

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP WITH CITY OF HOLLYWOOD

November 9, 2009

City of Fort Lauderdale: Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler
Vice Mayor Bruce G. Roberts
Commissioner Charlotte E. Rodstrom
Commissioner Romney Rogers

City of Hollywood Commission: Mayor Peter Bober
Vice Mayor Beam Furr
Commissioner Linda Sherwood
Commissioner Patricia Asseff
Commissioner Richard Blattner (arrived at 10:45 a.m.)

Fort Lauderdale Staff Present: City Manager George Gretsas
City Auditor John Herbst
City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney Harry A. Stewart

Hollywood Staff Present: City Manager Cameron D. Benson
City Clerk Patricia A. Cerny
City Attorney Jeffrey P. Sheffel

Absent: Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose
Hollywood Commissioner Heidi O'Sheehan
Hollywood Commissioner Fran Russo

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Port Everglades Administration Building, 1850 Eller Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Phillip Allen, Everglades Port Director, welcomed the commissions and emphasized the importance of partnership. Introductions were made.

1. Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport

Mayor Bober clarified that Hollywood is not opposed to expansion of the airport. They have urged Broward County and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to look at the north runway as to whether it would be a feasible option.

Commissioner Rogers indicated that expansion has been studied a long time and he felt the experts have made the right decision, that being the south runway expansion. A north runway expansion would negatively impact his entire district.

Mayor Bober commented how Dania Beach and District 4 of Hollywood would be the most impacted. Hollywood does not understand how the conclusion of the north runway was reached. He referred to the degree of noise and he questioned whether some 2,000 residents will be able to stay in their homes. The FAA has indicated that the north runway was viable and of a less impact, therefore Hollywood does not understand how their decision was made.

Commissioner Rodstrom was opposed to expansion. She noted there is a study that indicates the aircraft at the airport has been flat for the last ten years. This is because the aircraft has

changed, they are either larger or there are less people. Cruise activity at the Port may now change this. She felt it should be studied. She agreed the most intense option was approved by the FAA and it will probably hurt Hollywood. Vice Mayor Furr pointed out that two parks in Hollywood will be negatively impacted.

Commissioner Asseff pointed out if the airport is not expanded, people will be staying at hotels in other areas. She questioned whether they can afford not to expand. She pointed out the daily flight pattern over homes in Weston and Miami. Without an airport, the economic base is non-existent.

Commissioner Rogers responded to Commissioner Sherwood's question of how many residences would be affected in his district. He believed the south runway would have the least impact. Commissioner Sherwood pointed out that fifteen acres of wetlands will also be taken away. Commissioner Rogers thought that mitigation was sufficient. Some comments were made about the fly-over Federal Highway.

Mayor Seiler emphasized the expansion is essential. He mentioned with the Oasis of the Seas, volume is almost guaranteed. Mayor Bober recognized the need for expansion and at the same time is sensitive to concerns of residents. Hollywood is not the most impacted. They are looking for the least number of people are affected.

Commissioner Asseff emphasized the importance of reaching a resolution in order to avoid expending more legal fees. People in areas of flight pattern and near the airport were informed and know about this. There is need for some compromise.

Vice Mayor Furr emphasized that if the things that people are traveling here to enjoy like the parks are gone, it is a shot in the foot.

Commissioner Rodstrom pointed out that this will be a \$1 billion investment. She asked if there is any analysis showing there will be return on that investment.

2. Beach Issues

Mayor Seiler commented that the beach truly belongs to all of the people in Broward County. It is an issue for the county, state and federal governments. Probably the majority of people in Broward came to this area because of the beach. The cities need to secure funding for it. The beach is an economic draw.

Vice Mayor Roberts agreed with Mayor Seiler. There should be a united effort. The most eroded part of Fort Lauderdale beach is probably in District II, north of Sunrise Boulevard.

Commissioner Rodstrom felt the renourishment work is not happening fast enough. She felt Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood and Dania should be more united in going after funding.

Commissioner Rogers concurred about being united in going after funding, but also wanted to make sure the correct solutions are found. The proposed solutions on the table at this time are not acceptable to the people in his district.

Mayor Seiler indicated that there is discussion of adding offshore drilling to the upcoming special session of the legislature. He felt the cities need to take a position on it. He opposed it for anywhere in the state.

Commissioner Blattner arrived.

Commissioner Asseff commented about the erosion in the Diplomat Hotel area again after it was replenished. Hauling sand is a bandaid and does not cure the problem. The bypass project needs to get done. The beach is the economic engine. She felt the cities should be united and more aggressive. She felt the State should be finding out what is the solution. Commissioner Sherwood agreed about there being a united effort with aggressiveness, noting it has taken five years to get this point.

Mayor Bober emphasized that Hollywood is not looking to make a sand grab. He noted that he understands Fort Lauderdale is representing its constituents and three districts have beach residents. If the bypass project ribbon cutting was today, the sand would not appear on the beach for some ten years. This is why Hollywood wants to get started as soon as possible. Hauling of sand is also an ordeal. Hollywood is looking at all alternatives and searching for a solution that would not harm anyone.

Mayor Seiler felt Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood need to encourage the County, State and Federal to do something. This is a critical industry to the state. He thought that Nova University should be looking for a solution. There is no guarantee that the bypass will be successful. He thought that resolutions should be adopted. Commissioner Rodstrom agreed about a united front for funding. Infighting amongst the cities may be the cause of delays.

Commissioner Rogers agreed it is important for everyone to emphasize their desire for a solution to be found rather than simply opposing something. As to the sand bypass, he mentioned a constituent who questioned all of the money expended to protect the sea turtle and then the dynamite associated with the bypass project. There are other alternatives.

Commissioner Blattner pointed out when one asks for funding, there needs to be a proposal. He wanted to put together a group of people who have been working on this including academia and science in the area to get some ideas of practical solutions. They could be challenged to a six-month or one-year timeline and use that information as a basis for seeking federal funding. Mayor Seiler suggested a task force of the Broward coastal cities and whatever county commissioners whose districts include the beach.

Commissioner Asseff suggested asking for funding to support Florida Atlantic University looking for a solution.

Mayor Bober felt that sometimes the creation of a board slows the process. He wanted care to be taken in that regard.

There was some dialogue as to the sand bypass approach being outdated.

Commissioner Sherwood wanted to leave the challenge with the scientists. She agreed that a board might slow things. There is also the question of keeping the sand in place once the beach is renourished. Commissioner Rodstrom commented that boards often are discouraged because they do not get proper direction and information on the objectives and the goal.

Commissioner Asseff felt it would be more effective to speak with the appropriate individuals.

Mayor Seiler asked staff to determine who would have the resources in the public university system. Commissioner Rodstrom suggested that Broward County be consulted as to the research already conducted to make sure there is no duplication.

3. Enterprise Zone

Commissioner Sherwood indicated that it is important that State Road 7 be an economic engine for Hollywood. A community redevelopment agency (CRA) area is not possible; therefore, Hollywood is looking at an enterprise zone.

Arline Hampton, Hollywood Director of Business and international Trade, provided history on this topic dating back to 1982. Broward County may open the process every three years to allow other cities to participate. Hollywood has identified eighteen possible areas encompassing over five square miles. She referred to her memorandum, dated October 29, 2009, provided on this topic.

Mayor Bober asked Ms. Hampton to explain Fort Lauderdale's interest. Ms. Hampton explained that Fort Lauderdale staff administers the enterprise zone.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Alfred Battle, Community Redevelopment Agency Director for Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights, clarified that the Exhibit B map to Ms. Hampton's memorandum was provided to the Enterprise Zone advisory board members for evaluation. Exhibit C was prepared for the advisory board to see all areas for possible expansion. In further response, Mr. Battle described the composition of the Enterprise Zone advisory board, indicating that multiple cities are represented, and eligibility requirements for expansion and participation by another city. The areas submitted by Hollywood meet the participation requirements, but only three square miles are available. There are other cities interested as well. The size restriction is imposed by the State Legislature, but another zone could be created by special act of the Legislature. He believed Hollywood had applied and been denied.

Commissioner Rogers asked about the priority of State Road 7 with the Enterprise Zone Board. Mr. Battle indicated it has not been part of the conversation. Most of the discussions about new opportunities have been from Hollywood and Lauderhill.

Mr. Battle responded to Commissioner Blattner's question about the decision making process, indicating it will be in the form of resolutions from each of the participating municipalities where Broward County could possibly take action the early part of 2010. The State will ultimately have to approve the application. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Battle indicated the enterprise zone is available until 2016 with applications taken every three years. Once an application is decided upon, the three-year cycle begins. In response to Commissioner Asseff, Mr. Battle noted that most areas in the zone sunsetted in 2005; there was a recertification and a new ten-year cycle began. He did not know how many sunsetted in 2005.

Mayor Seiler asked who opposed Hollywood. Mr. Hampton explained details of Hollywood's previous application and indicated based on the revenue impact, the State rejected it.

4. Social Services

a. Homelessness

Commissioner Furr felt that Broward County has dropped the ball for those individuals who may be thought of impossible to rehabilitate. He felt both cities should ask Broward County to find a

way to address this. A site needs to be found in the south end of the county. Mayor Seiler commented about Fort Lauderdale's efforts in looking at a solution. Commissioner Rogers felt the newly formed group working on this is making progress; the timing is right. He felt Fort Lauderdale would like to partner on this.

Commissioner Asseff mentioned Hollywood's previous efforts to use the old Alamo Car Rental site near the airport, which was not approved by the County. She emphasized the need to do something because it will get worse. People should not have to sleep outside.

Vice Mayor Roberts did not think that Broward County will address it because of the cost. He agreed with Commissioner Rogers that faith-based organizations with city support will be needed. However, people cannot be forced to use a facility. He went on to raise the idea of designating areas where food could be distributed and in such case, other areas could be restricted. Commissioner Rodstrom agreed that it is not hopeful the County will have funding to address it. She was interested to know what the County is doing. She was concerned that County representatives were not invited. Funding has a lot to do with the problem.

Mayor Bober felt this is an issue that both cities could work together on. It is best to work on a united front with the County. Vice Mayor Furr indicated The Cosac Foundation is self-sufficient with the Homeless Voice, but they recognize their downtown location is detrimental to the City. They are willing to move. Hollywood found many possible sites, but was turned down on each of them because of the airport expansion. Mayor Seiler thought an area near the airport would actually be ideal. Vice Mayor Furr indicated the argument was that the property is not residential and the noise level. Commissioner Rodstrom thought the problem is really with the cost. Commissioner Sherwood referred to the state hospital site on University Drive and noted that several buildings at that site are vacant. Cosac wants to expand. There are some twenty-two institutions within a two mile area which is an impossible situation for the residents. The institutions receive licenses or approval from the County or State without informing the City. The City does not find out until after the site has been acquired.

Mayor Seiler summarized that staff should follow-up on signage at the beach, working with the County. He offered to help Hollywood with respect to a new enterprise zone that would encompass more than three square miles. He emphasized the need to work together on the homeless issue. He felt there is agreement that an area near the airport would be the best location.

Mayor Bober felt there is common ground amongst the two cities. He appreciated the dialogue.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.