, as to whether the prosecutor desires to assume jurisdiction over any internal affairs investigation of officers

within the city's police department."

The settlement agreement notes the parties recognize that the prosecutor has no authority to impose any discipline as a result of its administrative investigation if the violations are not criminal in which case the city through its administration shall have the right to address such matters administratively.

The Prosecutor's Office agrees that all issues required to complete the internal affairs investigation process with respect to the alleged unauthorized use of compensatory time by Lear have been properly addressed and that no further investigation or action by the Prosecutor's Office is required.

"The prosecutor is also satisfied based upon the ad-

ditional documents provided in response to the grand jury subpoenas that there is no factual basis for pursuing a grand jury investigation and as a result, all of the conduct that occurred up until and including the date of this Stipulation of Settlement pertaining to the subject matter of the pending grand jury subpoenas will no longer be subject to any such grand jury proceedings, potential criminal process or presentment. Furthermore, all of the pending grand jury subpoenas are hereby deemed withdrawn," stated the agreement.

Both parties acknowledge the administrative hearing currently scheduled with respect to Lear and the lawsuit involving Sheehan shall proceed in accordance with the applicable law.

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Taxpayers Association of Cape May



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