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SHDA Grants Extension; Witty Appointed to Board

by Mike Brown

Members of Stroud Hospital and Development Authority (SHDA) renewed a six-month exclusivity agreement with the Garrett-Moore Company, and appointed longtime community leader Charles Witty to SHDA at a special called meeting held Monday afternoon at City Hall.

Terry Moore of the Dallas-based Garrett-Moore development firm was present to make the extension request.

SHDA entered the exclusivity agreement with the company over a year ago to pursue multi-faceted development of the former Tanger Outlet Center property here. The development plan includes retail shops and restaurants,

in addition to a Sac and Fox Nation casino and hotel complex.

The Sac and Fox Nation is seeking "trust" status for the property through the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Moore requested the agreement extension in order to pursue the possibility of an enclosed recreational water park on a 10-acre tract.

The developer said he has secured funding for the development, but is not sure for how long the funding will be available.

"We're trying to keep this going. A water park would be another way to get traffic off the turnpike," said Moore.

The extension was approved by SHDA Chair

Clara Hodgens, Vice Chair Tom Hubbell and members Bonnie Miller and Debbie Garrett.

In other action, Charles Witty was appointed to fill an SHDA seat left vacant approximately two years ago by the resignation of Bill Sasser.

Witty's term of office will expire on November 1, 2011. He previously served on the hospital board several years ago, including a term of office before the hospital was built.

"Charles understands the unique problems with hospitals. He knows the community and is an excellent addition to the board," said Chair Hodgens.

In addition to Witty's ap-

pointment, Tom Hubbell was reappointed to SHDA to serve a term of office that will expire on Nov. 1, 2011.

Debbie Garrett was reappointed to serve a term to expire on Nov. 1, 2012. Clara Hodgens and Bonnie Miller were each reappointed to serve terms to expire Nov. 1, 2010.

In other business, SHDA members heard a presentation from Kevin Khoury, a former physician who is now chief executive officer and administrator of the local hospital. Also attending was Administrative Assistant Regina Peters.

Khoury informed SHDA members that a ribbon-cutting and open house will be held at the hospital on Feb. 11. The public is

being invited to view the major renovation that is nearing completion.

Khoury said that over \$16,000 in contributions has been received to make the improvements. His goal is to raise \$20,000.

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