

The City of Lewes



City Manager's Report July 2017

Renovations to the Margaret H. Rollins Community Center

The Margaret H. Rollins Community Center and Lewes History Museum opened to the public on July 3, 2017. The City's meeting room is complete, except for a few minor touch-up items. The exterior maintenance items totaled \$22,398; the meeting room expenses to date total \$56,573; and the community resource room expenses total \$8,633. These amounts do not include the amount due to the Lewes Historical Society for the cost of shared items, including fire alarm system expenses. This also does not reflect the cost of chairs, although it does include tables and a media cart. The City has already received several requests for use of the room.

Grant Applications

The City's Parks and Recreation Commission received a \$1,000 grant from the Festival of Cheer for the installation of playground equipment in George H.P. Smith Park. Alison Kirk and Ann Marie Townshend attended a reception where the grant was presented. This grant will leverage funds from the Lions Club and the Outdoor Recreation Park and Trail Grant Program for replacement of the playground equipment at the park. Ellen Lorraine McCabe has opened an account for this and the other funds that were received for the playground.

Savannah Road TAP Project

Staff and the designated members of Council continued to meet internally and with DelDOT to work on a cross section for Savannah Road that meets the objectives of the City and DelDOT. Charlie O'Donnell has also been assisting with this.

Annexation Discussions

Tom West and Ann Marie Townshend have continued to provide assistance to the Annexation Regulations Ad-Hoc Committee. In addition, they have met with Preston Schell of Schell Brothers and Ocean Atlantic to get feedback on what might encourage property owners to annex into the City.

Phase 22 Street Program

Work associated with the Phase 22 Street program was completed in mid-July. A final walk-through of McFee Street was completed with GMB, George and Lynch, and the Board of Public Works staff on July 31, 2017.

Fireworks

The public relations to discourage the use of illegal fireworks was successful. Following July 4, 2017, there were two meetings held in July with local groups interested in participating in a sanctioned fireworks event in 2018. Participants include the Lewes Chamber of Commerce, Children's Beach House, Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes Yacht Club, Lewes Historical Society, and the Cape May/Lewes Ferry. The discussion included topics such as fundraising, who might be the lead entity, and possible vendors.

Beach 1 Restroom Upgrades

The bid for the Beach 1 Restroom Upgrades was awarded to EDiS, in accordance with the action of Mayor and City Council on July 10, 2017. GMB staff has been working on the contract with EDiS. Work will begin in the fall of 2017.

Conversion of Paper Streets to Open Space and Sale of Lots

Work has begun to implement the recommendation of the Property Review Ad-Hoc Committee. Mayor and City Council approved the Committee's recommendations on March 20, 2017. GMB has begun the survey work necessary to record a plat that consolidates the paper streets into other existing parcels. GMB will also be providing a cost estimate to consolidate the two lots on Texas Avenue and to complete the road and infrastructure work prior to the sale of the lots. The process required to formally vacate the street is being initiated at the August 14, 2017 meeting of Mayor and City Council. Following this, the City will submit minor subdivision and rezoning applications to the City Council and Lewes Planning Commission to complete the process. This process should be complete by late fall 2017.

Other Meetings and Activities

After receiving regular and numerous complaints about the City's recycling service, City staff met with Republic Services on July 13, 2017. We shared the concerns about the routinely missed City locations and the overflowing conditions of the recycling containers at the Lewes Beach. They committed to improving service going forward.

On July 13, 2017, there was a meeting with Lewes in Bloom about the plantings in the bump outs on Second Street.

On July 18, 2017, there was a conference call with legal counsel about the Nepa appeal of the Board of Adjustment's decision regarding property on Dewey Avenue.

On July 21, 2017, Larry Edwards, the HOA president of Bay Breeze met with staff and Mayor Becker regarding whether the City would have interest in assuming ownership of the common open space in Bay Breeze if the HOA disbanded. We conveyed that we would not be in favor of this, as there is a significant maintenance burden, and this would likely set a precedent that other neighborhoods would follow. The creation of HOAs to manage common open space and stormwater management areas was a condition of development on all of the subdivisions constructed since the early 1990's.

On July 28, 2017, there was a meeting involving Lewes in Bloom and GMB regarding the proposed plantings in 1812 Park as a part of the BPW's infrastructure upgrades in the area.

Mayor Becker and Ann Marie Townshend continued to discuss natural gas expansion with Chesapeake Utilities.

Tom West and Ann Marie Townshend met with Glenn Mandalas to discuss transitioning some of the ordinances and resolutions associated with Lewes Planning Commission applications to Tom West. This will result in less time being spent on these tasks by Mr. Mandalas and his staff.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ann Marie Townshend, AICP
City Manager