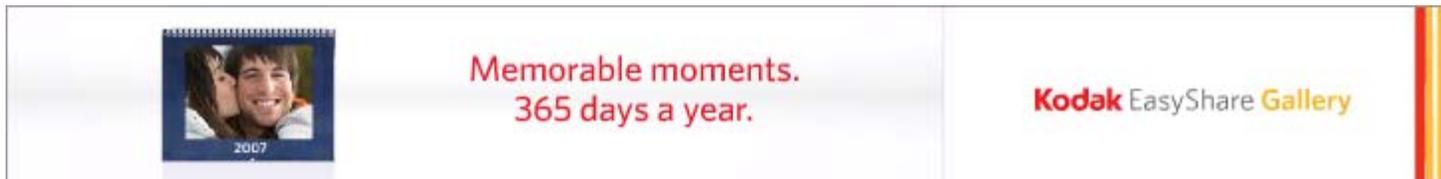


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Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Fayette authority OKs option on land purchase

By Amy Karpinsky, Herald-Standard
03/03/2004

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The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority Tuesday approved a six-month option agreement with Thomas Jamieson to purchase 5 acres of land at the Fayette County Business Park.

Jamieson's attorney, Gary J. Frankhouser, said the property is potentially the future site of a food market. He said Jamieson has 15 stores, including Shop N Save supermarkets.

With the agreement, the number of businesses either located at or committing to locating at the park increases to seven. The property is located at the corner of Matthew Drive and Wayland Smith Drive in South Union Township.

Current businesses in the park include a Super 8 Motel, Terry McMillen Engineering and CareerLink. Fayette County Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Laurel Pediatrics and Preferred Primary Care Physicians have committed to relocating at the site as well.

Authority executive director Raymond C. Polaski explained that the option agreement was necessary due to two outstanding issues relating to the property. The issues include the relocation of power lines and the existence of a former one-room schoolhouse on the site.

Polaski said the former schoolhouse could potentially be moved for use by the county historical society, because of its historical significance. He said the high-tension power lines that run through the property need to be moved, and it has

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always been the intent of the authority to move them. Issues relating to the relocation of the building and lines, and who will pay for them, must be worked out prior to execution of a sales agreement. Polaski said the asking price for the property is \$100,000 per acre.

Frankhouser said there is a lot of due diligence to be done before the project can come together.

"We're not buying today and breaking ground tomorrow," he said.

Frankhouser said it is undetermined if a new store will be constructed, or if it will be a relocation of an existing store, but he added that there will "probably be some new jobs."

Authority member Paul Bortz Jr. said the stores that Jamieson constructs are "top notch," citing the Shop N Save located near the Laurel Mall. The motion to approve the option passed with a 4-0 vote. Bortz, chairman Kenneth Finney and members Charles Cieszynski and Ross DiMarco voted in favor of the motion. Paul Woleslagle was absent.

In other business, the authority approved an agreement for legal services with solicitor Herbert Margolis for 2004. Polaski said he believes that Margolis is the longest sitting solicitor for a redevelopment authority in Pennsylvania. Margolis said he has been solicitor for the authority since 1958. Polaski said Margolis is very easy to work with and he is flexible. Cieszynski said he feels comfortable with Margolis as solicitor for the authority.

The authority approved a partnership agreement between the National Road Heritage Corridor for the Autenreith building demolition project in Brownsville. Margolis said once the money for the project is identified, it wouldn't be used until the authority has the authority to demolish the building.

A motion was approved for a contract with Francis J. Noward of Pittsburgh to restore antique lighting fixtures at Nemaocolin Castle in Brownsville for \$11,000. Polaski said the authority is spending \$120,000 over three contracts to carry out electrical upgrading projects at the castle, which is owned by the county and run by the Brownsville historical society.

Polaski said the Noward contract includes taking down chandeliers, taking them away and converting them to electric and returning them. He said some of the lighting fixtures were originally candles and then converted to gas and then electric. With the electric repairs at the castle, Polaski said "we won't have to keep our fingers crossed every Christmas when they have the Christmas pageant and turn the lights on."

Assistant executive director Andrew French said the authority's Web site has been upgraded and includes a lot of new information. Polaski praised French's work, saying the site is user friendly and has a lot of activity.

The Web site address is www.racfpa.org.

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