

COMMISSION CONFERENCE**April 7, 2004**

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COMMISSION CONFERENCE

1:32 P.M.

APRIL 7, 2004

Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Teel, Moore and Trantalis

Also Present: Acting City Manager
City Attorney
Assistant City Clerk
Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Dave Wheeler

I-A –Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport

Randy Dunlap, Broward County Airport Task Force, stated that he represented the Citizens Group. He announced that the Commission had received a memorandum from Clara Bennett, Acting Airport Manager, which outlined some of the activities and conversations that had occurred at the March 18, 2004 meeting. He stated that he had sent a letter to the Commission regarding how the problem could be solved. He continued stating there had been enough conversation about what the problem was, and now they needed to begin discussing how to solve it and proceed forward.

Mr. Dunlap stated that the largest problem with noise mitigation, which was the biggest stumbling block in moving forward with the expansion of the south runway, was the disposition of the Maleluca Gardens neighborhood south of the Airport. He continued stating that this area was going to be tremendously impacted by the expansion of the Airport. He explained that the 65 DNL line would run right through the middle of the neighborhood. He stated that the FAA had a track record of not wanting to separate neighborhoods, so they could anticipate that the entire neighborhood would be taken. He stated the question was where would they get the monies to do this, and how can they properly take care of the citizens in that community so they would not be as adversely affected as might otherwise be the case. He further stated that he had proposed a plan that was easy. He advised that he had already spoken to the airlines about it. He continued stating that it was cost effective, and would generate enough capital to be fair with the residents, and to provide for other necessary mitigation efforts that might arise.

Mr. Dunlap stated there were two numbers involved. One was the landing fee and the passenger facility charge. He stated the landing fees at most airports currently were about \$4.50. He explained that the passenger facility charge was a different story, and could fluctuate and whose revenue strength could be attached to specific projects. Once the project was completed, then that revenue stream could be reduced. He explained that FAA capped the passenger facility charge at \$4.50. He remarked that Miami, Palm Beach, along with other airports, were all at \$4.50. He added that this fee was \$4.00 at the Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport. He explained if they applied the \$1.50 that was available to them which could be done administratively without too much review from FAA, then over a 15-year period it would generate \$304 Million in revenue. He recommended that they take the revenue stream to the bond market, sell revenue bonds, and use such funds to buy-out Maleluca Gardens immediately, even though they might not fully know the disposition of that neighborhood. He reiterated that people in that area were not able to sell their homes because the area was in fluxed and no one wanted to buy there.

Mr. Dunlap further stated that if they waited the 3-5 years that the County was talking about to acquire the property through eminent domain condemnation, those individuals' lives would be held in hostage for such period of time. The homes that would have to be sold would go for "pennies" to investors who would eventually make a fortune on the property. He reiterated that was not being fair to the residents in that area.

Mr. Dunlap explained there were some other problems associated with how they could go about this, but he reiterated that the first step was that they had to come up with a revenue stream to provide the funds to buy the homes out. He stated that FAA would pay up to 90% of noise mitigation. He stated the bottom line was that if they dragged their feet for 3-4 years, they might get a better deal from FAA, but it would not be a good deal for the residents in that area. He reiterated it simply was not fair. He stated if they got the County to jump on this plan and proceed forward, maybe they would get 75%, and instead of 15 years to pay off the debt maybe they would be talking about 5 years. He stated it was a good deal because it would be fair to the people in Maleluca Gardens.

Mr. Dunlap stated that today he was asking the City Commission to draft a letter or resolution to the County Commission asking them to proceed as quickly as possible with the implementation of the additional \$1.50 on the passenger facility charge. He explained that was with the explicit idea that such monies would be committed to the acquisition of Maleluca Gardens, and other noise related mitigation projects that would occur as a result of the development of the south runway.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if FAA had a track record of providing 90% for mitigation funding, and Mr. Dunlap was asking them to raise \$300 Million was he saying this would cost \$3,300,000,000 for noise mitigation. Mr. Dunlap stated he was not saying that and explained that FAA would pay up to 90%. He stated further it depended on their interpretation of the value of the project. He stated that it was his opinion this project would qualify for the full 90% funding if they dragged their feet and negotiated difficultly. He advised that Maleluca Gardens would cost between \$150 Million to \$160 Million to buy out. He stated they were looking at an average price of a waterfront home in the neighborhood of \$500,000, and an average price for land-locked homes at about \$250,000. He felt they needed to move quickly to relieve the economic hardship this had placed on the residents in that neighborhood. He stated that would then free up that land for future use.

Mayor Naugle stated that when Mr. Dunlap referred to "we," he assumed he was referring to Broward County. He stated it almost sounded like he was saying that the City of Fort Lauderdale was doing this. Mayor Naugle asked if the Airport had taken a position in regard to this matter. He stated that they had been advising the City on the need for the expansion, and the Aviation Advisory Board had taken a position in favor of the south runway extension.

Clara Bennett, Acting Airport Manager, stated that they had been monitoring the activities and had provided a report to the Aviation Advisory Board, and also to the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Office, as it related to these issues. She stated that she had attended the meeting where the noise banking program had been presented to the airlines, but she did not believe the airlines had responded as of this time. She stated this would be an opportunity to provide input that the airlines could consider when making their decision and responding to the County.

Mayor Naugle asked when the airlines would be responding to the County Commission. Mr. Dunlap stated they were charged to return with some sort of reasonable answer within 10 days. He stated it was his feeling they would return with a cost that could be considered. He continued stating that he was concerned because the item could be tossed back and forth, and during the time the "ball volleyed," the residents at Maleluca Gardens would be sitting in homes they could not sell. He felt this was a specific and quick solution to a very difficult problem. He advised that he had spoken to various airline officials who felt it was a workable situation. He did not think the airlines would be objecting to this plan. He stated it would eliminate such a tremendous sore spot in terms of fairness, and would be good public policy.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated there was no doubt in her mind that the FAA could not fund the buy-out, and felt there had to be another funding mechanism that would allow the people in that area a fair market value for their homes. She stated that in order to do that in an appropriate manner, this could be the way to do it. She stated they might not need the entire \$300 Million, but at least there would be a funding mechanism available on top of what was received from the FAA. She felt it was something that should be considered. She reiterated it was not coming from the City, but from the individuals who used the airlines.

Mayor Naugle stated that the resolution would state that the City of Fort Lauderdale supported the County Commission to consider raising the passenger facility charge in order to raise funds for noise mitigation for the expansion of the south runway. Commissioner Hutchinson reiterated that they were ultimately the ones that would rule. She reiterated it would just be another funding mechanism for them to do it right.

Mayor Naugle asked if the "Friends of the Airport" were in favor of this position. Mr. Dunlap confirmed, but stated he was not associated with that group. He emphasized that he was representing himself and the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Moore asked if there were any civic associations located within the limits of the City affected by the Airport. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that none were present at today's meeting, but reiterated that she lived 4 blocks from it. She stated that her neighborhood should have been bought out, but instead they had purchased Ravenswood. She stated it was ironic that the neighborhood they did buy out for noise mitigation should not have been bought, and they should have just relocated those individuals because the Airport had not been expanded to the west. She stated the only way to do it was to the south because no one had looked to the future and the building of I-595.

Action: Resolution to be presented at the Regular Meeting.

I-B – Privatization Criteria

Terry Sharp, Finance Director, stated that as a follow-up to the Commission's Budget Workshop, they had prepared draft criteria which would be applied to the potential areas discussed for privatization at that meeting. He explained the criteria were based upon the idea that not only would privatization be an opportunity, but also outsourcing to a public entity or having employees prepare an alternative method of service delivery.

Mr. Sharp further explained that the criteria were in 5 areas. He stated there were some prerequisites regarding proceeding which were:

1. Could the City legally outsource the service, and was it a service they did not wish to contract out.
2. Savings potential.
3. Service Delivery.
4. Risk.
5. Impact on Employees.

Commissioner Moore stated he did not have any problem considering those areas or the methodology being used for such consideration, but the only issue he had was in regard to the time line being proposed. He felt that most of the recommendations were what had been stated in the workshop. He felt it would be appropriate for them to have the new City Manager review what staff had exhibited in this information and then proceed forward. He stated that he agreed with the areas being considered for privatization, as well as the criteria suggested.

Mayor Naugle asked if any of these recommendations would be implemented before the new City Manager was selected. The Acting City Manager stated that some could be implemented before that time.

Commissioner Moore stated that in looking at the time line offered in this document, it was being suggested that it would take 30 days to review the material. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she did not see an actual time line.

Mr. Sharp stated that in the memorandum they had indicated that no more than 3-4 significant programs would be bid out before the adoption of the fiscal year 2005 budget. He stated that between now and then, there might be 3-4 large areas they might review and take the opportunity of getting through the bid process before October 1st.

Mayor Naugle stated that the Commission had already reached a consensus regarding garbage collection that was going out for bid.

Commissioner Moore stated that had already been done and he agreed with it, but he was referring to the package they had before them. He stated he did not have any opposition to the items on the list, but he was concerned about the budget issues and the time in regard to staff. He reiterated that they needed to follow the bottom line of the budget that had been proposed, and that emphasis should be applied there.

Mayor Naugle stated that the criteria and list were a start, and none could be completed until the new City Manager was on board. He stated he hoped staff would find a better way to do things, while showing they were being competitive.

Commissioner Moore stressed that they needed to focus on the items upon which they had agreed on, and the others would be ready for the future. Mayor Naugle remarked that in order to be ready for the appropriate time, they needed to move forward.

Commissioner Teel asked which programs was Mr. Sharp referring to as programs that could be placed out for bid before the fiscal year 2005 budget was adopted. Mr. Sharp

stated they would have to apply the criteria to the areas identified in the exhibit for potential privatization.

The Acting City Manager explained that staff would then return before the Commission to determine which would be put out with an RFP. He suggested that possibly one month from now they would return with a list, but the Commission needed to approve in concept that they should move forward with the RFPs.

Mayor Naugle asked if there were any items on the list that should be removed.

Commissioner Hutchinson clarified they were going to look at the items suggested for privatization, and run those items through the criteria. Then, the information would be brought back before the Commission in 30 days with the possibilities, and then the Commission would make their decision. Mr. Sharp confirmed.

Action: Staff would continue working on the potential list and return with recommendations.

I-C – 2004 State Legislative Agenda

Mayor Naugle thanked Commissioner Teel for representing the City in Tallahassee on Broward Days.

Commissioner Hutchinson left the meeting at approximately 1:56 p.m.

Commissioner Teel stated that it had been an excellent experience, and the City's lobbyist Linda Cox had done an excellent job. She stated that Linda Cox knew many people and was so well-versed on all issues that she opened many doors. She added that they had met with many of the legislators who relied on Ms. Cox for their information. She stated the main issue they had discussed with the legislators was the Stadium funding, but another issue had been land use in Broward County.

Commissioner Hutchinson returned to the meeting at approximately 1:58 p.m.

Commissioner Teel stated she had met and held discussions with other elected City officials. She added that she had also met with Senator Geller but that had been before the announcement had been made. She announced that they had also met with Senator Tony Hill and Burt Saunders. She advised they had spoken on the Orioles/Stadium matter. She also stated that she had met with Representative Halloway from Miramar who was a strong baseball fan and was very supportive of the City's plans. She stated she had also met with Dennis Baxley, Jack Siler and Ellen Bogdanoff.

Commissioner Teel stated that she felt they had made some progress in regard to the baseball funding. She announced they had also discussed the Bill regarding the changing of the land use to allow educational facilities closer to airports.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she had attended the last League of Cities meeting, and stated they were going to attend Legislative Days and were trying to get a meeting with the Governor. She suggested that either Commissioner Teel or Commissioner Moore get in touch with Steve Farran and check on the status of such a meeting. Commissioner Teel stated that a meeting had been committed to.

Bud Bentley, Assistant City Manager, stated that at the last Commission meeting, the Commission had been made aware that the Utility Consortium had filed a Bill relative to the citing of substations and vegetation management.

Commissioner Moore asked what type of substations they were referring to. Mr. Bentley replied they were referring to electric substations. Mayor Naugle stated they were trying to exempt utilities from any local regulations.

Mr. Bentley stated that vegetation management made statements saying they could cut anything they wanted within the utility easements. He felt it was sliding under the "radar." He advised they were having conversations with the Florida League of Cities and attempting to impress upon them how harmful and impactin that could be to an urban city with mature landscaping. He stated they were attempting to work out amendments to that. He stated further they would continue to provide the Commission with updates on this matter, especially before the meeting in Tallahassee. He suggested that possibly they could speak with some individuals while in Tallahassee regarding this matter. He advised that the Bill had sponsors in both the House and the Senate. He further stated that when one first read it, it did not appear that harmful, but when such a broad law was applied to certain areas, they needed to address the community's concerns.

Mayor Naugle asked about the legislation regarding the pawn shop fee.

Mr. Bentley replied that Representative Smith had withdrawn the legislation in regard to prohibiting the transaction fee after speaking with various representatives from the Police Departments.

Bruce Roberts, Chief of Police, stated he was not aware of any additional correspondence since the first reading. Mayor Naugle stated that some information had been received and was being forwarded to him.

Commissioner Teel remarked that she had also received the information, along with a visit from the lobbyist for the group. Commissioner Hutchinson announced that she had received a telephone call from them, along with a letter. Mayor Naugle remarked that it was a result of the local ordinance, but he felt it could prompt something in the legislature.

Commissioner Moore stated that the matter being raised this evening through a resolution for the County regarding the City being a partner in their business operation, and ensuring they had their monies collected before dealing with platting matters, he felt needed some further direction. He asked if they agreed to do this could they ask for some sort of handling fee.

Mayor Naugle announced that this was an item scheduled for discussion at the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Moore stated that he felt it was a legislative matter, and that was why he was asking the question at this time.

The City Attorney stated that he did not know the answer to that question. He stated that he did not think anyone had ever done that, and advised they would not really be handling it, but would simply be checking to see whether something had been paid prior

to the handling of their own issue. He stated that an ordinance could probably be written stating that every time they did this, they would have to be paid.

Commissioner Moore reiterated that staff time would be utilized to carry out the daily business. He asked if staff could research this and see if that would be an appropriate way for them to handle the matter.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that in reading the back-up material, along with the City Attorney's opinion, she thought the applicant would have to come in with a letter from the County stating that all fees were paid. Without the letter, no permits would be issued. Commissioner Moore asked why there needed to be an ordinance forcing them to do this. If that was the case, then the application would be rejected.

The City Attorney stated it would not be part of the City's requirement unless the Commission adopted the resolution.

Bruce Chatterton, Planning and Zoning Services Manager, stated they needed documentation from the applicant showing that the fees had been paid. He did not think that any additional staff time would be necessary. He stated he did not know why the resolution would be needed, but he did understand that the City of Sunrise had done a resolution that basically stated they would do it, not because the County was directing them to do it, but would do it because it was the right thing to do.

Commissioner Teel stated she wanted to explore further what was the City's exposure if for some reason a member of staff did not verify that the fees were paid and permits issued. Mr. Chatterton stated that ultimately it could affect the City's ability to issue permits in general. Now, they had situations where the County had rejected plat revisions and were not accepting them. They were issuing letters stating that Fort Lauderdale and Hillsborough Beach were the only two cities that had not passed such a resolution.

Commissioner Moore stated he did not think that another governmental entity could do that because his role as a governmental entity was to provide parks, recreation, beaches, maintenance, and safety personnel, and theirs was to deal with that issue. He asked how they could deny anyone following the law a permit. He believed this was a legislative matter, and felt it was inappropriate government.

The City Attorney stated the only problem was that they had no such authority to do that, but the City had no standing to challenge such authority and denying permits that came into them. He advised there was a case that he had tried when representing the County that was *Narco Realty vs. Broward County* that referred to plats. He advised that the case had stated that if there was a plat and all requirements had been met, approval of the plat was an administrative matter and they had no such discretion. He explained it would require litigation from one of the applicants that would be very expensive.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if they could ask the Attorney General to render an opinion, and if it was consistent with the City Attorney's opinion, would the County realize that someone above them had indicated they could not do what they were attempting to do. Commissioner Moore stated he agreed with such a recommendation, and suggested that the item be tabled this evening.

Mayor Naugle explained that the item could not be tabled now, but discussion could be held at the Regular Meeting.

Mr. Bentley stated that tonight he wanted to follow up on the idea as to what Sunrise had done in this matter. He further stated the County had clearly over-extended their authority, but these were the types of co-operational issues that would be beneficial to everyone, including the development community, so people could be moved through the process that could be cumbersome and complex.

Commissioner Moore reiterated that he did not think it was appropriate for any governmental entity to allow another one to take away a right of an individual because they were "bullying" another.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if there could be an interim policy until they receive an opinion from the Attorney General.

Mr. Bentley stated that he was not trying to talk the Commission out of receiving an opinion from the Attorney General because he felt that was a good idea.

Mayor Naugle stated that this item would be discussed this evening since it was already on the agenda.

Action: To be discussed at the Regular Meeting.

I-D – Proposed Reorganization of Public Services and Community and Economic Development Departments and Concept Paper for Future Organizational Changes

Mayor Naugle asked the Commission if they wished to have the Acting City Manager give his presentation on this matter.

Commissioner Trantalis stated this reorganization issue has been misunderstood, but at the same time fears had been created among the employees and this needed to be responded to. He reiterated that the Commission had instructed the Acting City Manager to make some recommendations, but at no point in time had it been stated that the recommendations would be adopted. He stated it was his understanding that these suggestions were presented strictly for discussion purposes. He reiterated that he was not in favor of implementing such a plan until there was a new City Manager in place. He did not feel things that were structurally fundamental should be done now because they could be tying the hands of the new Manager.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that during the Budget Hearings they had suggested that two departments look at reorganizing, and at the same time the Acting City Manager had mentioned a "white paper," which she felt was his opportunity to offer some suggestions. It was her opinion that this Acting City Manager was not remaining. The deal was that he was to participate and help them get their budget under control, but the Commission was setting their sights on hiring a new City Manager. She reiterated that person would need to structure their organization as to how they felt it should be run. She stated she was willing to listen to the "white paper" and other reorganization recommendations, but today she was not prepared to move forward on any items.

Commissioner Moore stated that he did not even want this plan presented at this time. He stated he would like to accept the "white paper" being offered, and hold the recommendations presented. He felt that the media would write their twist on what the Acting City Manager wanted to do, employees would be asked to give their opinion, and a different light would be added to this issue. He did not feel that was needed at this time. He stated that he did not want to alarm the employees. He did not feel the need for the drama.

Mayor Naugle stated that he liked the recommendations and did not feel the Acting City Manager had gone far enough, but felt it was a good start. He stated to wait for a new Manager to have about 6 months experience, many of these ideas were so good that he did not see a need to wait. He stated that he would be disappointed if the Commission did not adopt most of the recommendations being made. He stated if the majority of the Commission was "close-minded" about adopting these recommendations today, then he did not think the presentation was necessary.

Commissioner Teel stated that 4 of the Commissioners had stated they wanted to see the "white paper," and wanted to hear the Acting City Manager's presentation. She felt it was nothing more than an educational process they were participating in. She stated they had not made any commitments to accept the recommendations. She further stated that the employees and management had already seen the document, and therefore, it was no secret. She felt there were some good points in the paper, and she agreed that it needed to be thought of as something the new City Manager could consider. She felt there were some things being suggested that would help him so they could begin ahead of time and prepare for his arrival. She stated that she did not see the harm in reviewing the paper, and a lot of work and effort had gone into these recommendations.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she was not pre-disposed to listen to the presentation, but reiterated that she was not prepared at this time to move forward with any of the recommendations. She stated that she had met privately with the Acting City Manager and reviewed the document. She felt they were in the midst of hiring a new Manager, and whatever was being submitted should be given to the new Manager hired, and the Acting City Manager could offer some help and guidance. She reiterated that there were some good ideas in the document.

Commissioner Teel reiterated that there were some suggestions that could be helpful in planning their next budget process. She stated that she was hopeful they could start working in the Planning Department and Construction Services so permits could be issued quicker. Personally, she felt with all the work put in this document that it would be a disservice to the individuals who had participated in its preparation. She stated they could all listen to the presentation whether it was controversial or not.

Bud Bentley, Assistant City Manager, stated that he wanted to present staff's perspective on this issue. He stated they were puzzled because the Commission was discussing whether they wanted to hear the plan or not.

Commissioner Moore left the meeting at approximately 2:18 p.m.

Mr. Bentley further stated this was a "drop of water" into a "gallon" compared to the privatization issue that they had just approved to move forward on and evaluate. He explained such privatization affected hundreds and thousands of employees' jobs. He

reiterated that the reorganization dealt with about 10 or less employees that would be affected. He stated the reorganization dealt with the vacancies that occurred in top management positions and the reporting relationships. He explained they had lived for years with voids in Public Services, Construction Services, Community Economic Development, and an Acting Airport Manager. He stated they were "frozen in time," and this reorganization had been debated internally for 2-3 years, and there was a great deal of pent-up frustration. He felt they needed to hear the reorganization being proposed.

Commissioner Moore returned to the meeting at approximately 2:19 p.m.

Mr. Bentley continued stating that there were some items included in the reorganization that would not bind the new future City Manager. He stated the new Director of Public Utilities was in the DROP program and would be gone within the next 18 months. He stated it did not mean that a new Manager could not come in, budget for change and implement it. He reiterated that the Commission needed to look at their time frame in order to make some of the changes.

Commissioner Hutchinson clarified that the action taken regarding privatization would not affect thousands of individuals' jobs. She stated they had just directed staff to view the potential list and see which met the criteria, and then have it brought back to the Commission. She stated that she did not want the newspaper to state that thousands of jobs were being moved out.

Commissioner Moore stated that was why they should not be discussing this. He reiterated that they now had an Acting City Manager, along with individuals who were acting in various positions in the City, and possibly those individuals could end up filling those positions permanently.

Commissioner Hutchinson reiterated that if those individuals had been in acting positions for two years, then shame on the past administration that had not moved the individuals into real roles. Commissioner Moore suggested they accept what had been submitted. He stated that they had met with the Acting City Manager regarding the recommendations and they had been reviewed. He reiterated that he felt it would be inappropriate if there was no action to move forward, and for it placed into public dialogue so individuals could walk out with perceptions.

Commissioner Teel reiterated that she believed they needed to see the presentation. Commissioner Trantalis stated he did not want to further harm the employees.

Mayor Naugle stated that he felt what had been proposed was a first step, and believed that all the recommendations should be implemented tomorrow.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if such a discussion could take place at a special meeting where more time could be devoted to the issue. He further stated that he was willing to listen to the presentation and then give it the time it deserved for discussion. Regarding its implementation, he stated that he had an open mind to everything.

The Acting City Manager clarified that the only reason this was coming forward today was due to the consensus at the budget hearing to come up with a reorganization plan. He stated they had polled each department director and two such directors spoke at the budget hearing and stated their organizations did not make sense the way they presently

existed. He explained they then focused on those two departments. The Commission had stated they would accept a "white paper" on the matter. He explained that the whole reason it was put on the table was because it was part of the budget workshop, and they had to know the structure of the new organization before they could proceed with the budget. He stated that the budget preparation was to start tomorrow, and asked if there was to be one large Public Services Department and one large Community Economic Development Department that had many facets that did not fit coherently together, or should they try and consolidate them into other departments that would make more sense. He explained that was the essence of the reorganization plan.

Mayor Naugle reiterated there would be no pay cuts and no one would lose their jobs, and it would just be a reorganization of what they now had. The Acting City Manager confirmed.

Commissioner Moore reiterated that the majority was not in favor of dealing with this issue at this time. He stated he was not objecting to having this presentation or discussion at a later date.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that two issues were involved. She explained there was the "white paper," and the two departments that they had asked staff to look at. She stated it might be prudent for them to listen to the two departments they had requested information on during the budget workshop, but the "white paper" was a separate issue from those two departments.

Mayor Naugle remarked that in discussing those two departments, they might have to involve other departments. Commissioner Moore stated that was the problem.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated what bothered her was that since there had been discussion over the last two years as it related to Public Services, then shame on the administration for not moving forward and reorganizing as necessary. She stated that in talking with staff, it appeared this was in the works two years ago, but no one wanted to move it forward.

Action: Special Meeting to be scheduled.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION

MEETING RECESSED AT 3:30 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 3:40 P.M.

II-A – Proposed Housing Program Guideline Revisions Purchase Assistance Program

Commissioner Moore left the meeting at approximately 3:41 p.m. and returned at 3:42 p.m.

The City Commission accepted the report as submitted.

Action: None taken.

IV - City Commission Reports

Executive Airport

Commissioner Teel stated that she felt they were making progress at the Executive Airport and all concerned had met with Congressman Shaw. She believed he was breaking the log jam with the FAA and they were looking forward in the future to a meeting with those representatives. She further stated that they wanted to see if they could come to some sort of agreement to get the test period in for the I-95 turn for the eastbound planes. She stated that the residents in the area were seeing some improvements, and with the help of the operators at the Airport, peer pressure had been applied to the pilots and positive changes had been made. She believed that the citizens realized that there were people trying to help them.

Commissioner Moore stated that he wanted to comment on the magazine "Quality Cities" which had two important initiatives in it that he felt were very important for everyone to read. One was an article on advisory boards and how they function, as well as the article regarding the planning of local government.

637 SW 15 Avenue

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she wanted to get an update on 637 SW 15 Avenue. She stated that this problem had been lingering for a long time and they needed to deal with it. She stated they needed to get to Washington, and out of the Miami office. She stated the property was boarded up and fenced off and was in deplorable condition, and they needed to move on.

Tri-Rail Project

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that they had to allow the contractor for the Bridge to utilize the roadways east of I-95. She thought with the City Attorney's help they could put their feet in the sand, but it ended up being "quick sand." She stated they had structured an MOT that she felt would protect the neighborhood, and the only traffic entering the area would be construction traffic with materials to actually build the bridge. She added that a lot of the concerns had been in regard to the traffic at 18th Avenue and 20th Street and the residents were worried about cut-thru traffic. As part of the MOT and part of the project duration, the Washington Group had committed to implementing and putting in a permanent diverter with landscaping and in accordance with the City's standards. She explained that if the neighborhood wanted it out after the 20-24 months, then it would be removed and such option would be available.

Commissioner Hutchinson continued stating that during the time the MOT was issued and the time they had to issue the building permits for the diverter, the Washington Group would have a flag man on site at 18th Avenue to ensure the construction traffic stayed on the route designated. She added the group had been a pleasure to work with. She added that the diverter was to be located at 18th Avenue at 20th Street and would disallow traffic leaving the Marina to turn right. She added that it would also only allow residents in that area to come out, and they would not be able to enter at that point. She further stated that the Group had done a pre-construction video from 84 to the Marina so if anything was disturbed, it would be placed back as it had been prior to construction.

Property Appraiser

Mayor Naugle announced that Rocky Rodriguez was the new property appraiser.

Commissioner Moore asked if a letter had been written to the DCA congratulating the new architect. Mayor Naugle stated he would check and if that had not been done, he would make sure one was sent.

Commissioner Moore stated that she wanted staff to contact Mr. Cohen in regard to the project he represented for the Health Department. She stated that the Health Department was now saying they didn't have to do those things, and she added this had been going on for two years and she was tired of dealing with this. She stated it was a lock box on a fence that she was unable to get.

Cecelia Hollar, Acting Director Public Works, stated that a fence was to be locked at all times.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated the issue was that when they had renovated the building that had been shut down for a number of years, her neighborhood was concerned about the cut-thru traffic. She explained they had worked out a deal with Mr. Cohen that the gate on SW 8th Avenue would be closed to worker traffic, and the only people having a key would be the Health Department and the Fire Department that would be used only in case of an emergency. She advised they had contacted Tim Ryan, but there were still problems and nothing was being done. She felt it was time to contact Mr. Cohen. She reiterated that she had exhausted all her opportunities, short of going to the press, which she had just done. She felt this had to be done because it was not fair to the people who bought into this and had not opposed any of the reconstruction or renovation of the building.

Recycling on the Beach

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she had received many calls from individuals asking why they did not recycle on the Beach. She asked if staff could check into this and report back.

Commissioner Moore suggested that this issue be presented to the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board.

Commissioner Moore left the meeting at approximately 3:52 p.m.

V – City Manager Reports

The Acting City Manager stated that he wanted to address an article that had recently appeared in the newspaper. He continued stating that it had not been part of the reorganization package that had been proposed which dealt with an Executive Volunteer Corps.

Commissioner Moore returned to the meeting at approximately 3:54p.m.

The Acting City Manager further stated that he felt the memo had been self-explanatory and had dealt with a citizen who had made a suggestion. Such suggestion had been forwarded to the EMT, the matter had been discussed in December, and in January a meeting had been held. Nothing moved forward after that meeting, and it had not been included in the discussions regarding reorganization.

Mayor Naugle thanked the Acting City Manager for making the clarification, but told him not to worry because being in this business for a long time, one learned to ignore the inaccurate details provided by the media.

Lincoln Park

Mayor Naugle stated he was getting a lot of calls regarding the status of Lincoln Park and the health questions associated with it. He suggested that possibly staff could offer a public forum to provide the residents an update. He stated that he realized they were waiting on information from Tallahassee, but felt they needed to provide some update to the neighborhood.

Commissioner Moore stated that he wanted the residents to be provided with correct information, and he felt the best way to do that would be to extend an invitation to the State to go before the community.

Appointments for NUSA

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if everyone had made his or her appointments for NUSA.

III-B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Mayor Naugle announced that Board Appointments would be made at the Regular Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.