

**COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 4, 2006**

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COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:30 P.M. JANUARY 4, 2006

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

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas
 City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart
 City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
 Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Mark Spencer

I-A – Gospel Museum and Education Complex

Commissioner Moore said that they have stumbled onto something that could be very beneficial to the City and its neighboring communities. He said that Dr. Bobby Jones is in the audience and is going to be a resident of the City. The concept is to construct a Gospel Museum.

Ann Lewis, Community Education Facilitator of Broward County Public Schools, said they have an opportunity to work with Dr. Bobby Jones from BET Television. He has the #1 gospel television program on that station. Albert Tucker of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, convinced Dr. Jones to come to Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Jones has a Doctorate degree and is very interested in education. They would like to partner with NOVA Southeast, Florida A and M, Florida Memorial, Broward County schools and Dr. Jones regarding education in the music industry. Dr. Jones could make this City the education focus using a non-traditional approach to get young people interested in learning through gospel music. She introduced Dr. Bobby Jones.

Dr. Bobby Jones said he is impressed with this City. He has been in the gospel music industry for over 33 years and on Black Entertainment Television (BET) television network as the longest running show in the history of cable television. He said they foster ways to get young people involved in a positive type of music. Performances have been held at the Performing Arts Center, and they have thousands of people interested in this industry. He is interested in the concept of a gospel museum and education complex. He felt bringing this type of educational platform to the youth would enrich their lives.

Dr. Smiley of NOVA University, said she appreciates being a part of this phenomenal project which would be a model that the world could view. She wanted to work with the Broward Schools and other colleges and universities regarding this project and take advantage of the curriculum that would be offered. They are looking to develop a single-type of education that would flow from the public schools through the colleges and universities. The curriculum has yet to be developed. She asked the Commission to embrace this project and put the City on the map even more.

Commissioner Moore presented a Powerpoint presentation showing the benefits of having such a complex. When he was asked to attend the retreat that was taking place at the Performance Arts Center and Dillard High School, he was impressed and saw Dr. Jones interacting with the youth of the City, and the youth interacting with gospel music.

Commissioner Moore further said that he wants to show everyone that this project could be a hall of fame museum where international gospel artists could perform on an annual basis and be inducted into this hall of fame. The annual event could make another label for this City from an educational aspect, and the hall of fame aspect with the induction of international artists bringing media attention to the City. It will provide youth with positive ideas.

Commissioner Moore suggested to the City's Lobbyist that they look into what Visit Florida could do to capture planning dollars. Visit Florida is a nature heritage and cultural entity by the State used to create tourism. It deals with Florida's hardest market segments and is responsible for travel to natural, historical, and cultural sites to educate and conserve the environment as a resource. It is their desire to have this museum constructed on historic Sistrunk Boulevard that is being redeveloped in an Afro-Centric measure endorsed by the Community Redevelopment Agency, the CRA advisory board, and the Commission.

Commissioner Moore presented a Powerpoint presentation providing a brief history of Visit Florida, the economic impact of such a concept, and the opportunity to be associated with Dr. Jones, who has such a longstanding track record.

Commissioner Moore said the City's Lobbyist informed him that in order to begin gathering funding, they would need this Commission to endorse the theory that this museum would meet all aspects. He asked the Commission to validate this project so they could move forward.

Mayor Naugle asked if this Commission should adopt a resolution, and then go before the County Commission, the School Board, and the Legislative Delegation. Commissioner Moore agreed, and noted there should be emphasis on the partnering relationships with corporate America, along with the public sector, that being Nova Southeast, Florida Memorial and Broward County Schools. He wanted Broward County to continue to nurture such relationships along with the City. The Sistrunk Corridor should be explored as a site for the museum.

Mayor Naugle said it could be located within the City limits or outside. Even if it was outside of the City limits, the City could still support it. Commissioner Moore said it could still be supported or annexed. He suggested the former home of Dr. Sistrunk which was torn down 10 years ago. The property is available. Another site being contemplated is outside of the City's limits adjacent to the African-American Research Library and owned by Broward County. The County has been in negotiations with two other non-profits regarding the use of this site. As a caveat, he asked that these two locations be considered. He wanted to get an appraised value and an indication as to willingness to be sold. The Sistrunk home site is on the waterfront and would provide a destination on the corridor and an opportunity for hall of fame inductions that would be second to none.

Dr. Jones expressed his interest in coming to this community and providing such services for the world.

Commissioner Trantalis said this sounds like an interesting and positive project with a great impact on the community, but he asked what is the role for the City regarding their support.

Commissioner Moore wanted to begin with the Visit Florida funding. He asked that they take a tip-toe approach and accept the concept by resolution and partner with the other segments, as they did when developing the Performing Arts Center. Resources were put together and a venue was created that would provide an atmosphere for social events. In this case the Convention and Visitors Bureau has already brought to the table the educational component, and they now need to consider location aspects of the site. Some money might have to be spent towards an appraisal of the considered site, along with continuing to work with the City Lobbyist and the State Legislature.

Mayor Naugle asked about CRA funds. Commissioner Moore said there are funds available from the CRA.

Commissioner Trantalis wanted to make sure the City is prepared to participate in this venture, especially regarding financial support. He admitted that he knows very little about the show and had never seen it. He asked if it is a for-profit enterprise. Commissioner Moore confirmed that it is for profit.

Richard Manson, representing Dr. Jones, said it is a television production that is operated through a profit corporation entitled New Vision. The facility they are proposing would be a non-for-profit facility, designed to educate while preserving the heritage of this type of music. This type of music has no home. It evolved out of Chicago, Detroit and New York. Due to political and economic reasons, those places have never developed a home for such music. The intent is to train, preserve, educate and let the world know the importance of such music.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if this would be a classroom facility, a concert hall, or offices. Dr. Manson said it would be a combination of all of those features. The preliminary design would have a television studio where students could learn and have exposure to the music. Office space would be provided since it would be an active and operational facility that would develop programs and shows aired out of Broward County. Commissioner Trantalis asked if this could be compared to the Grand Ole Opry for gospel music. Dr. Manson further said in a small scale, but the Grand Ole Opry is a pure profit entity, and the Country Music Hall of Fame Museum is the not-for-profit arm that deals with the preservation and growth of the industry. The industry does not grow through accidental means, but by design. People work on its preservation. They will do the same, but this would be the epicenter for gospel music. There have only been three major players in the history of gospel music who were Tommy Dorsey, James Cleveland, and now Dr. Bobby Jones, who is the icon of gospel music.

Commissioner Trantalis said the City's support would deal with the not-for-profit component of the enterprise. Dr. Manson confirmed that is correct. It would have to be a public/private partnership that would deal with such a facility. Museums normally represent things that are not growing or developing, whereas they are discussing something that would continue to grow so the County would be synonymous with this genre of music. Commissioner Trantalis further said that the City would possibly participate in the non-profit aspect. If the Commission votes for this enterprise, they have to be prepared to move forward with this project. He was concerned about the City's boundary lines in regard to providing financial assistance to for-profit enterprises.

Mayor Naugle said he is not ready to provide an open checkbook. Organizations that have received monies in the past were part of a bond issue. If there is a significant gap the voters could be approached as to whether they want to provide monies for this project as was done in connection with the Museum of Discovery and Science and the International Swimming Hall of Fame. He said he is not prepared to commit City funds, but it sounds like a wonderful idea. The Convention Center lies within the City limits, but there are City dollars in it, it was paid by the businesses. This might be the source, if businesses felt it would be worthy. There are many ways to participate. Another idea might be corporate sponsorship and naming rights.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that today they are being asked to support a concept and a vision. They have to see what other players and other government entities are interested. It is not just a City venture. She felt the City should take it a step at a time.

Vice Mayor Teel agreed, this would evolve as time goes on and things will change, and it will take effort from all the listed entities to make this project successful. She supported the concept.

Mayor Naugle said a resolution of support should be drafted for a site along Sistrunk corridor preferably but not necessarily within the City.

Action: There was consensus to adopt a resolution supporting the concept for placement in the City.

**MEETING RECESSED AT 2:14 P.M.
MEETING RECONVENED AT 2:22 P.M.**

I-B – Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Celebration; Request of Parade Committee; Financial Assistance for Police Staffing

Wayne Alexander, Parade Committee, said they are seeking a donation from the City not to exceed \$9,200 to assist in covering the costs for police, and other costs associated with this annual event. The parade would start at Joseph C. Carter Park and go to Holiday Park where a festival would be held with gospel music designed to entertain young individuals.

Mayor Naugle asked how much money has been raised for other activities. Mr. Alexander said they raised less this year; about \$30,000. He felt the hurricanes were a factor.

Commissioner Moore said the event is free, nothing is generated from the event. Mr. Alexander said no one is getting paid to work on the event, everyone is volunteering their time.

Mayor Naugle thought if the City gave the organization money and they paid for the detail, it would be considerably less. He thought it would be \$6,600 instead of \$9,200.

Kathleen Gunn, Assistant City Manager, said that since this is a holiday, overtime costs would be involved. Detail would not be feasible; it is volunteer and cannot be required. By paying overtime detail, the City can ensure their presence.

The City Manager explained this was the purpose of a maximum cap. They will attempt to get this to work as best as possible, and they would keep the costs down as much as possible.

Vice Mayor Teel asked if Broward County had been approached to help with the event. Mr. Alexander said that the County provides a \$2,000 mini-grant for the King Holiday celebration that includes the parade, festival and a cultural concert.

Vice Mayor Teel said that \$9,000 is high. She preferred an amount around \$5,000 to \$6,000. Mayor Naugle noted that \$6,600 would suffice if there are enough volunteers for detail work.

Action: There was consensus to provide funding. The City Manager was to advise as to the amount.

I-C – Billboards – Request of Clear Channel

Action: This item was deferred.

II-A – Emergency Repairs; Public Safety Radio and Telephone Systems; Damage Caused by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma

Action: No Discussion.

II-B – Emergency Repair of Sanitary Sewer Serving Pump Station B-4; George English Park

Action: No Discussion.

II-C – November 2005 Monthly Financial Report

Action: No Discussion.

III-B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Action: No appointments were made.

IV – Commission Reports

George English Park

Vice Mayor Teel complimented staff concerning work being done at George English Park.

Agenda Item O-03 Temporary Signs and Advertising Displays; Code Amendment; Section 47-22, Unified Land Development Regulations (including political signs) 8-T-05

Commissioner Hutchinson said that Item O-03, an ordinance, on tonight's agenda was to be brought back to the Commission for discussion. She was uncomfortable with not discussing this matter beforehand. She felt the item should be removed from tonight's

agenda and placed on a Commission conference agenda for further discussion. She was not opposed, but it should have taken place months ago.

Mayor Naugle thought that probably discussion tonight would be defer it to a time certain or remove it and readvertise.

Commissioner Moore said the issue is that other cities have this ordinance. Fort Lauderdale has campaign signs remaining for months after the elections.

Mayor Naugle said there is a State statute that permits the City to collect the signs and then bill the sign owner.

Commissioner Moore said if an individual makes a deposit and if signs are removed after elections, the deposit would be returned, that gets their attention. Laws on the books in the City especially in regard to Code violations take a long time for compliance, and therefore, he felt a State statute would not solve the problem. He said there are many illegal signs throughout the City and the issue should be addressed.

Commissioner Hutchinson said she does not disagree, but this should have been done months ago.

Commissioner Moore noted that information could be furnished to each candidate. Commissioner Hutchinson said such information has not been included because the Commission has not agreed upon the ordinance.

Mayor Naugle said the reason the issue could not be heard tonight is due to process. The Commission agreed there would be a conference discussion before this moved forward. The process was not followed.

Commissioner Moore said the Commission is aware of Planning & Zoning Board discussions and knew the matter was being discussed by them. If there was an urgency that it should not go to them before the Commission, it would have been pulled. Commissioner Hutchinson said it was one year ago on January 18th.

If the Commission approves it this evening, Commissioner Trantalis asked how would that impact the candidates who have already applied for their candidacy. Commissioner Moore said the candidates could be provided with the information regarding the new ordinance. Commissioner Trantalis said the process does not compel them to place the \$900 on the table.

Mayor Naugle asked if it would complicate matters since they are in the middle of a campaign.

The City Attorney said it would make it difficult to impose the restriction on signs which already exist.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that there are signs already posted.

Commissioner Moore said that individuals who have already posted signs could be given the opportunity to post the necessary fee to cover the number of signs they have displayed. The City Attorney said further that they would be given such opportunity.

There is a clear argument that the existing signs are grandfathered in. Commissioner Trantalis asked how such a restriction could then be enforced.

Commissioner Hutchinson said her concern is that this matter came before them a year ago and went to other levels of discussion, but the issue never came back before the Commission. There has been plenty of time to have this issue brought forward to the Commission, but the process was not followed.

Mayor Naugle said that reference to a vote taken by the Planning and Zoning Board is made in the backup, but no minutes have been attached to substantiate the vote. It is unusual for something to get on the agenda this way.

Vice Mayor Teel had spoken with the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Board and raised a question about how the dollar amount was decided upon. She did not think there had been discussion of any detail regarding the dollar amount at the meeting. She was not in favor of moving forward with this item.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Commissioner Trantalis commended the City Manager and staff who worked on the New Year's Eve celebration. It was a great event and well organized. He hoped it will be continued every year.

The City Manager said they hope to have started a tradition, and next year the event could be enhanced.

V – City Manager Reports

Affordable Housing Roundtable

The City Manager said at the last Commission meeting, there was direction to hold an affordable housing roundtable. There was Commission consensus to hold the roundtable from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on January 21, 2006.

Commissioner Moore asked about the venue. The Assistant City Manager said that the Performing Arts Center has been contacted regarding the January 14th date, and therefore, they would see if the January 21st date is available. Commissioner Moore suggested that all arrangements be checked before tonight's 6 p.m. meeting, and then the date could be confirmed.

Commissioner Trantalis said they need to inquire if the consultant is available on January 21st. Vice Mayor Teel suggested a secondary date of January 28th.

The City Manager assured that the date and other details would be confirmed before tonight's regular meeting.

Insurance Deficit

The City Manager announced that the Actuaries have indicated that the insurance deficit is gone as of the close of the fiscal year. There is \$300,000 in reserves.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:42 p.m.