

**FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2009**

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CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:30 P.M. JANUARY 6, 2009

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas
City Auditor - John Herbst
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart
Sergeant At Arms – Sgt. Rod McGowan

I – A – Port Everglades Sand Bypass Project

Steve Higgins, Broward County Beach Erosion, presented and reviewed slides on this matter. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes. All aspects of this have been examined in great deal. There have been two public meetings. The only permanent infrastructure would be the small jetty extension at sea level. If pre-treatment is necessary, confined underwater blasting is probably the most efficient and quickest methodology, however, a blasting plan is still in the process of being assembled. If the appropriate dredging equipment is available in the United States, then pre-treatment may not be necessary. There will be intensive environmental reviews. The outreach is not complete; meetings will continue to be held. Rubble from the north beach will be removed; 80 cubic yards placed on that beach and the County will ensure that it remains a healthy beach.

With respect to beach nourishment of Segment 2 (central/north Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and Pompano Beach), Mr. Higgins advised that regulatory agencies did not allow the County to address it simultaneously with Segment 2. Conditions have changed since the 2001 design. If there are other areas of Fort Lauderdale beach that were not proposed previously to receive sand, they will consider adding those to the Segment 2 project.

In response to Mayor Naugle, Mr. Higgins indicated that Segment 3 is south of Port Everglades. Renourishment of this area was completed in 2006. Mayor Naugle believed that the Commission adopted a resolution in support of that project, as long as Fort Lauderdale would be next. In further response to Mayor Naugle, Mr. Higgins indicated the goal is go to construction on the bypass by the end of 2010.

In response to Mayor Naugle, Mr. Higgins indicated that explosives would be used to blast, but he did not know what type of explosives. The barges that operate for 30-45 days every three years is a 24-hour operation. The replacement sand will not be gray; it is not off-shore sand.

Commissioner Teel commented about the tremendous loss of beach sand in The Galt Ocean Mile. People have patiently waited based on past promises. People do not feel they are being treated in a fair manner and are concerned about their investments. She felt it is disingenuous to discuss this bypass when promises and representations were made. She commented about inlets being problematic. She understood the need for

Segment 3, but she disagreed with chasing sand that is not creating any danger at present. Segment 2 must be put in front of the line.

Mr. Higgins commented about his frustration and the difficulty in securing permits.

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Mr. Higgins indicated that sand distributed on the south side of the Hillsboro Inlet helps reduce the rate of erosion to Fort Lauderdale beach. In further response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Mr. Higgins indicated that it is getting almost prohibitively expensive for beach nourishment. Also easily accessible sand offshore is depleting. There may be enough sand offshore in the county to do Segment 2. For Segment 3, bypassing is the more economical route, but it will not replace future nourishment. The north end of the beach will be enhanced after this project.

Peter Bober, Mayor, City of Hollywood, emphasized that Hollywood does not intend to put their interests ahead of those of Fort Lauderdale. There are places in Hollywood where water is splashing against seawalls because there is no beach. Even if the bypass was completed today, it will take up to ten years for the sand to draft to where it is wanted and there is no guarantee. There is no quick fix. Hollywood does not want to do anything that would jeopardize any building integrity. He understood this can be done in a very controlled way. It is important that no one take a knee jerk reaction. As a neighboring city matter, Hollywood is not interested in doing anything that would give them any unfair advantage or cause any detriment to Fort Lauderdale residents or the City's reputation.

Ina Lee, Point of Americas Condominium resident, commented that Point of Americas directly overlooks what could be called ground zero. She elaborated upon the diversity in use of this public beach. People come here for the beaches and millions of dollars has been expended to promote the beach. One photograph showing this could impact millions of dollars of tourism for years to come. Cruise passengers will see this. She favored beach nourishment, but was concerned with messing with nature. She felt another solution is needed. The hotels are very concerned.

Genia Ellis, representing South Beach Alliance, indicated this organization represents over 5,000 residents. This is a public beach and a quality of life issue. She questioned there being no concentration on retention of sand. The project needs more study. It is not in the City's best interests. It will impact not only tourism, but the fishing and boating industries and the environment. Broward County has not responded to the City's letter that raised questions.

Harry Benedict, President, Point of Americas Condominium Board of Governors, indicated this condominium is just north of the jetty at the Port Everglades entrance. There are 578 apartments and more than a thousand people. There is a forty-nine foot deep hole, the circumference of which basically surrounds the condominium. He was concerned about the blasting. The Board of Governors voted unanimously in opposition. He raised questions about the effectiveness of the nourishment based on the projected amounts to be deposited and those eroding. He believed the sand will be coming from Fort Lauderdale beaches. He mentioned that Hollywood residents are not all happy with this project as well. They have problems now, but this project will make its first delivery in 2015-2017. He raised questions about the cost. He expressed opposition.

Richard Mancuso, representing Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, referred to the Council's letter of December 23, 2008. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes. He reiterated their concern about maintaining the vitality of the eco system, beaches, businesses and quality of life for residents in the affected area. The problem needs more study and that citizens be included in discussions.

Len Abrams, Vice President, Point of Americas Condominium Board of Governors, commented about the closeness of this project to their building. He questioned how does anyone know this project will work. The beach re-nourishment to the south has failed. He raised questions about the cost of bypassing compared to other methods, why this is the first Fort Lauderdale meeting, potential damage of blasting, impact on sea turtles and the environment, cleanup, changes to the profile of the beach with seawall proposed in the Broward County budget and repeated dredging, navigational issues, future financial impact. He read a March 18, 1998 letter from the Director of Natural Resource Protection to Congressman Clay Shaw, indicating that sand bypassing at Port Everglades would only proceed if future studies show that listed assumptions are true – bypassing will reduce re-nourishment cost and frequency sufficient to justify the cost of implementing the plan, current economic conditions are not taken into consideration, bypassing will not degrade the beach north of the inlet, not increase maintenance requirements at Port Everglades' entrance or impede navigation of the inlet. He emphasized the importance of the beaches to the City and that there are numerous less disruptive options available. He urged the Commission to stop this.

Mark Schurr, attorney representing the Point of Americas Condominium, indicated he asked Mr. Higgins and those who made a presentation to the Point of Americas in September – October if the cost of blasting has been compared with other methods of rock excavation and the answer was no. No one if blasting will be required or the potential effect of the blasting on nearby buildings yet the project is proceeding with the application process. He urged the Commission to not express approval of the project, but to take the position that there are too many unanswered questions. He understood that sand and rock up to one-quarter inch in diameter will be placed on the beach in the vicinity of Point of Americas.

There were no further comments from the public.

Commissioner Hutchinson did not favor the project. It is time for Segment 2. She was disappointed there have been public meetings since 1999 and none have been in Fort Lauderdale with the exception of one condominium. She wanted the Commission to consider adopting the resolution that she requested the City Attorney prepare.

In response to Mayor Naugle and Commissioner Hutchinson, Mr. Higgins said there are serious concerns about the turtles in connection with this project.

Commissioner Teel agreed with Commissioner Hutchinson that Segment 2 needs to go ahead as quickly as possible. She was also concerned about the blasting so close to two high-rise buildings.

Commissioner Lewis did not feel there should be interference with Mother Nature. She asked about community outreach. Mr. Higgins indicated that meetings were held at

Point of Americas and there will be future meetings. Commissioner Lewis felt it is too early to make a decision.

Vice Mayor Rodstrom concurred that the resolution be adopted and provided to Broward County as soon as possible.

Commissioner Teel asked that the resolution state that Segment 2 be pushed forward.

Mayor Naugle pointed out that Fort Lauderdale supported Segment I, but was promised that Fort Lauderdale would be next. He was worried once there is a bypass, Segment 2 will not be thought as needed.

I-B – Proposed Alarm Response Fee Settlements

No discussion.

I-C – Proposed Lien Settlements – Special Magistrate and Code Enforcement Board Cases

No discussion.

II-A – November 2008 Monthly Financial Report

No discussion.

III-B – Board and Committee Vacancies

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee – no appointments at this meeting

Audit Advisory Board – no appointments at this meeting

Cemetery System Board of Trustees – no appointments at this meeting

Citizens Police Review Board – no appointments at this meeting

Code Enforcement Board – no appointments at this meeting

Community Appearance Board

Vice Mayor Rodstrom recommended Shelley Walker to the Community Appearance Board.

Community Services Board – no appointments at this meeting

Economic Development Board – no appointments at this meeting

Education Advisory Board

Commissioner Teel recommended Maureen Persi to the Education Advisory Board.

Fire Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee – no appointments at this meeting

Insurance Advisory Board – no appointments at this meeting

Board of Commissioners, City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority

Mayor Naugle recommended Robert W. Kelley to the Board of Commissioners, City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority.

International Swimming Hall of Fame, Board of Directors – no appointments at this meeting

Marine Advisory Board – no appointments at this meeting

Nuisance Abatement Board – no appointments at this meeting

Planning and Zoning Board

Commissioner Lewis recommended John W. Morrison to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Board of Trustees, Police and Firefighters Retirement System – no appointments at this meeting

Unsafe Structure and Housing Appeals Board – no appointments at this meeting

Utility Advisory Committee

Commissioner Teel recommended Don Larsen to the Utility Advisory Committee.

IV – City Commission Reports

South Side School; Boundless Playground

Commissioner Hutchinson announced the upcoming boundless playground event at South Side School this Saturday at 10 a.m.

CVC Projects

Commissioner Hutchinson announced the upcoming Citizens Volunteer Corps project is scheduled also at South Side for this Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Vice Mayor Rodstrom noted other Citizens Volunteer Corps projects in Poinsettia Heights on February 21, 8 a.m. and in Shady Banks on February 28.

New Year's Eve Event

Commissioner Teel complimented the City Manager and staff, especially Greg Brewton, for their work on the New Year's Eve event. Mayor Naugle was pleased that the media portrayed Fort Lauderdale's New Year's Eve celebration as family oriented.

The Landings Entranceway

Commissioner Teel thanked staff who worked on The Landings entranceway.

Turtle Lighting

Commissioner Teel referred to a 2008 National Geographic article about artificial lighting and its effect on the environment. She requested an update on turtle lighting including coordination with the State.

Single Stream Recycling

Commissioner Teel requested information on upcoming single stream recycling and how the City will address it.

Mayor Naugle felt single stream will really increase the volume if this is the direction that the Resource Recovery Board takes. Albert Carbon, Public Works Director, advised that staff is looking at a dual system (garbage and recycling containers).

V – City Manager Reports

At the City Manager's request, Cate McCaffrey, Director of Business Enterprises, provided a report on an accident at the executive airport involving a fire truck. There was no serious damage.

The City Manager congratulated the City Attorney's Office on their victory in a lawsuit concerning the City's Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP).

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:48 p. m.