

MINUTES
FIRE-RESCUE BOND BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2005 - 6 P.M.

Fire-Rescue Station No. 2 - Third Floor
528 N.W. 2nd Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Absent/ Present</u>	Cumulative from 01/27/05	
		<u>(P)</u>	<u>(A)</u>
Jon Albee, Chairman	P	4	0
Dianne DeLyons Shuler	P	3	1
Donald Bastedo	P	4	0
Mary Graham	P	4	0
Thornie Jarrett	P	4	0
Allan A. Kozich	P	3	1
Patrick McTigue	P	4	0
Douglas Ruth	P	4	0
Norman W. Thabit	P	4	0
Lydia Waring	P	3	1

Staff

Otis J. Latin, Sr., Fire Chief
Keith P. Allen, Deputy Fire Chief
Albert Carbon, Public Works Director
Frank C. Snedaker, Jr., AIA, Architect
Fernando Blanco, Acting Airport Engineer
Peggy Steptoe, Recording Secretary

Guests and Public Officials

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- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Jon Albee. Chairman Albee commented on the hundreds of hours that Board Members volunteered their time to the City. He thought it was amazing that so many citizens took such an active role in the community and offered many thanks to the Committee for their time.
- 2. Approval of Minutes (March 17, 2005):** Three committee members requested corrections to their names. Thorne Jarrett to Thornie Jarrett, Patrick McTigue to Patrick McTigue and Diane Shuler to Dianne Shuler. Approved.
- 3. Staff Liaison Report/Comments:** Albert Carbon said that he would add the hiring/selection process to the agenda next month. He said this process is starting and he will be requesting that committee members sit in on the selection process committee.

4. Member Discussion Items:

A. Member Ride-a-Long with Battalion Chief: Mr. Bastedo commented that the fire personnel lived in inadequate conditions. Mr. Jarrett added that 7-8 weeks ago he visited Stations 46 and 47 and the conditions were bad. He doesn't feel he needs company on these Ride-a-Longs and feels the Committee needs a better system. Chief Allen agreed with him and promised to circulate an All Personnel Informational Bulletin to give notice to the stations, listing all Committee members' names, and stating that the Committee was authorized to visit the stations. Committee members may call ahead or drop by, but it was understood that the Station might be out on a call. If there was no one there, the Division Chief on duty could be called to give an estimated return time.

Mr. Bastedo noticed that a trailer had been placed at Station 47. Mr. Snedaker said Engineering was waiting for apparatus structural approval. The trailer would then be utilized and the whole area would function as one unit.

B. Fire Station Location – Location scenarios for Station No. 29 from location software. Mention was made that two CAD/Analyst software scenarios were noted: one with Wilton Manors and one without.

Mr. Jarrett had been told that the fire response zoning would change in regards to FS 29 if it were moved to the Sunrise Boulevard parcel. Concerns were raised about the traffic on Sunrise Boulevard, which often gridlocks during peak traffic hours. Chief Latin explained that the CAD/Analyst software uses actual route distances and dispatch response times to recalculate various fires station location scenarios. Traffic impacts all units at certain times of the day, but this is factored into existing performance measurements as a response time objective. Other systems, such as Traffic Signal Pre-emption, allow apparatus to improve the flow of traffic ahead of their routes as well.

A question arose as to what would become of the unused fire station numbers. Chief Allen explained the original numbers are being reserved from an historical standpoint based on their original completion dates within the Broward County Mutual Aid System.

Ms. Shuler asked why the map showed a scenario without Wilton Manors. Chief Latin replied that there had been a request by a Committee member to make the comparison.

C. Fire Station Improvement Program

- i. Current Cost Estimate: Mr. Carbon stated there were no changes from last month.
- ii. Breakdown of Engineering Cost

Mr. Carbon passed around information on these cost details. Design costs range from 5% to 10% Administration is 2 – 4%; overall soft costs are 12 – 25%. Mr. Carbon said that when he provides the draft minutes of this meeting to the Board he will include all handouts to be sure each Committee Member has a complete set.

Mr. Thabit and Mr. Albee believe that \$2 million would be sufficient for the job rather than \$8 million. Mr. Albee requested that it be noted that members of the committee are uncomfortable, with the 17% budget allocation for engineering costs. Mr. McTigue asked whether there would be additional hiring in the future? Mr. Carbon replied that right now he does not intend to add additional positions. Mr. Thabit said he is unsure if the committee has the right to direct, but he wondered whether the committee could decide which station should go to consultants and which should remain “in house”? Mr. Snedaker responded that Battalion Stations and Satellite Stations require only two prototype buildings. Hiring consultants would therefore be duplicative.

With regard to concerns about the acceleration of construction, Mr. Carbon added that when a Fire Station, such as FS 47, is replaced, personnel are moved into temporary quarters. Chief Allen said that in phase one, more than one station can be constructed simultaneously if the timing of the land purchase for the southeast station comes about. Another way to accelerate the process would be to have a second modular facility. Additional modulars were not planned into the equation of bond money. There is a good possibility a private developer might build a new FS 54 while the existing fire station operates in its current location. Ms. Graham said Mr. Thabit made some good comments, and Mr. Graham’s biggest concern is having an in house architect and an outside consultant. She is concerned about the downtime. Mr. Jarrett believes this project is too slow. There will be \$2.6 million in inflation costs because of the six-year time frame. He is sure an additional doublewide modular would not amount to that. Mr. Snedaker mentioned that the trailer at FS 47 cost roughly \$240,000.

Mr. Kozich believes there is a lack of coordination, people are not talking to each other, and there are multiple problems. Mr. Thabit wanted to know if the City could go out for multiple contracts for electrical, mechanical, etc. Mr. Carbon replied that the City is doing that now. Mr. Thabit pointed out that in the County they negotiated the rates and put them under contract for five years, building in for inflation.

Mr. Albee stated that the Committee is charged with spending forty million dollars, and he believes it would be helpful for staff to show how they will keep costs down. Given the amount of time it will take to build the stations, it would be helpful to find a strategy to keep from spending money unnecessarily. Mr. Albee requested that staff provide a strategy indicating how costs will be reduced by category, along with proposals to reduce construction time. Mr. Thabit asked what authority the committee had. Mr. Albee responded that he doesn’t know whom he is to report to, but he will find out, and report to the committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Thabit believes it is important to study what we get with the first station, to set targets for the future. Mr. Thabit said in his position with the County, he arranged for the purchase of certain materials that saved 6% sales tax. Mr. Carbon stated that staff has already sat down and discussed doors and emergency generators, which amounts to \$200,000 plus per station. Those are the two single “biggest ticket” item savings.

Mr. Ruth asked if we could go the “European way” to eliminate some of the costs. Mr. Carbon replied that State law requires governments to receive the lowest responsible bid. The law does allow for pre-qualification of contractors.

Mr. Kozich commented that one of the things he is still concerned with is, that first we lost part of the process in the design and are not getting the full package. Mr. Carbon reminded the group that at their first meeting they discussed what their mission would be and that prior to the bond the City was already in the design process for two of the stations. Ms. Graham said the internal programming is fixed, and her biggest fear is that the design team will get overwhelmed.

Chairman Albee said that when it comes to administration you need professional staff. He believes the Committee has been charged with a daunting task, and they should be supportive, and will do so to the best of their ability. Mr. Jarrett said he’d like to receive a list of the actual expenses for Station 2, and Mr. Carbon promised to bring to the next meeting with a schedule of values. It was agreed that Mr. Albee would telephone Mr. Carbon to add items to the agenda

iii. Schedule – No comments

5. Member Comments on Items not on the Agenda: None

6. Adjournment (Next regular meeting: May 19, 2005): Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.