

Oppose

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Wichterman asked if members of the public ever attended the meetings, to which Loughlin said, "Some, unfortunately just a few."
 Wichterman still felt there was a higher level of awareness on the Convention Hall project than with the Washington Street Mall revitalization project.
 TPA board member Kevin Maloney asked if the taxpay-

ers really understood the cost of the project, and if the city had any incentive to try and find alternative sources of funding. Loughlin said the city planned to investigate grants and corporate sponsorships.
 "If relected that was my plan - to offer naming rights," Inderwies said.
 Maloney said he hadn't seen outside revenue sources

being applied to the mall project. Inderwies said the city applied for grants three times but was turned down each time.
 Maloney brought up the issue of doing a cost/benefit analysis, but board member Bill Murray said that was difficult to do.
 "I don't know how you can quantify the benefits of having roller skating," he said,

adding the same was true for city parks and recreation facilities and programs.
 Loughlin later reacted angrily to a roller skating reference by board member Jules Rauch. Rauch said at one meeting a comment was made suggesting most of those who participate in roller skating at Cape May's Convention Hall were from out of town. Rauch said

Loughlin's response was, "Then maybe we should eliminate roller skating."
 "I never, never said that," Loughlin said before being quieted by TPA president Kate Wyatt.
 Loughlin said he has advocated that every function that has taken place at Convention Hall be continued in the new facility.
 Crowley later described the

referendum as a "pig in a poke," saying no one really understands the purpose or intended result of the referendum. The board asked Crowley to draft a position paper, with also includes certain demands on the city for the future of the project, including the appointment of an independent project manager or "clerk of the works" to oversee the project.

Fest

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actually thought it was a race. "It's not a race," Ferrante explained. "It's more of a

kayak regatta. It's not competitive. We played around with the idea to have different levels. But then we thought for the first year, let's keep it simple and make family fun challenge. We can all go out for a family tour together. There are lots of different ways that we could have done this. Maybe someday it will get to be a race. But for our first year, we'll be pleased to have twenty people or so participate."
 Though twenty kayaks would be nice, Ferrante by no means wishes for people to think that is the limit.
 "Aqua Trails Kayak Tours here at the Nature Center, have forty boats that they can rent. But if you have your own kayak, you are welcome to come. There is a fee for rental. \$40 for a single and \$70 for a double. If you have your own, it's only a fee for \$20. Jeff Martin is running

the tour, which would be the one that normally runs at 1 p.m. He is also not profiting from it. One hundred-percent of the proceeds will go to the scholarship fund. You'll probably be out for two hours"
 The anticipation for this regatta is only surpassed by excitement people feel as Cape May approaches Harbor Fest. That excitement started, said Ferrante, last about eight months ago.
 "We started planning Harbor Fest last fall with a committee of interested people. Myself, a chamber of commerce representative, the Mid-Atlantic Center of the Arts, some business like the marinas started talking about the seafood and kite festival that Cape May use to have on the lawn of Congress Hall. We wanted to know if we could bring that back. We also discussed when would it be good to have Harbor Fest.

Could it be in May? Could we extend the Cape May season? Then we had to take into consideration other events that were happening at certain times of the year. There are more events in the fall than this time of the year. Someone then pointed out that the weather other times of the year is not as reliable as in June."
 "Soon everybody agreed on a date. We looked at a calendar and saw that we picked the weekend of the summer solstice - the idea of the beginning of summer. It's right before July 4. It's just was perfect how it kind of evolved to be that weekend."
 The date wasn't the only thing that made it special. There is something exceptional about the harbor itself. And yet Ferrante feels that this area always seems to be neglected.
 "It's something that people

in Cape May forget that they have," she said. "It's such a unique, special feature that a lot of other communities don't have. Ocean City can't say that. Wildwood can't say that. We have a real working harbor here with a commercial and recreational fleet. What's really exciting is some of the things that are coming together with Harbor Fest. Most of the activity will be here (at the Nature Center) Perhaps in upcoming years, other locations will be able to sponsor other events."
 "That's how the regatta and Harbor Fest came into being this year. We are expecting it to turn bigger next in the future. We hope to continue it," Ferrante said. "We put a lot of effort into planning Harbor Fest. It's really taking off. We are optimistic that it will be a huge event this year. And the regatta will definitely be a big part of Harbor Fest. With the only difference that it will be bigger next year."



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Entered at Post Office in Cape May, NJ 08204 as a periodical (USPS 519020)

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi, \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29, Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price: \$.50 per copy.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE: Weekly, every Thursday.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204.

ASSISTANCE: For information on starting mail home delivery of the Cape May Star and Wave, call (609) 884-3466 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.