

FIRE RESCUE BOND
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
Commission Chambers
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
October 19, 2006

Board Members	Meeting Attendance	Cumulative Attendance from 01/19/2006	
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	P-7	A-0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	P	P-6	A-1
Mary Graham	P	P-7	A-0
Allan A. Kozich	P	P-6	A-1
Patrick McTigue	P	P-6	A-1
Douglas Ruth	P	P-6	A-1
Don Bastedo	P	P-6	A-1
Norman W. Thabit	P	P-7	A-0

Staff

Albert Carbon, Director, Public Works Department
Jeff Justinak, Acting Fire Chief
Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief
Mina Samadi, Engineering Design Manager
Lt. Carter, Fire Union Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Jarrett called the October 19, 2006 meeting of the Fire-Rescue Bond Blue Ribbon Committee to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was achieved with seven committee members present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2006.

Mr. Ruth requested correction to his attendance figures on the minutes.

Chair Jarrett referred to page 4, under Discussion, regarding Station 47, and wanted the minutes to clarify that his comment was, "\$3.8 million was for construction only." He wanted it to be clear that the project was currently about \$700,000 under.

Mr. Carbon clarified the correction as follows: "Station 47 was supposed to cost \$3.76 million total including construction, design, and construction management but that construction costs alone came to \$3.76 million."

Motion made by Vice-Chair Shuler and seconded by Ms. Graham to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2006 meeting, as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST MONTH

Mr. Carbon spoke of a 15-minute discussion held at the recent City Commission conference meeting regarding the Committee's recommendation to schedule groundbreaking ceremonies. Mr. Carbon replayed an audio recording of this discussion for the Committee to hear during which the Commission members voiced their concerns about the high cost of planning groundbreaking events.

Chair Jarrett stated that the Committee members who had voted for groundbreaking ceremonies were not aware of the costs for these events. He added that the intent of the Committee was to show the citizens that the City was moving ahead. Mr. Thabit explained that when he had made his motion, the intent was to recommend that contractors cover the cost of groundbreaking ceremonies and not the City.

The Committee also listened to a portion of the Commission's discussion regarding a recent meeting held with residents of Victoria Park, Poinsettia Heights, Lake Ridge, and Coral Ridge about Station 29. The Commission members discussed the variety of input from residents regarding design and architectural styles for the station. Commission directed staff to standardize the architectural features of the stations.

Chair Jarrett felt the Committee might have been naïve regarding this issue. He stressed that it was not the Committee's intent to spend the City's money unwisely.

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 9-6-06

Mr. Carbon explained that the next report would reflect encumbrances for Station 47. Mr. Thabit asked for clarification about reconciliation for expenditures for Station 47. Mr. Carbon explained that bond funded projects were the first set of numbers and that CIP funds were the second set of numbers.

ANNUAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINORITY AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED APPOINTMENT REPORT

Mr. Carbon referred to the Annual Advisory Board Minority and Physically Disabled Appointment Report and requested that the Committee members fill this out that evening.

Station 53. The City currently had the foundation permit, the trailer permit and that the fencing and other items were lined up. However, the tilt-up wall shop drawings were still needed for the structural engineer to sign up for the permit. He advised that he had met with the building department and that these documents were currently in his office stamped and sealed for submittal the following day. He added that the foundation had been excavated at the site. The first concrete pour was scheduled for the following day.

Station 47. Mr. Carbon advised that the contract had not yet come back from the contractor and had not been executed by the City.

Station 29. Mr. Carbon advised that this item was withdrawn from the October P&Z meeting and rescheduled for the November meeting. He added that this station was scheduled for November Commission action for the demolition remediation contractor.

Station 54. Mr. Carbon advised that plans had been approved by the fire department which was working with Planning and Zoning to finalize site zoning for the Oakland Park site.

Station 3. Mr. Carbon advised that we have starting the Land Use Amendment process for this station. It was expected that this process would take about nine months to be complete.

Station 49. Mr. Carbon advised that plans were currently being reviewed by the fire department.

Station 46. Mr. Carbon advised that the City was looking at relocating Station 46 to the south side of Mills Pond. He explained that this would require Land Use Amendment processes, as this was a park and not a compatible use. He added that this station would also service residents west of I-95.

Vice-Chair Shuler asked about the estimated time for these processes. Mr. Carbon stated that he had received the okay earlier that day and estimated it would take about nine months.

Station 8. Mr. Carbon advised that the City had received appraisals for a 50,000 square foot property at 9th Street and 3rd Avenue along with an appraisal for the Sunrise property (for Station 29). The Sunrise property was less than the property at 9th Street and 3rd Avenue. He stated that the City had reopened discussions at the request of the North Broward Hospital District regarding obtaining the property across from the hospital. He added that the City had received an appraisal of \$500,000 for the property just east of the hospital at 15th Street. Mr. Carbon stated it would be feasible to build the station on this property; however this would require some form of joint participation agreement to be able to park on their property in perpetuity as long as the fire station was there. He advised that staff would continue to pursue available properties while trying to negotiate on this particular property.

Chair Jarrett asked the Acting Fire Chief about the location of crews for Station 29. Chief Justinak stated that no permanent decision had been made yet but in the meantime; crews would temporarily relocate to the training facility.

Chair Jarrett asked for the Chief's opinion on the relocation of Station 46. Chief Justinak stated that after further discussion, Commissioner Moore was willing to embrace relocation to Mills Pond with certain conditions. He felt this station complemented the park and also complemented the station's response time profile. He added that meetings with Mills Pond residents were being considered.

Ms. Graham asked if the meetings were to get residents' input to agree that the station would be relocated without hurting their perceived response times. The Chief responded affirmatively and added that the residents would also be providing input on the streetscape plans.

Chair Jarrett asked if the neighborhoods around the old location would be present at the meeting or only neighborhoods around the park. Chief advised there would be four separate meetings -- three separate homeowner association meetings and one final meeting where all would provide combined input.

Chair Jarrett cautioned that residents would object if it were perceived that their station was being taken away. The Chief agreed and stated that discussion of both stations staying open was an good option on the table.

Station 13. Mr. Carbon advised that there was a meeting scheduled for the following day with state park staff and Rep. Bogdanoff office representatives regarding moving Station 13 to just under the Sunrise Bridge to keep the station active while building the new station. Mr. Carbon advised that existing egress would be used.

Station 35. Mr. Carbon advised that staff was still searching for alternate properties and working out site plans to make this station work.

Regarding the southeast station land acquisition, Mr. Thabit referred to the site at 9th Street and 3rd Avenue and the Sunrise site were the only two sites in consideration. Mr. Carbon replied that staff was continuously looking for vacant property. Mr. Thabit recalled that the original bond had \$2 million for land acquisition with \$1.2 million allocated for the southeast station. He pointed out that about \$800,000 had already been built up in interest. He stated he did not understand why this process was being dragged out.

Lt. Carter asked about whether Mr. Carbon was concerned about not yet receiving the signed contract for Station 47. Mr. Carbon stated he was not concerned and advised that the contract had been awarded the second week in September.

Lt. Carter asked if the Sunrise property was actively being marketed. Mr. Carbon responded in the negative and explained that the City could go out and sell this property. Lt. Carter suggested that the Committee get direction from the Commission regarding getting this property on the market.

Chair Jarrett asked if Lt. Carter had spoken yet with union membership about the need to tighten their belts. Lt. Carter advised that the membership had not yet been briefed about this issue. He stated that he did not see it prudent to hold further discussion until the Committee finalized its report to the Commission. He added that the union understood the Committee's position.

4. MEMBER DISCUSSION

Chair Jarrett referred back to the recording played earlier during which the City Commission discussed neighborhood input on the façade for Station 47. He stated that neighborhood input was not originally in the Committee's directive as an area it should cover. He asked for Committee members' opinions on this.

Ms. Graham spoke of previous instances where homeowner associations had held up approval based on design conflicts. She stated she was not concerned with the architectural design for fire stations as long as facilities conformed to Planning and Zoning guidelines.

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She agreed that neighborhood input was important and stressed the need to be fair and impartial across the board.

Chair Jarrett advised that the design for Station 47 would become the cookie cutter design throughout the City.

Mr. Thabit stated it was regretful that the design chosen as the cookie cutter model required additional money to add features to building facades. He stated he would have preferred to spend the additional \$2 million on other needs for the stations or toward acquisition of the southeast site.

Vice-Chair Shuler pointed out that the Committee was about to finalize its report to the Commission and asked whether this was an appropriate time to raise the issue of saving dollars. Chair Jarrett agreed that this should be discussed further.

Chair Jarrett asked that future plans for stations should be brought before the Committee as it appeared the Commission thought they were reviewing plans.

Ms. Graham felt it should be communicated that the Committee was not originally entrusted with critiquing schematics and design development.

For clarification, Mr. Carbon advised that plans for Station 47 had been submitted to the Planning and Zoning Board on two occasions. They were submitted prior to the fire bond being approved by voters. The third time was after the station became first approved as a satellite station. He explained that the two homeowner associations that bordered the station had conflicting ideas about the type of station they wanted. He stated that these three meetings took place over a period of time and not consecutively.

Ms. Graham felt the neighborhood associations should not be given too much time and too many options when deliberating on station designs.

Chair Jarrett asked if the fire department staff had looked at ways to save money. The Chief stated that staff was constantly looking at ways to save money. He added that roll up doors had been modified to save additional money. Chair Jarrett asked about the hurricane rating for roll up doors versus bifold doors. Mr. Carbon stated there was no comparison as the bifold doors had no hurricane rating but that the roll up doors met Miami hurricane codes. Chair Jarrett stressed the need for station doors to be as hurricane resistant as possible.

2ND ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

Ms. Graham voiced her concern about the choice for tilt-up walls for Station 53. She voiced her concern about the revolving door in architecture firms and felt it was important to have continuity on a project from the time proposals came in to the time work began. In response to Ms. Graham's concern, Mr. Carbon advised that Norm Schwartz was the City's new staff architect.

Ms. Graham advised that Broward Marina had been approved for their plat amendment and expansion the night before.

Chair Jarrett stated that some recommendations might need to be added or altered based on developments since the last meeting.

The Committee briefly discussed revisions to the annual report to the Commission. Mr. Thabit suggested that if all members responded to Mr. Carbon with final changes, Mr. Carbon could then forward the report to Ms. Graham and Chair Jarrett.

Vice-Chair Shuler asked whether the report included the recommendation to have the Commission take money from the contingency fund. Mr. Carbon stated this was included in the report.

Ms. Graham was in favor of whatever Chair Jarrett desired. Mr. Thabit suggested reviewing what needed to be changed in the report. He suggested adjusting the 4 items and redistributing them throughout the report.

Mr. Thabit made a motion that the Committee send the report back to staff for additional changes for the following areas: Station 46 – neighborhood outreach and the Southeast Station; and to have the revision of the report go back to each Committee member, then to the Public Works Director for his changes, after which a new draft would be made and forwarded to Ms. Graham and Chair Jarrett for a final edit.

Chair Jarrett stated he wanted the responsibility of altering the conclusion.

Committee member Allan Kozich seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted unanimously in favor.

Regarding Station 29 Chair Jarrett asked what the Committee felt about the neighborhood outreach issue. Mr. Thabit suggested restating what the City Commission had decided based on the results of the conference meeting held with the neighborhood associations.

Regarding the southeast station, Mr. Thabit stated that this should be revised as discussed that evening.

Mr. Thabit spoke of the need to communicate that more funds would be needed.

Mr. McTigue asked if there was room in the report to raise the issue of real estate costs and property that was needed. Chair Jarrett suggested he could address this in the conclusion of the report.

Mr. Thabit felt the report should refer to the sale of the Sunrise property and should state that upon sale of this property, the funds should be appropriated to acquisition of property for the southeast site.

Mr. Ruth stressed that the acquisition of property was a priority that had to be included.

Mr. McTigue suggested utilizing press releases to show citizens that positive things were happening. Chair Jarrett suggested having the Public Information Office send out press releases.

Vice-Chair Shuler suggested adding a comment that the Committee recognized that groundbreaking ceremonies were costly and would instead send out a press release for significant events.

Chair Jarrett suggested having Mr. Carbon alert the public information officer when something significant happened at which time a press release could be sent out. The Committee requested that Mr. Carbon move forward on this.

Chair Jarrett wanted the report to state that the Committee was making an effort to stay on the budget.

Mr. Thabit advised that he would be out of town the following week and would not be able to respond to the report. He stated he would leave this in the Committee's hands.

Mr. Bastedo advised that he would be out of town during the last week of the month. Chair Jarrett stated the Committee would reflect Mr. Thabit and Mr. Bastedo's concerns.

5. ADJOURNMENT. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: NOVEMBER 16, 2006

Chair Jarrett made a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Shuler seconded the motion. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.