

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

Board Members	Meeting Attendance	Cumulative Attendance from 01/19/2006	
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	P-9	A-0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	P	P-8	A-1
Mary Graham	P	P-9	A-0
Allan A. Kozich	A	P-6	A-3
Patrick McTigue	P	P-8	A-1
Douglas Ruth	P	P-8	A-1
Don Bastedo	P	P-7	A-2
Norman W. Thabit	P	P-9	A-0
Steve Kirsch	P	P-1	A-0

Staff

Gerald Simon, Interim Fire Chief
 Albert Carbon, Director, Public Works Department
 Mina Samadi, Project Manager
 Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect

Chairman Jarrett proceeded to introduce Steve Kirsch who is a new member on this Board and is a mechanical engineer.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Jarrett called the December 18, 2006 meeting of the Fire-Rescue Blue Bond Ribbon Committee to order at approximately 6:07 p.m. A quorum was achieved with eight committee members present. He said he wants to introduce a new member to this Board, Steve Kirsch who is a mechanical engineer who would be filling John Albee's seat on the Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2006

Chairman Jarrett said since there was no quorum last month, they would need to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2006 meeting.

Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, stated that on page 2, Section 3 – Activities Over the Past Month, the last paragraph says: "The Committee listened to the portion of

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the Commission discussion regarding the meeting held with residents of Victoria Park, Poinsettia Heights, Lake Ridge, and Coral Ridge. Commission members discussed the variety of input of the residents regarding the design, architect and style of the station." A sentence should be added that says: "The Commission directed staff to standardize the architectural features of the stations." He said further the Commission did not vote on it, but gave their consensus. Chairman Jarrett said that no one disagrees with that statement.

Mr. Carbon further said that on page 3 where it says: "Station 3," the wording "land use" should be inserted. It now says: "Lnd Use."

Motion made by Norman Thabit and seconded by Mary Graham to approve the minutes as corrected. The Committee unanimously approved.

New Member Introduction

Steve Kirsch said he is married and residing in Fort Lauderdale since 2000. His background is in mechanical engineering, finance and systems, and spent six years in the Naval Nuclear Power Program.

The Committee members went on to introduce themselves to Mr. Kirsch.

Staff Liaison Report Update

Station 53

Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, said this station is located by the Executive Airport and 22 tilt-up panels have been poured which is the first lift, and they are presently starting the second lift of panels. Water mains and underground utilities would be completed by the end of this week, and then they would begin pouring the bay floors and working on the floor drains. They are also working on the EOC portion of the fire station. Pictures showing the construction in progress would be provided at next month's meeting.

Station 47

Mr. Carbon said that Station 47 is located off Riverland Road (10th Street and 27th Street). A pre-construction meeting was held on December 5, 2006 regarding document preparation, project scheduling, and shop drawings, and construction actually begins today. A contractors meeting was also held with the Broward County Transportation Department and the School Board to coordinate the construction since there is a school located behind the station.

Station 29

Mr. Carbon said that Station 29 is located on US 1 & 16th Street, and they are working on the final drawings to be submitted to the Building Department, and applications would be submitted for permits from other agencies such as Broward County and FDOT. A task orders have been issued for the demolition of the building the demolition company and remediation in connection with the underground tank to EE&G. This work would take

between 6-8 weeks. Firemen would be relocated to the Auxiliary Building once demolition begins.

Chairman Jarrett asked if a decision was made to relocate the firemen to the old training facility. Mr. Carbon confirmed and said the apparatus would be located outside during this time.

Station 54

Mr. Carbon said preliminary plans for Station 54 have been received by the Fire Department and the Planning Department. Drawings were submitted to this Committee for their review. He said that work is in progress regarding submittal to the Development Review Committee. A community meeting would be scheduled in February, 2007. He said that discussions took place regarding the vacation of the alley and the sidewalk area on 32nd Avenue so as to accommodate parking, along with the drive-thru station. He further said that the access road is part of Oakland Park Boulevard.

Chairman Jarrett asked if the proposed access easement is being shown on the drawings. Mr. Carbon said there would be no access from the other end of the alley. Mr. Snedaker said that the other end goes to 32nd Avenue. Mr. Carbon said this is not a dead-end alley, and they are vacating the alley, which runs behind the station.

Chairman Jarrett asked for further clarification of the parking spaces and what formula was used. Mr. Snedaker said they are two parking spaces short, and the formula was 2 parking spaces per bed. Mr. Carbon said there are 18 secured parking spaces and during the one-hour transition everyone would be able to park in the secured area. Mina Samadi said that there is public parallel parking available along 32nd Avenue.

Mr. Carbon proceeded to introduce Gerald Simon, Interim Fire Chief.

Chief Simon apologized for being late to the meeting and said he is happy to attend tonight's meeting. He has spoken with the Chairman of this Committee and offered the Fire Department's assistance when needed.

Diane Shuler asked if the plans have been reviewed and approved by the Union for the Fire Department. Mr. Carbon confirmed.

Mr. Snedaker said that current discussions are taking place with two manufacturers who produce folding doors and one company has tested their product, while the other company would perform tests after the first of the year. Bids will be going out after the holiday for the first 24 doors and part of the qualifications are that they have an **NOA**.

Chairman Jarrett asked for further clarification regarding roll-up doors versus accordion doors. Mr. Snedaker said that all doors are approved for 140 miles per hour wind force.

Mr. Bastedo asked how much of 32nd Avenue was taken. Mr. Snedaker said they took approximately five feet, which is the width of the sidewalk.

Chairman Jarrett asked if any items could be scaled back in regard to the stations. Mr. Snedaker said that they are compiling a list of such items to be presented to the Fire

Department for their review, such as interior finishes and things, which could be done at a later date. He further said that all offices as shown are needed during the course of their business and the watch office houses the radios and main controls, which is considered the hub of the department.

Chairman Jarrett said that the rescue squads are being switched to crew cabs and asked if that would be adding footage to the length of the vehicles. Chief Simon said the vehicles are increasing in height more so than in length to provide additional room and ease for the paramedics to work in.

Mary Graham said that according to the drawings it appears there is only going to be one stairway going to the roof on the east side of the building, and she asked if the roof would be flat with a parapet. Mr. Snedaker confirmed.

Mr. Carbon left the meeting at approximately 6:37 p.m.

Station 3

Mina Samadi said that in regard to Station 3, the site plan and floor plan layouts have been approved by the Fire Department, and presently they are working with the Planning Department in connection with the Land Use Amendment. Proposals are being submitted by the consultants in connection with the platting and design of the station. City approvals would be coordinated before being submitted to the County Commission. She further said that the location for the new station building is closer to the south west 28th Street in the back of the existing station building.

Chairman Jarrett asked if the existing building would be retained. Ms. Samadi said that the building would be demolished because a large portion of the bay would interfere with the construction of the new building. Mr. Snedaker said that it would not be feasible to retain the existing building because major renovations would be needed. Ms. Samadi said that at the next scheduled meeting, the Committee would be provided with the site and floor plans for the proposed station.

Mr. Carbon returned to the meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Carbon further said that Station 3 has always been slated for demolition.

Ms. Samadi further said that that the water and sewer lines would be reconfigured on site for the new station building.

Station 49

Ms. Samadi proceeded to distribute exhibits to this Committee regarding Station 49 and said that the site and floor plans have been reviewed by the Fire Department and were 99% approved. She said they are coordinating with FDOT and other agencies in regard to obtaining the relevant permits. A public meeting would probably be scheduled some time in January or February, 2007.

Mr. Carbon left the meeting at approximately 6:43 p.m.

Chairman Jarrett said that he would like to see elevations for this site. Ms. Samadi said that she has to review the elevations before bringing them to this Committee.

Mary Graham asked about the materials that would be used for the exterior of the building. Ms. Samadi said that it was the same materials as used on Station 29.

Chairman Jarrett asked about the boat slip at the site and whether any shelter was to be provided. Ms. Samadi said that a roof is to be provided over the boatlift. PGAL is the consultant for this project and is looking to provide some type of roof for the boatlift, but cost is a factor as to what type of materials would be used, and therefore, consideration is being given to an awning versus a permanent structure.

Mary Graham said that all electrical seemed to be on the third floor and asked if that is necessary due to flooding. Ms. Samadi confirmed and said that is due to possible storm surge also.

Chairman Jarrett said that the firemen have to carry 80 pounds of gear out to the boat each time they receive a call, and that it would be nice to have a boathouse for the vessel and the equipment. Ms. Samadi said no funding is available for a boathouse and it was not part of the bond. Chairman Jarrett further said that the alternative is that the fire boat is replaced every two years and that the vessel should have a larger storage area.

Dianne Shuler said they should pursue the cost of everything and then decisions could be made as to what could be purchased with the money available. Chief Simon said that the smaller boat is about 2-3 years old. He said they replaced fireboats in Oakland every 8-10 years.

Mr. Thabit asked how many calls are there for the fire boats per year. Chief Simon said that they average 15-20 calls per year which did not include first-aid calls.

Dianne Shuler asked if any research has been done as to how other fire stations handle these types of situations. Chief Simon said that typically there is a mutual aid agreement with other jurisdictions and the fire boats are important because they are the only resource to fight a fire in the middle of a body of water.

Mary Graham said she wants to make a motion that these issues be researched and information brought back to this Committee. Chairman Jarrett said that such motion could be made after staff has completed their report.

Station 46

Mina Samadi said that they are continuing to research the relocation of Station 46 to Mills Pond Park.

Chairman Jarrett asked if the neighborhood has been given the opportunity to provide their input regarding the relocation of the station. Ms. Samadi said the Fire Department is going to meet with neighborhood to discuss the matter, along with response times.

Station 8

Mina Samadi said that meetings were held regarding Station 8 and the North Broward Hospital District was included and they are exploring the possibility of entering into a joint venture. The City is going to purchase one property and the Hospital District would be giving the City another property for the station site.

Mr. Thabit said that if the City does not have to purchase a lot of land, than possibly those monies could be used toward the construction of a boathouse as previously discussed.

Station 13

Mina Samadi said that in regard to Station 13 the City had two meetings with the State of Florida. State is requiring improvements on Birch Park in connection the drainage system and the remediation of the lakes on the park property in order for the City to obtain property from them. A cost estimate, including remediation costs, are being compiled.

Station 35

Mina Samadi said that Station 35 is been designed at the same location off Commercial Boulevard, but additional property is needed. A vacation of the right-of-way is needed in connection with the access to the station. There is a small strip of land between the right-of-way and the fire station property that is owned by the condominium and an appraisal is currently being done. Mr. Snedaker said that if that property is obtained by the City, they would be able to have a back-in battalion station, not a drive-thru, and there would be sufficient parking. According to the site plan, they would have access off 17th Avenue and would be in control of the traffic light.

Ms. Samadi said that preliminary site and floor plans for this station would be provided to the Committee at their next meeting.

Motion made by Mary Graham and seconded by Norman Thabit to have staff direct PGAL to explore further cost estimates regarding the boathouse for Station 49. The Committee approved unanimously.

Member Discussion

Mary Graham said that community meetings are to be scheduled for Stations 54, 46 and 49 and she asked that sufficient notice be provided to the public.

Norman Thabit said that the firefighters at Station 47 should be commended regarding the rescue of a dog from the canal in front of his home.

It was asked if additional property besides the strip previously mentioned adjoining Station 35 could be purchased. Ms. Samadi that the parcel runs the entire length of the property, but is only 10 feet in width.

Dianne Shuler asked if the City's PIO could include information regarding the public meetings in their newsletters and updates provided regarding the fire stations. Ms. Samadi said that she would make that suggestion to the PIO Director and to Mr. Carbon.

Don Bastedo asked who is the consultant that is responsible for the on-site inspections regarding the airport project. Ms. Samadi said the consultant is URS and they have three individuals doing the inspections and making the reports. The City's Construction Manager also oversees the project.

Don Bastedo said that he is concerned about security at the site. Ms. Samadi said that she would check into the matter and report back to the Committee. She further said that she would check to see if any members of this Committee would be permitted to attend the Airport Project bi-weekly meetings held by staff. Chairman Jarrett said if that is possible then an individual could attend the meetings and then report back to this Committee.

Chairman Jarrett said that earlier tonight there had been discussion regarding using the training facility at Station 29 as temporary quarter facilities and that equipment would be stored outdoors.

Chief Simon said that discussion is still continuing about those issues. Chairman Jarrett asked if the Chief would be able to further research the storing of the equipment, and asked if the cost could be provided of the equipment sitting outdoors. He wants to compare that cost to the cost of supplying protection for the equipment. Chief Simon said that he would report back. He further said that the newer trucks that have been purchased have equipment already on them, and therefore, the storage issue is not a problem.

Norman Thabit asked about the status of the temporary station acquisition. Ms. Samadi said that due to how the stations are currently being designed, there would be no need for temporary stations.

It was asked where the crew from Station 49 are to be relocated. Mr. Snedaker said that he believes the plan was to move that crew up to Station 13 during construction.

Chairman Jarrett said that three months ago there had been a major discussion regarding costs and a bid was put out for \$3.8 Million and only \$3 Million was available in the budget. He believes they need to address the continual overruns. This Committee asked for the fire department, their unions, and staff to make recommendations as to how costs could be reduced so the projects could come under budget, but as of this date no one has responded.

Mr. Snedaker said that staff is developing a list of possible cutbacks, and in addition the program itself is to be restructured so that monies would not be spent for temporary stations.

Chief Simon said that he would bring back information to the Committee's next meeting as requested.

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Mary Graham said that she too is concerned about the increase in costs. Mr. Snedaker said that there has been an increase in material costs since the projects have begun. He reminded everyone that they are in the process of compiling their list regarding cutbacks and costs and that information would be brought to this Committee. A contract was entered into with FP&L to provide and maintain all generators. A study is being done and all options are being explored.

Adjournment

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2007.

Motion made by Norman Thabit and seconded by Dianne Shuler to adjourn the meeting. The Committee agreed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.