

**FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2006**

Agenda		
Item		Page
I-A	Insurance – City Properties Leased to Fort Lauderdale Historical Society	1
I-B	Alarm Response Fee	2
I-C	Florida Medicaid Reform Program	2
I-D	Seabreeze Boulevard Widening Project – Request for Extension	3
II-A	August 2006 Monthly Financial Report	4
III-B	Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies	4
	1. Audit Advisory Board	(Deferred)
	2. Cemeteries Advisory Board	(Deferred)
	3. Charter Revision Board	(Deferred)
	4. Citizens Committee of Recognition	(Deferred)
	5. Community Appearance Board	(Deferred)
	6. Community Services Board	(Deferred)
	7. Education Advisory Board	(Deferred)
	8. Fire Rescue Bond Facilities	(Deferred)
	9. Historic Preservation Advisory Board	(Deferred)
	10. Housing Authority	5
	11. Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights	(Deferred)
	12. Nuisance Abatement Board	(Deferred)
	13. Parks and Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board	5
III-C	Advisory Board Appointment Process	5
III-D	Abolishment of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board	5
IV	Commission Reports	5
	1. Land Preservation Board; release of funding by Broward County	6
	2. Harbor Beach WaterWorks 2011 Sewer Project	6
	3. Florida Neighborhoods Conference	6
	4. Better Meetings Academy for Advisory Boards and Committees	6
	5. George English Community Building	6
V	City Manager's Report	7
	None Given	

COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:30 P.M. October 3, 2006

Present: Mayor Naugle
 Vice Mayor Hutchinson, Commissioners Rodstrom and Teel

Absent: Commissioner Moore

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

I-A – Insurance – City Properties Leased to Fort Lauderdale Historical Society

The City Manager said that the Historical Society is requesting that the City make a match contribution of \$6,500 towards their insurance premium of \$13,000.

Art Bengochea, President of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, said he realizes the concern that this request could open Pandora's box in regard to other associations. In this City there are three properties listed on the National Register and the Historical Society has one of them. The windstorm policy has a \$20 million deductible. If there was a catastrophic disaster, he felt the Society would be low on the totem pole. Some buildings are irreplaceable, and that is why they have opted to carry the subject insurance. They are asking the City, as owners of the building, to share in the cost.

In response to Commissioner Teel, Connie Hoffman, Executive Director of the Society, said the New River Inn is insured for \$1 million which is the maximum that Citizens will insure; the deductible is roughly \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Commissioner Teel asked if the building is destroyed more than 50%, it still be restored as a historic building. Ms. Hoffman said that the New River Inn is listed on the National Register and because of how it is constructed, they fabricate onsite to do repairs. It could be restored. She said that the building has existed since 1905 and has been through a few hurricanes. Commissioner Teel said it is good to have the insurance, but if the building has withstood time so far why have the insurance and would they benefit from having the insurance if the building is destroyed more than 50%. She wondered if it could be rebuilt. Mr. Bengochea said that the building code specifically gives great latitude to the building official in dealing with historic structures.

Mayor Naugle noted the fire that destroyed over 50% of the Bryan Home. It has been rebuilt and is still listed on the Register. He also noted the Lauderdale Beach Hotel as an example.

Ms. Hoffman said due to the block construction, the chances of the building ever being destroyed over 50% are remote. Mayor Naugle felt that possibly a large water surge could make the building vulnerable, but it seems unlikely that the walls would crumble.

Ms. Hoffman noted the insured amounts for the other buildings and the type of construction. Mayor Naugle noted the other buildings and those that withstood 1926 storm.

Mayor Naugle noted that only considering those buildings on the National Register would eliminate many potential funding requests.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson wanted to assist the Historic Society. The City owns the building and one is listed on the National Register. They would be given leeway in the building code if they should have to rebuild as would South Side School.

Mayor Naugle said this is the first request since the budget has been adopted; the expenditure would come out of Contingency. In response to Vice Mayor Hutchinson, The City Manager said this was an oversight because the request was made before adoption of the budget. They were not notified and given an opportunity to make the request during the budget process.

Action: There was consensus approval for the contribution from the City Contingency Fund in the amount of \$6,500.

I-B – Alarm Response Fee

The City Manager said that this item was requested by Commissioner Moore.

There was consensus if Commissioner Moore would like the item placed on a future agenda, it would be scheduled.

Action: Deferred due to Commissioner Moore's absence.

I-C – Florida Medicaid Reform Program

The City Manager said that this item also was requested by Commissioner Moore. Since it is time sensitive Commissioner Moore did not think it should be postponed.

Melissa Dunn, Circle of One Marketing, said that in May, 2005, the Florida Legislature approved a waiver for the Agency for Health Care Administration to implement Medicaid reform. They are now in the process of piloting the program in Broward and Duvall counties. Some 10% of the Medicaid population actually resides in Broward County.

Ms. Dunn further said that materials distributed to the Commission include a map showing the high-density Medicaid zip codes countywide. She noted Medicaid population by county district.

Ms. Dunn said that currently there are 13 health plans for Medicaid beneficiaries which is detailed in the information provided to the Commission. The Agency for Health Care Administration is now mailing information to all residents affected for voluntary enrollment. Individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare are voluntary and do not have to participate in Medicaid reform. Choice counselors are available to assist with helping individuals understand which of the 13 plans would be suit their needs. People have 30 days to voluntarily enroll in a plan. If they do not enroll in a plan, a plan will be assigned to them. Then, they have 90 days to see if the plan is workable for them, and if not, they may change plans.

Ms. Dunn said they are partnering with community-based organizations, elected officials, and members of the community, including faith leaders, to get the word out. Advertising is being done. The most important component at this time is a grass roots network to reach the community.

Mayor Naugle asked who is eligible. Ms. Dunn indicated those individuals excluded for Medicaid Reform are individuals dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid, individuals participating in a hospice program, and individuals considered medically needy. The information distributed shows who would be eligible. They began enrolling in July and to date they have over 500,000 people who have voluntarily enrolled.

Mayor Naugle asked how the City could assist. Ms. Dunn said that the information could be placed in the kiosk in City Hall, and any means to communicate with all residents. Mayor Naugle suggested that the information be included in the water bills.

Ted Lawson, Director of Public Information, said that on the back of the water bill, it is possible to run five to six messages. He would be happy to provide this information.

Action: Consensus approval to insert pertinent information on the water bill citywide.

I-D – Seabreeze Boulevard Widening Project – Request for Extension

The City Manager received an e-mail today from Jim Wolfe which has been provided to the Commission. It clarifies the original letter and what is meant by substantial capacity improvement. A one-month extension will be granted which would provide the opportunity to meet the original project intent of substantial capacity improvement within the project limits. He read: I use the expression substantial capacity improvement. Please interpret this as roadway widening, lane addition to Seabreeze Boulevard. This is the fundamental intent of the project. Traffic operations improvements, for instance, would not meet the requirement. The City Manager understood in essence that the City has 30 days to develop a plan involving a lane addition within the existing budget of the \$15 million.

Mayor Naugle asked if they could be asked to fund a portion of the project on Birch Road, which is partially funded by the CRA.

Commissioner Rodstrom felt the City should look into that idea. She was happy to have at least thirty days to take a fresh look and find a way to add value to an area using State funds. She thanked the City Manager for his efforts.

The City Manager said that a list of options could be created by the next meeting, but he did not want to create any false expectations.

Mayor Naugle said they have been offered the City \$5 million. The City Manager said that is not exactly accurate. The staff was told via a telephone call today that there was no linkage between the sea turtle lights project and this funding. They would give a little extra consideration to the City in finding funds in other places. The City would still have to apply for a grant in connection with the sea turtle lighting. Part of the problem is that they do not fund decorative lighting and the sea turtle lights are decorative.

Mayor Naugle felt the City could obtain a couple million toward the other project.

In response to Commissioner Teel, the City Manager confirmed that staff was informed this was only for roadway widening, lane addition at Seabreeze Boulevard, but it does not preclude the City from asking.

Commissioner Rodstrom felt the City should continually look for grant funding.

Mayor Naugle felt the City should be able to get something in exchange for freeing \$15 million.

The City Manager said a wish list can be created for the next meeting to submit to the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked if, in the meantime, staff could work on another conceptual plan regarding changes for Seabreeze Boulevard. Mayor Naugle pointed out that it requires right-of-way and the City does not have the money available. Commissioner Rodstrom did not think the right-of-way calculation is as detailed as it could be. Vice Mayor Hutchinson suggested the consultant's report might be helpful. The City Manager asked if her reference to calculation has to do with the traffic study or the roadway engineering. Commissioner Rodstrom said she is referring to both, along with the appraisals and the amount of money needed to acquire the right-of-way, and the calculation of funds and time involved. She wanted to see how to proceed with the lane addition and widening to Seabreeze. Mayor Naugle was not certain what could be done. The City Manager indicated staff would be willing to continue to help.

II-A – August 2006 Monthly Financial Report

No discussion.

III-B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Audit Committee

Action: Deferred.

Cemeteries Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Charter Revision Board

Action: Deferred.

Citizens Committee of Recognition

Action: Deferred.

Community Appearance Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Community Services Board

Action: Deferred.

Education Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon

Action: Deferred

Historic Preservation Board

Action: Deferred.

Housing Authority

Mayor Naugle recommended appointing of Nicholas Tranakas to the Housing Authority.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Northwest Progresso-Flagler Heights CRA

Action: Deferred.

Nuisance Abatement Board

Action: Deferred.

Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended reappointing Mark E. Hartman and Robert W. Hoysgaard to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

III-C – Advisory Board Appointment Process

No discussion.

III-D – Abolishment of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board

Action: Consensus that the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board is not necessary.

IV – Commission Reports

Land Preservation Board; Release of Funding by Broward County

Vice Mayor Hutchinson announced that assuming the County Commission releases funding on October 10, 2006, the Land Preservation Board will open the filing process on October 11th. Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the estimate of potential funds is approximately \$21 million.

Harbor Beach WaterWorks 2011 Sewer Project

Vice Mayor Hutchinson requested an update and time line be provided to the Commission on the Harbor Beach sewer project. She wanted something in writing to be distributed to residents as soon as possible. Better communication is needed.

Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, said that hopefully a letter detailing the status will be sent out by tomorrow to the residents and he planned to continue with such letters either bi-monthly or quarterly. Mayor Naugle felt the information should be detailed enough to explain how the system works and what is involved with each step.

Commissioner Teel felt that all residents should be updated on projects that are occurring in their communities. It should be repeated because people move, etc.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said these residents have been very supportive of this contractor.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson asked if residents are contacted before the notification signs are erected. Mr. Carbon confirmed yes. The signs are not moved until the contractor moves out of the area. He committed to doing a better job with communication on a more frequent basis to local residents.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson felt the staff needs to note which groups do not meet on a monthly basis in order to do a better job in communicating with them.

Commissioner Rodstrom suggested the Commission staff be provided information on the projects in order to help with answering phone calls.

Florida Neighborhoods Conference

Vice Mayor Hutchinson announced that the Florida Neighborhoods Conference begins this coming Thursday. She urged everyone to attend the opening reception.

Better Meetings Academy For Advisory Boards and Committees

Commissioner Teel thanked the City Clerk and her staff for conducting the Better Meetings Academy. It was very helpful and well attended. She stressed that the informational materials should be provided to new members.

George English Community Building

Commissioner Teel noted the opening for the community building at George English Park this past Saturday.

V – City Manager Reports

None given.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:08 p.m.