

# The SHORE LINE

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Noel Yancey - Editor

Sam McConkey, Morehead City attorney and part owner of the Iron Steamer fishing pier, inn and restaurant, was possibly the happiest person in Pine Knoll Shores on the afternoon of May 8. McConkey's pleasure came shortly after he pleaded with the PKS BOARD REJECTS Board of Commissioners not to adopt a recommendation of the town REBUILDING BAN planning board which would have prohibited the rebuilding of the Iron Steamer Resort or the Ramada Inn if they are ever more than half destroyed by fire, storm or whatever. McConkey appeared both surprised and delighted when the commissioners voted unanimously, on motion of Commissioner Fred Libby, not to accept the planning board recommendation.

In his plea to the board, McConkey pointed out that the "Iron Steamer was here long before the Town of Pine Knoll Shores," and that it attracts thousands of tourists to the town who spend many thousands of dollars here. He also asserted that in case one or more parts of the Iron Steamer complex were destroyed, insurance would defray the cost of rebuilding under the present ordinance but would pay nothing if the ban on rebuilding was adopted.

"Nothing is forever," he said, "and certainly not on this beach. We face the prospect of being wiped out...We don't think this a fair and equitable treatment of us as a property owner of the town."

The board also rejected another recommendation of the planning board which would have required that at least 35 percent of a lot be preserved in its natural state, but deferred until its June meeting consideration of other zoning changes recommended by the planning board. One of these proposals would increase from 8 to 20 the number of bedrooms a hotel or motel could build on an acre of land. Also deferred was action on a proposal that would confine the construction of new hotels and motels to the area at the east end of town between the Coral Bay West condominiums and the Morehead Ocean Fishing Pier. Mayor Ken Haller suggested that action on these proposals be deferred until Ken Kirkman, town attorney, can draft the proposals in legal language.

At its May meeting, the Board of Commissioners also heard Town Clerk Corinne Geer outline her budget proposals for the 1984-85 fiscal year. She called for a 5 percent pay raise for all town employees, recommended that Brenda Cox, deputy clerk, be promoted to the post of tax collector and given a pay boost of \$1,000, and said the employment of an

TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES

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