Lafayette Street Park development on hold

Project awaits approval from school board regarding safety of students since properties abut

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Construction of Lafayette Street Park is on hold until the Cape May City Elementary Board of Education approves the conceptual design of the park, in particular fencing surrounding Phase 4 of the park, which is a nature trail along a pond and marsh behind the school. Meier said the board would need to transfer ownership of the property to the city since the Board of Open Space does not fund projects on school property.

It is too soon to secure financing for Phase 4 since the city had not spent open space money for Phase 3 of the park project, he said. Meier and the Board of Open Space were “very supportive” of the Phase 3 plan, including footpath that was not a part of the original grant applications.

Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee has not met recently because it has been waiting for approval from the school board of conceptual designs for the park.

The school is allowing the city to lease a portion of its property for Phase 2 of the park with the city holding responsibility for the improvements and maintenance. Meier said that providing the Board of Open Space with a conceptual design of the park they are willing to dedicate to Phase 4, it’s too early because they haven’t seen us spend Phase 3 yet,” he said.

The board has a three-year question for the school board — Does the board feel comfortable with the fence around the perimeter of the school property, regarding safety of the students? — In the lease agreement, it [the board] is requiring a conceptual design of the park. He said the project must move forward without support from the school board for the very near future.

Meier said he has felt a delay in the school board’s approval and that they have to make a motion to support the project at their meeting then bring it to the city council for final approval. “If our residents and voters are moving forward with this project, the school board must move forward with this process.”

Meier said the project cannot move forward until the Cape May City Lafayette Street Park Advisory Committee were present, Scott Griffith and Bank of America’s Robert Conley offered a motion to transfer ownership of the property, according to Young.

Committee interviews architectural firms for public safety building

By JOHN ALVAREZ
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Public Safety Building Selection Committee interviewed six architectural firms on Nov. 7 to determine a firm to design a new public safety building. At the interviews, the six firms were Settember Architects of Linwood, N.J.; Bala Cynwood, Pa.; and Parsippany; and Fen- brino Architects of Red Bank; Robert Conley of Buckman, Atchley & Davis; and Robert Conley of Buckman, Atchley & Davis.

On Sept. 7, Shustack said the committee received eight packages of RFPs (Request for Proposals) for architectural firms. “We got to see that these architectural firms have different mindsets, their proposals and costs vary as well,” he said. “We have to pay the salary of these folks instead of just an RFP Request for Proposal.”

On Nov. 7, the committee opened eight packages of proposals and learned what the firms presented. Shustack said the committee will present the firms’ proposals at their next meeting in December.

The firms were Settember Architects of Red Bank, Robert Conley of Buckman, Atchley & Davis of Somerville, Easton, Pa. and Philadelphia; Morris Group of Monticello; Garrison Architects of Shartton and Bala Cynwood, Pa.; and Parsons and Fos- weird Architects of Lawrence, Kan.

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