

FIRE-RESCUE BOND
 BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MINUTES
 REGULAR MEETING
 City of Fort Lauderdale
 100 North Andrews Avenue
 Commission Chambers
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
 January 18, 2007

Board Members	Meeting Attendance	Cumulative Attendance from 01/18/ 2007	
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	P-1	A-0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	P	P-1	A-0
Mary Graham	P	P-1	A-0
Allan A. Kozich	P	P-1	A-0
Patrick McTigue	P	P-1	A-0
Douglas Ruth	P	P-1	A-0
Don Bastedo	P	P-1	A-0
Norman W. Thabit	P	P-1	A-0
Steve Kirsch	P	P-1	A-0

Staff

Albert Carbon, Director, Public Works Department
 Mina Samadi, CRA Engineering Design Manager
 Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect
 Fire Chief Simon
 Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief
 David Carter, Engine 46, Union Representative
 Sandra Goldberg, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Jarrett called the January 18, 2007 meeting of the Fire-Rescue Blue Bond Ribbon Committee to order at 6:08 P.M. A quorum was achieved with nine committee members present.

2. Approval of Minutes of December, 2006

The minutes of the December, 2006 meeting were not yet available.

[Chair Jarrett proceeded with a discussion under Member Discussion Items while waiting for Mr. Carbon to return.]

Chair Jarrett stated that the Committee had discussed at its last meeting the issue of the fire boat and had requested Chief Simon to provide a breakdown of the number of calls that the fire

boat makes. Chief Simon presented his report to the Committee which indicated that the number of calls for 2005 and 2006 were about the same; however, the number of calls is not great.

Member Graham stated that she had looked over the matrix study that was provided previously by Chief Simon; however, not everyone had received the matrix study. Member Graham inquired whether, when looking at the number of calls and the matrix study together, the fire boat program can be left as currently outlined in the plan. Member Graham clarified that the issue had been raised whether the medical equipment needed to be stored on the fire boat rather than having to bring it to the boat from the station for each call.

Chair Jarrett commented that the question was brought up if the most cost efficient way may be to buy the extra gear and the next fire boat that is purchased be sized appropriately to accommodate the equipment on board. Chair Jarrett remarked that when looking at the figures provided by Chief Simon, however, that may not be the best way to proceed.

Member Ruth asked if the EMT personnel are out on the water all during their shift. Chief Simon responded that it depends on the situation; typically the personnel will be at the station and board the boat when a call comes in.

Chair Jarrett stated that the matrix report addresses response times in general. The concern of the Committee is whether response time is delayed further by having to carry the gear from the station to the dock.

Vice Chair Shuler asked what is the cost to purchase additional medical equipment. Chief Bacic responded that the cost is approximately \$60,000. Chief Simon cautioned that there is a concern about keeping medical equipment on board due to security issues of storing and tracking narcotics and the impact from saltwater on the gear.

Chair Jarrett asked Chief Simon his opinion on which way to proceed. Chief Simon replied that next time a fire boat is purchased it be larger with more storage capacity. However, since there is not a lot of storage on the existing boat and it would be problematic to store equipment and drugs, he recommends that the EMT personnel continue with bringing the equipment on board with them.

Chair Jarrett asked Chief Simon if he wanted the Committee to look into other options for providing protection for the fire boat. Chief Simon responded that the best way to protect the current fire boat would be a canvas type tent cover to shield the boat from the elements; a complete boat house would not be recommended at this time.

Member McTigue asked how the boat was currently stored. Chief Bacic replied that it is moored at the floating dock and a backup boat is stored on davits. Member McTigue suggested a pontoon boat that is lifted out of the water with air and then lowered when needed. Member McTigue remarked that a canopy can be installed above it and these types of boats have a quick drop time and may be more cost effective.

Mr. Carbon stated that he will talk with the architect and look into options to incorporate into the plans a canvas canopy to protect the boat.

Vice Chair Shuler asked that the Committee received a pdf version of the matrix report and discuss it at the next meeting after everyone has received it. Chief Simon indicated that the report was also available on the web site. Chair Jarrett asked that the link be sent to all the Committee Members.

3. Staff Liaison Report

Mr. Carbon updated the Committee on the status of the stations as follows:

Station 53: The installation of tilt panels is occurring and next, work is to begin on construction of the first floor and ceiling joists, and installation of the irrigation system and site grading.

Station 47: The site has been cleared and the temporary fence is installed.

Station 29: Plans are being finalized for the building permit; the Broward County and FDOT permits have been obtained for the roadway work on US1.

Station 54: The project team is working on the DRC submittal and the community meeting has been scheduled for February 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Beach Community Center.

Station 3: The land use amendment has been approved by the City Commission and will now be submitted to the Count, and surveyors are working on the platting.

Station 49: The DRC package has been submitted for a February hearing; the layout has been modified to fit on the triangular site. The project team is working with Broward County for the permits for roadway issues on A1A. The community meeting is scheduled for January 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Swimming Hall of Fame.

Lt. Dave Carter, Local 765, inquired if FDOT has been asked for the installation of traffic lights; especially for Station 49 which is extremely dangerous. Mr. Carbon replied that the request has not yet been made.

Station 46: The project team is working through the process determining the construction costs for a new station at Mills Pond. Staff met with the Community Development Block Grant personnel to discuss the use of grant funds for the improvements to the park so as not to have to use fire bond monies. As a result of the discussions, CDBG funds will be made available to offset the costs for the relocation of the maintenance and restroom facilities.

Chair Jarrett asked about the status of the community meetings. Mr. Carbon replied that they are now working on scheduling the community meeting and submitting the application for the land use amendment.

Member Thabit asked what were the values of improvements that the CDBG funds would cover. Mr. Carbon responded approximately \$500,000 for the new restrooms, a new community center, lighting, and field improvements.

Station 8: The project team has reopened meetings with Broward Hospital District regarding a joint project for the new fire station across 3rd Avenue between 15th Street and 16th Street. City staff has obtained one appraisal and is obtaining another appraisal for the two properties on that

block not owned by the Hospital District. The joint project being considered is to construct one building with the fire station on the first floor and hospital administrative offices above. Chief Bacic stated that Station 2 and Station 8 are consolidated and the proposed project will become Station 8.

Member Ruth asked about parking for the station. Mr. Carbon replied that the existing surface parking on that block will be used; no parking structures are proposed. Direct access for the fire engines would be onto 3rd Avenue.

Mr. Carbon reported that the planning level estimates are being worked on to present to the City Commission and the Hospital District Board of Directors for conceptual approval; however, optional properties are still being evaluated for purchase in the event the joint project does come about.

Member McTigue asked about the purchase of the two separate properties included in the project area. Mr. Carbon replied that one property has been appraised and City staff is close to an agreement with the property owner. The second property is just south of 15th Street on 3rd Avenue and an appraisal is currently being prepared. Mr. Carbon indicated that both parcels are part of the joint project and will be part of the whole fiscal package.

Member McTigue asked if the \$1,800,000 indicated for land acquisition has changed; the original amount was around \$1,200,000. Mr. Carbon responded that the figure has increased somewhat from the original plan for land acquisition. The Sunrise property is still in the calculation; but no decision has been made when or if to sell it. Mr. Carbon stated that it is unknown at this point if any cost savings will be realized with the joint project. Once conceptual approval is obtained, the design process and costs can be determined.

Member Graham if there were any provisions in the fire bond that would prohibit any lease arrangements in a joint arrangement. Mr. Carbon replied that many different ownership options could be explored and incorporated into the agreement.

Station 13: The project team obtained estimates for the dredging of the lake in the park that the State asked for which came to approximately \$1,000,000. The state had requested that the City complete the dredging as part of the approval to relocate the fire station. Mr. Carbon indicated that the cost for the dredging is unacceptable and he will respond to the State accordingly, but still ask for their consideration to allow the relocation. Mr. Carbon indicated the letter will be copied to Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff for her assistance as well. Chair Jarrett suggested that the letter also be sent to Representative Jack Seiler.

Station 35: An appraisal for the property in back of the site owned by the condo association was obtained. The layout of station includes the back parcel on 51st Street. The general approval for the purchase has been given by the condominium president, but the full condominium board approval is still pending.

Member Graham asked how the layout would work. Mr. Carbon indicated the station would not be a drive thru station. Chief Bacic commented that the Fire Department has been involved with the review of all station layouts and the layouts are consistent; Station 49 is somewhat unique because of the shape of the site.

4. Member Discussion Items

Chair Jarrett commented that it has been three months since the Committee asked for input from associated parties on how to reduce costs. Mr. Carbon replied that he prepared and submitted a memorandum to the Committee this evening specifically looking at how to reduce costs.

Mr. Carbon stated that the memorandum specifically addresses the substitution of bi-fold doors for roll up doors in the front of the stations which will save \$1.4 million. Additionally, FPL is being requested to assist with the purchase of generators that would allow the City to sell back power to FPL, which would save an additional \$1 million. Additional cost savings are being evaluated such as having contractors bid on two stations at a time; creative designs; re-using designs for multiple stations, etc.

Member McTigue asked about the wind testing on the bi-fold doors. Mr. Carbon indicated that the bi-fold door testing for impacts is scheduled for next week; there is a twenty day review period. The wind load test results for the roll-up doors are acceptable even near the beach.

Member Kovich asked for clarification about the generator program with FPL and how the fuel would be maintained and stored and commented that the fuel may cost more than the credits received from FPL. Mr. Carbon stated that the generators would not run daily or at all times during the day; however, staff is just beginning to look into this option.

Mr. Carbon reported on the construction schedule. Mr. Carbon stated that staff is diligently working on the property issues that exist such as insufficient land size, land use amendments that are needed; property acquisition issues; modular fire station building construction; design/build contracts; station maintenance issues; etc. Mr. Carbon commented that the efforts of staff along with Committee's oversight are working well and significant progress is being made; and it's important that the Committee continue working within the parameters of the bond consistent with the City's resolution.

Chair Jarrett commented that the efforts to cut costs presented by Mr. Carbon are a step in the right direction, but it is not yet enough to complete the projects. The construction costs will not likely go down, but land costs may go up and down over time.

Chair Jarrett stated that since staff is not currently looking into the purchase for a temporary station, he hopes it doesn't delay the project in the future. Member Graham asked if input was provided by the Fire Department staff about a temporary station; do they feel there is a need for a temporary station given the accelerated schedule and the resequencing of some of the stations.

Mr. Carbon commented that communications with the fire department personnel have improved during the process; the fire department personnel reviews all the plans. Chief Bacic stated that the training facility was being considered for use as a temporary facility as opposed to purchasing a new one for Station 29. Chief Bacic commented that by using the training facility a new facility won't need to be purchased, but renovations will be needed to house the three fire fighters and engine company during construction.

Chief Bacic indicated that the project team is also working on a scheduling plan that considers the mitigation and construction occurring on the site and how to operate during construction. The truck may need to move to another location at periods during construction; however, utilizing the temporary facility may reduce costs overall. The operations of all stations are being reviewed to try to come up with ways to save costs and the use of trailers on site during construction may not be necessary. Chief Bacic stated that the cost reducing ideas will be discussed with the Committee as they are developed.

Member Graham commented that there were some newspaper articles claiming that a Fire Chief was needed to get the stations built. Chief Bacic responded that Chief Eddy is up to speed and fire department staff is brainstorming solutions that benefit the department such as improved response times and cost effective ways to accomplish those improvements.

Lt. Carter asked if the Committee was receiving regular reports from URS on the construction progress. Ms. Samadi replied that there is a meeting every two weeks for each station under construction and a report is issued which is incorporated into Mr. Carbon's staff report for each Committee meeting.

Chair Jarrett stated the Committee would be concerned about problems and change orders and would request they be informed of them, even those problems that are already solved. Member Graham commented that she would like to see the minutes from the OAC meetings. Mr. Carbon stated he would make the copies of the minutes available to Chief Simon or Chief Bacic.

Member Thabit asked how many change orders had been issued up to this point. Mr. Carbon replied that there were no change orders; there was an in-house change made having to do with the gas line for Station 47 and negotiations on site utility issues for Station 53 are occurring but nothing is finalized. Mr. Carbon indicated that Committee input is not received on the change orders. Chair Jarrett stated that the Committee has requested that it be advised of change orders.

Member Graham asked that the Committee be provided with the actual meeting minutes from the OAC meetings, including past meetings.

Member Thabit asked that for every meeting report after the City Commission approves a change order that an appendix be added listing the change orders, the amounts and a statement as to why the change orders were authorized. Mr. Carbon indicated he would provide the Committee with the backup provided to the City Commission. Member Graham stated that be receiving the OAC minutes, the background for the change orders will be more informative than a one line statement.

Chair Jarret asked Mr. Snedaker about the color palette for Stations 54 and 49. Mr. Snedaker responded that the same palette will be used throughout the projects.

5. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. by Chair Jarrett.