

# Hall

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lion and a limited second floor addition could increase costs by up to an additional \$2.2 million.

The optional second floor would open to the hall below and contain conference rooms with a public meeting area. Option one proposed the stage to remain in the rear of the building and a lobby with an ocean view behind it while the second plan projected the stage on a right angle to the promenade.

Committee Member James Wyatt recalls what the hall looked like before Star and Wave regretfully ran the headline "Storm wrecks Cape May beachfront" in the March 8, 1962 edition. The

northeast caused the city to need to build the present Convention Hall quickly.

Wyatt said many residents have expressed a preference for an older style.

"It should be our goal to continue to look like the oldest seashore resort," he said.

"One year from now we need to have a shovel in the ground," Wyatt continued hoping to prompt the committee to commit to a design plan. Wyatt said it is necessary to begin planning because of a time concern with receiving grant money.

City Manager Lou Corea said he and Mayor Jerome Inderwies met with Edward Edeinehaus of the Casino

Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) several months ago when they found revitalization needs to commence "no later than the fourth quarter of 2008" in order to receive the grant.

It is not state funded but rather a one-seventh percent reimbursement by the CRDA with a maximum of \$3 million, Corea explained.

Corea said it is "highly improbable" that the Convention Hall revitalization could reach the maximum grant allocation considering the current \$8 million projected cost which figures to a \$1,150,000 contribution.

Council member Linda Steenrod and Mayor

Inderwies want energy conservation to be a factor in the budget for the revitalization plan.

"We should set an example by being as green as we can afford to be," Steenrod said.

Corea suggested Kimmel present the plan to City Council for approval.

Kimmel has provided the conceptual plans for free, City Engineer Marc DeBlasio of Remington Vernick Engineers said.

At the Aug. 21 meeting, Mayor Inderwies suggested looking at other architectural bids.

"Perhaps Kimmel is the best, but we don't know until we look at other's," Inderwies

said. Only about a dozen residents attended the revitalization subcommittee meeting Aug. 15.

"Nine in the morning on a Wednesday excludes many people and is possibly the reason for low attendance," resident Harry Bellangy said. He complained the committees and commissioners involved in revitalization have chosen inconvenient times for residents who work or have children adding that he believes meetings were not properly advertised until recently.

Residents Jeanne and Ed Powick provided a written complaint to the subcommittee objecting to their decision to continue with Kimmel stressing that initial proposals from other architects "would not cost the city anything. It should not be assumed that pro bono work up front would lead to a contract. Multiple architects should be given the opportunity to show their capabilities in order to make the correct choice."

Mayor Jerome Inderwies said a town meeting is necessary to gain residents' feedback and to provide an opportunity for questions. Corea expects a formal presentation to the public and council Thursday, Oct. 11.

# UAW

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very hard for a working minimum."

"I'm glad to see the kind of steps you are taking now broadening out the mandate and I truly am impressed with your fight to make sure people have a right to organize."

There is no more fundamental need for working men and women in this country than the right to organize.

"This Federal Free Choice Act is really hard-check

recognition in binding arbitration on first contracts. If we have that, what is going on in Atlantic City would be done today."

Corzine said that it is essential to pass the Free Choice Act with regards to the casino labor unions.

"As we see deterioration in the position of working men and women's earnings and security, pensions, health insurance. It is absolutely essential that we have a strong labor movement in this

country that can stand up to it"

Corzine's statement was met with applause.

"The newspapers around New Jersey sometimes like to call me the Norma Ray of state government but I consider that a red badge of courage. The fact is that if you are not looking after the middle class and those who work in this society I think you are failing as a governor or public official."

"That's why whether you

like all the details or not I felt it was so important to actually have a means-tested wage-based or income-based property tax relief program. People think rebates are only about elections," Corzine said he is not running for election.

Corzine said workers with salaries less than \$100,000 will benefit ten to 20 percent from such a program.

"I'm very proud that the state just expanded the earned income tax credit for low income wage workers up to about \$40,000 we will match the state, it's a substantial improvement."

"We are working on pushing back against falsely misrepresented contractors who do work in casinos and mostly in construction."

Corzine said he continues to look at safety issues.

"The Government shouldn't be acting like private sector companies that raid unemployment insurance funds and don't pay their pension bills."

"We ended all takedowns in the unemployment insurance fund and we put \$2.25 billion into a state worker pension fund for the first time in ten years."

Corzine said some of the policies are not "sexy" in comparison to what he wants to do, like universal health insurance.

"If we don't get a change with regard to health insurance responsibilities in this country workers are going to really struggle in the years ahead," he said.

Corzine said the state budget has \$9 billion in costs that are associated with health insurance, retirement and medical benefits and if that were to increase ten percent it would become a \$900 million expenditure increase at the state level every year.

"If we don't get control of those things citizens know they would get a large growth in their tax bill because we have to provide health insurance for employees," he said.

The Governor praised UAW's planning in Atlantic City in joining the union and said that the next step is to get contracts for the workers.

"If we had the Free Choice Act we would be able to do that in a more efficient way," Corzine said.

The Commissioners are trying to put together "a fair and decent package for the folks in the health care industry and it all ties back to other issues in how the working people are paid and provided health care."

In closing Corzine said he will work on passing a bill for paid family leave before the end of 2007 and he intends to try to "fix the fiscal health of this state so we can invest more back into our working people."

"We have a 58 billion unfunded health care liability and a \$25 billion unfunded pension liability for our state workers, he said.

"Keep fighting," Corzine told them.

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**CORRECTION**

The caption under the Hand Golden Anniversary photo should have read, Ruth and Tom Hand, of Cape May, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Lobster House Restaurant. The Hand family owned the Cape May Star and Wave for a century. Married Oct. 19 1957, the celebration included their three daughters Sharon, Kathy and Mary and seven grandchildren. We regret the error.

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