

Hall

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built at its current location rather than at one of four alternate locations. The hand-out indicates city council supports:

- Moving ahead with Design No. 5.
- Moving the Solarium to another location on the beach.
- Continuing the same uses as the old hall supporting the entire community.
- Moving in the direction of a 1,200-seat facility to house theater, musical and fine arts events.
- Having retail and restaurant space to maintain a revenue stream to help defray operational costs or pay down debt. And...
- Having a second floor with room for administrative

offices, community meeting rooms, and space for HVAC equipment.

Mahaney said housing the HVAC system in the interior of the second floor was preferable to having it on the roof of the structure, where it would have a shortened life expectancy due to being exposed to the elements.

Resident Jeanne Powick prepared her own handout showing a conceptual floor plan for a one-story Convention Hall created by architect A.J. O'Sullivan in 2001. She said the cost of building the O'Sullivan design would be about 60-percent of Design No. 5. Mahaney said the O'Sullivan design was considered along

with all the Kimmel Bogrette designs presented to date. He said the O'Sullivan design was rejected, partly because it abutted the Solarium and would violate the state fire code.

Powick said cost not being a factor, the people of Cape May had repeatedly said they did not want to see more over-development.

"I'm not going to get into a debate," Mahaney said, "but I don't think the term 'over-development' has anything to do with the Convention Hall project."

Local gadfly Christine Miller told the audience the city had a chance create a totally "green" building, incorporating energy effi-

ciency and the use of renewable energy sources.

"This building is only going to have green features tacked on at the end if we can afford them," Miller said.

Miller said the building design didn't even include acoustics and chairs. Mahaney said Miller was wrong on both counts, saying there have been and would be meetings with the technical people to ensure the building was durable and would have the necessary features. Mahaney indicated Charlotte Todd from the Energy Committee was present at the meeting, and they had an understanding the building would be as green as possible, saying it was needed in order

to keep costs under control.

City auditor Leon Costello addressed the cost of the entire project earlier in the meeting, explaining the impact on the city's debt service. Costello said the Convention Hall project would have minimal impact on the tax rate, with the yearly increase generally going out to the third decimal place, or tenths of a cent. He said the biggest tax rate impact would be felt in 2014, when it would be about 2.2 cents, then it would drop off again. Costello said he was presenting a worst case scenario, because his figures did not take into consideration any grant money the city might acquire to offset the cost of

the project, and his numbers showed what the effect would be if the city spent the entire \$10.5 million on the project. Cape May's chief financial officer and interim city manager Bruce MacLeod said the city has been assured it would receive a CRDA grant for 14-percent of the cost of the project. He said the cost of the project could also be offset by revenue generated by Convention Hall and by closely managing the debt service.

The city will now request the architect to prepare a final version of the preliminary design, including interior features, green and alternative energy elements, and construction and operating costs.

Backs

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thrown headfirst into three or four inches of water.

"Both arms went numb. It felt like Charlie horses in both arms," he said.

De Satnick also believes he suffered a mild concussion, which he said is standard for neck injuries. Still he was able to walk and even drove himself to the hospital. X-rays revealed he had shattered his C-6 and C-7 vertebrae. Fortunately his spinal cord was not severed, just bruised, and he didn't suffer any permanent damage.

"It was beyond luck with my case," de Satnick said. "There has to be a higher power out there."

De Satnick said if he had shattered vertebrae higher up the results could have been devastating. He said his neurosurgeon had seen six surfers with C-spine injuries and he was the only one walking.

Mogck said his guards have received a lot of training on C-spine injuries, which in one sense is tragic.

"They are very well trained because of the many we have had through the years," he

said. "We practice all the time, go through training all the time about it."

Mogck said he sometimes feels his guards need more CPR or first aid training, but with the rise in C-spine injuries they can't forgo training for back and neck injuries.

Mogck said when there is a suspected back or neck injury, the guards attempt to support the neck until the victim can be "packaged up" with a neck brace - or C-collar - and put on the back board and made ready for the rescue squad. The Cape May EMTs then go over the symptoms and make the decision whether the victim can be transported to the hospital or should be flown out.

Inderwies said victims of C-spine injuries have to be transported to the Atlantic City Medical Center, or to Cooper University Hospital near Camden. Inderwies said Cape Regional Medical Center in Cape May Court House is not a trauma center.

Inderwies said EMTs will look for signs of serious injury, including loss of feel-

ing in extremities. If the victim loses consciousness they will call for a helicopter. If the guards report the victim is unconscious they will call for the helicopter before the victim is off the beach.

Mogck said he doesn't usually see many fly-outs, but there have been six this year, which he said is a record.

Inderwies said he has been in Cape May for 21 summers, and the rise in C-spine injuries has been weighing on his mind.

"The last straw was a gentleman last year who was injured and had no feeling from his chest down," Inderwies said. "We had a lot of calls leading up to that."

Inderwies feels the beach restoration essentially created the shore break, and the only thing to do now is to educate people so they won't risk their neck while swimming in the ocean.

One thing, Mogck said, is to be aware of the water around you. People will turn their back on the ocean as they are leaving the surf and a wave can come from behind and strike them unexpectedly.

People should also be aware of when high tide occurs, since most of the accidents happen at high tide. Tides are posted outside Cape May Beach Patrol Headquarters at Beach and Grant Avenues.

De Satnick said posting signs warning people about the beach breaks was a huge start toward educating the public.

"To make people aware is the key," he said.

De Satnick said there has been discussion of visiting the local schools, but it seems the visitors are the ones who need to get this information the most.

"The people who are getting injured don't live here. I'm the minority," he said.

De Satnick and Inderwies

each mentioned the city is considering a public service video announcement to be shown before movies on the beach. De Satnick said any effort is worth it to prevent spinal cord injuries.

To learn more about shore-breaks and the potential for spinal cord injuries go to www.hoaghospital.org/ProjectWipeout.html.

Kathy Robinson golf outing

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - More than 100 of Jim Robinson's friends and family are expected to attend the Fourth Annual Kathy Robinson Memorial Golf Outing Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Avalon Golf Club, Cape May Court House.

Registration for the event is 11:30 a.m. Shotgun start is 1 p.m. A dinner reception and awards ceremony will take place at 6 p.m.

Jim Robinson, of Cape May Point, started the event in 2005 in honor of his late wife,

Kathy, who died in 2004. Robinson said he so valued the support AtlantiCare Hospice provided his wife and family that he wanted to help AtlantiCare help others. All proceeds of the golf outing benefit AtlantiCare Hospice.




"AtlantiCare Hospice was so helpful to Kathy and our family," said Jim Robinson. "They helped her get through the end stage of her life and helped us get back to living our lives with happy memories of Kathy. We want others

to benefit from this service. Our spirited competition always reminds us of Kathy's sense of humor and love of life."

For more information about sponsorship opportunities or to reserve a player slot for the Kathy Robinson Memorial Golf Outing, call AtlantiCare Hospice at 609-272-2424. For information about other AtlantiCare services, call the AtlantiCare Access Center at 1-888-569-1000 or visit www.atlanticare.org.

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