middle & lower keys news

KCB city hall reconstruction plans progress

JILL ZIMA BORSKI
Free Press Contributor

KEY COLONY BEACH — The Key Colony Beach City Commission made progress May 5 on its city hall reconstruction plans by discussing design, exterior finishes, stucco color and pattern, metal roof finish and more.

Among the design goals are using "maintenance-free" materials, said Mayor Freddie Foster, such as synthetic materials instead of wood.

The hall's open-office design concept is to have a "coastal-inspired palette" with a dark blue acoustical ceiling, exposed ductwork and other mechanicals, and natural light illuminating all offices. Glass walls rather than Hardie board will delineate the offices, and terrazzo porcelain tile will serve as the flooring. Downspouts and gutters are to be added for rain control.

Ocean-themed lights are proposed artistic elements highlighting the Keys location. A chandelier for the conference room costs about $700-800 and the lobby pendant light fixture about $1,200, according to construction firm.

The lobby floor is to be a light-colored terrazzo with flecks of blue, gray and white. The parking lot will be raised to a height that will require just one step to the entry porch, and the entry itself was proposed to be constructed of stained concrete, according to CPH. The city hall's driveway entry is to have a 7-8% elevation gain so that three steps into the building are not necessary.

While exploring installing a shower upstairs to enable usage during possible emergency operations, the commission decided having one in the downstairs restroom was sufficient since it would squeeze the space allotted for the building department if placed upstairs. Also, due to layout constraints in the downstairs bathroom, users will pass the shower as the first feature in the restroom to get to the toilets and sinks, said the architect.

Views of the proposed design elements are on the website, and 90% drawings are to be shared by the end of June or early July. The city commission next meets at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 15.