

FIRE-RESCUE BOND
 BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MINUTES
 REGULAR MEETING
 City of Fort Lauderdale
 100 North Andrews Avenue
 Commission Chambers
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
 May 18, 2006

Board Members	Meeting Attendance	Cumulative Attendance from 01/19/2006	
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	P-4	A-0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	P	P-3	A-1
Mary Graham	P	P-4	A-0
Allan A. Kozich	P	P-3	A-1
Patrick McTigue	P	P-4	A-0
Douglas Ruth	P	P-4	A-0
Don Bastedo	P	P-4	A-0
Norman W. Thabit	P	P-3	A-1

Staff

Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief
 Albert Carbon, Director, Public Works Department
 Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect
 David Carter, Union Representative Engine 46
 Mina Samadi, Engineering Design Manager
 Fernando Blanco, Acting Airport Engineer

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Jarrett called the May 18, 2006 meeting of the Fire-Rescue Blue Bond Ribbon Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was achieved with seven committee members present.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2006

The minutes of the April 20, 2006 meeting were reviewed.

Motion made by Dianne Shuler and seconded by Mary Graham to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2006 meeting.

It was stated that the concern raised at the last meeting regarding obtaining a site for the southeast station could not be reflected in the minutes. This should be a priority item.

Chairman Jarrett stated that the minutes should be approved first, and then the matter could be discussed at the appropriate place in the agenda.

Mary Graham stated that she believed the minutes should reflect more of the concern regarding the southeast station issue.

Chairman Jarrett stated that the minutes could be updated regarding the urgency of the purchase of the property for the station.

It was suggested that the minutes reflect that the Board was very concerned that something needs to be done very quickly regarding this matter. Otherwise, nothing may get accomplished.

In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff Liaison Report

A. Activities over the past month

i. Bid Review

Mr. Carbon stated that the bid was extended two weeks at the request of the contractors and subcontractors. Therefore, the bid would be due this coming Tuesday. He advised that three contractors were submitting bids, but the fourth contractor had decided not to participate. He further stated that another bid of Monroe County for a 20,000 square foot station, including administrative offices, was being put out at the same time. He further advised that the bids are due June 20th for Fire Station 47. The next meeting for this Commission was scheduled for June 15th. The award was to be made July 6th. He further stated that construction would then begin 30 days after the award was made.

ii. Updated Schedule

Mr. Carbon stated that the Committee was provided an updated schedule for September, 2006 through October, 2007.

iii. Temporary Station Review

Mr. Carbon stated that Station #3 would be the next one to be done, and the new station would be built without interrupting service. He advised that there were no issues regarding that station and they would be able to move forward. He stated that regarding Fire Station 46, they had made a call to URS to obtain the status, and an update would be provided to the Committee regarding the temporary station. Station #13 at Birch State Park would be moved up on the schedule, and a meeting would be held with the local officials. He continued stating that regarding Station #8, they are still looking at properties, and in regard to Mr. McTigue's concerns, they are going to meet with the City Attorney's office regarding a possible swap of property.

Mr. Carbon advised that they were meeting with the architect regarding the scope of work for Station #49 which is the Bahia Mar Station. He stated that originally it

was scheduled to begin on January 2007, but would now begin on July 2006. He explained that Station #3 would be a satellite station and would be similar to Station #29. He advised that Stations 35 and 49 would be unique and would be the first to be encountered by the architect, and possibly #54 depending on property issues.

Mr. Carbon stated that once property was obtained for Station #8, than they would be able to make a decision.

iv. Neighborhood Association Meetings

Mr. Carbon advised that he did not have an update regarding the neighborhood association meetings.

v. Financial Status

Mr. Carbon stated that he had provided the financial schedule to the Committee for their review. He advised that \$20 Million of bonds had been issued and appropriations had been separated into various projects, and the fire bond interest earnings had been listed but had not been included in the \$19.9 Million.

Dianne Shuler asked if they had determined whether the rate was annual. Mr. Carbon explained that the interest rate was calculated on a 30-day basis. He stated that earnings through March 2006 credited totaled \$631,000.

Norman Thabit asked if there was a reserve for the overall bond projects. Mr. Carbon explained that the original June breakdown showed the following:

Construction - \$30.8 Million	Engineering - \$2,156,000
Construction Management - \$3 Million	Furniture - \$930,000
Communication \$380,000	Inflation - \$2,496,000
Temporary Facilities - \$490,000	Land Acquisition - \$2 Million
Environmental Remediation - \$500,000	

Norman Thabit further stated that the interest earned on unexpended funds would not be placed in any of the categories. Mr. Carbon explained that would not be done at this time, but if they were going to move forward with Station #3, then he would program that into that station. He advised that he had not yet programmed any funds for Station #3. Norman Thabit asked if they could reallocate to the other projects. Mr. Carbon stated that it was 50/50, and asked if the Committee wanted him to keep the interest in fund balance or program it. Norman Thabit stated that he would prefer to have the interest accumulate making it easier to track, and as they shuffle the stations around and start the rebuilding, then they could reallocate the necessary funds. If they run short in any of the budgetary categories for such stations, then they would be able to take the money out of inflation or interest earnings.

Mr. Carbon stated they would have to decide when to go out for the second issue, and whether they would do two or three which would be determined within the next two years.

Norman Thabit reiterated that according to the schedule, they had not spent much of the funds. Mr. Carbon confirmed. Norman Thabit stated that they had a long way to go before tapping into the second issue. He reiterated that the concern centers around locating the property for the southeast station.

Mr. Carbon explained that they had maps of all public owned property, such as the County and the School District, and if there were any properties being under utilized, they would check those out and see if a trade could be made with City property.

Patrick McTigue was asked if some of the interest monies could be used towards land acquisition. Mr. Carbon confirmed.

The original schedule was compared to the present one, and basically Station #47 was about 11 months behind in breaking ground, and as they moved forward the gap would get smaller. It was asked if the schedule being presented was realistic. Mr. Carbon confirmed and stated that Mina Samadi, Engineering Design Manager, was to be the program manager and coordinate with the consultants and neighborhoods. He further stated that regarding Station #47, it gave 40 days for the City to award the project, but he announced that the project would be awarded within 10 days. He stated that they are ahead in the bidding of Station #29, and they are six months behind the original schedule due to the hurricanes. He added that they are obtaining more resources to facilitate the projects. He further stated that they still needed to remain cost conscious.

B. Activities scheduled for the next month.

Mr. Carbon stated that on Thursday the bid results would be sent to the Committee. He explained that Station #47 is out for bid and there would be a project walk-through. He stated further that regarding Station #13, a meeting would be held with the State Parks Department regarding location. Design would begin for Station #3, and neighborhood meetings would be scheduled for Station #29 and design begun for that station also. He announced they would be working with the URS regarding the temporary station, which was Station #46.

Norman Thabit asked if the cost of the temporary station had been determined. Mr. Carbon stated that information had to be obtained from URS before a cost could be determined. He explained that information would be provided to the Committee next month.

Mr. Carbon stated that regarding the southeast station, the City Attorney would hopefully have an opinion as to how they would be able to market the Sunrise Boulevard property and possibly mark it with the possible acquisition of the southeast station property.

Patrick McTigue asked if the City had contacted the individuals who owned the property adjacent to the west. Mr. Carbon stated they would have to talk with the City Attorney to see if it was surplus property that would be put up for sale, or if there was a way to acquire it through the trading of property of equal or more value. He added that

there was a piece of property off Third Avenue that had three frontages and consisted of 50,000 sq. ft. which was a prime piece of property.

Dianne Shuler asked about the location of the property off Third Avenue. Mr. Carbon stated that it was on the west side between Third and Fourth Avenues.

4. Member Discussion Items

Douglas Ruth stated that they needed to find someone who wanted to make a deal regarding the property, and then the City Attorney could put together some sort of package.

Mr. Carbon stated that if the City Attorney stated there was no way to claim the property surplus and accept bids from everyone, than they would be able to possibly work out a deal with a property owner. He advised that he would report back to the Committee next month.

Norman Thabit stated that a deal only requires action by the City Commission once a property was located.

Douglas Ruth asked for an update regarding #29 and the environmental issues. Mr. Carbon explained that the environmental would be incorporated into the construction of the project. He advised that they would still be within the \$250,000 allotted.

Norman Thabit asked if any of the chemicals could be injected into the land before the demolition occurs.

Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect, stated that according to the Consultant the only way to do this was to remove the soils because nothing could be placed in the soil to resolve the environmental issues.

It was stated that some members were of the opinion that construction had been delayed because of resolving the environmental issues. Mr. Carbon stated that construction had been delayed not due to the remediation, but for the redesign of the station at the existing site instead of the Sunrise location. He advised that the design was still to be the same. At first they had thought the remediation was to be outside of the area and would not interrupt the operation of the facility, but when they received the test results it was indicated that the operation would be interrupted, and therefore, it was decided to incorporate the remediation as part of the design so they could begin sooner.

Mary Graham asked about the status of the approval of the site plan for the location. Mr. Carbon stated that they were getting ready to put together the DRC package, which would probably would make the July meeting. Mary Graham asked how they had obtained the soil borings for the footprint that might encroach on the existing building. Mr. Carbon stated they received general borings.

Frank Snedaker stated that an item would be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Commission to reduce the parking requirement for fire

stations to two spaces per bunk room. Realistically, this would be keeping within the actual use.

Mary Graham asked about the location for the Committee's meetings. Chairman Jarrett stated that the conference table was more conducive for this Committee's meetings than the City Commission Chambers. He advised that he was going to check with the City Manager's Office if a conference room on the 7th or 8th floors could be provided. Otherwise, the alternative was to return the meetings back to the station, but the only problem about that was due to access and parking.

Battalion Chief Robert Bacic announced that he had full access to the computers.

Mr. Carbon stated that the actual resolution or ordinance that created the Fire Bond Committee stated that the meetings were to be held at City Hall. If that was to be changed, it would require action by the City Commission. He advised that he would be in favor of holding these meetings at City Hall or Fire Station #2.

Dianne Shuler asked if the meetings were relocated would there be a problem with the recording equipment. Mr. Carbon stated there would be a concern regarding the recording equipment and modifications might be required.

Norman Thabit suggested that the Committee continue to meet at City Hall until things were changed.

Mary Graham suggested that since the Committee had not met in March, then they should meet in August.

Patrick McTigue stated that he wanted to know if the firemen were receiving the timelines and copies of the minutes, along with other information. Chief Bacic explained that he had not received written timelines to distribute to the firemen as of this time, but would be distributed as soon as they were available.

Dave Carter, Local #765, stated that he had received the full packet of information, but it was not realistic for him to make 365 copies. He stated this was a public document and possibly could be placed in Chief Bacic's shared cabinet and then everyone would be able to review it. Notes could then be added to each station project keeping the information up to date.

Lt. Carter stated that he was impressed with the updated schedule, but they were still concerned about Station #46. He added that he was in favor of bumping up the other stations when they were ready.

Mr. Carbon advised that next month they were going to send out the pre-qualified statements for contractors and see if anyone else was interested. It was asked if they would consider a CM at risk or just use a traditional bid. Mr. Carbon stated that once the architect was on board, he might have some further ideas.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:54 p.m.