

FIRE-RESCUE BOND  
 BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MINUTES  
 REGULAR MEETING  
 City of Fort Lauderdale  
 100 North Andrews Avenue  
 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Commission Conference Room  
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
 February 15, 2007

Board Members	Meeting Attendance	Cumulative Attendance from 01/18/ 2007	
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	P-2	A-0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	A	P-1	A-1
Mary Graham	P	P-2	A-0
Allan A. Kozich	P	P-2	A-0
Patrick McTigue	A	P-1	A-1
Douglas Ruth	P	P-2	A-0
Steve Kirsch	A	P-1	A-1
Don Bastedo	P	P-2	A-0
Norman W. Thabit	P	P-2	A-0

Others Present:

Albert Carbon, Director, Public Works Department  
 Mina Samadi, CRA Engineering Design Manager  
 Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect  
 James Eddy, Fire Chief  
 Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief  
 David Carter, Lieutenant, Union Representative  
 John Herbst, City Auditor  
 Sandra Goldberg, Prototype, Inc., Recording Clerk

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chairman Jarrett called the February 15, 2007 meeting of the Fire-Rescue Bond Blue Ribbon Committee to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was achieved with six committee members present.

**2. Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2006 and January 18, 2007**

Member Thabit made a motion to approve the December 18, 2006 minutes as submitted. Member Graham seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Jarrett indicated on page 3 of the January 18, 2007 minutes, the part that reads that the Committee needs to determine if the request should be made for a traffic signal, should be removed; the traffic engineer should determine if a signal should be requested for that location. Chairman Jarrett also commented that David Carter should be referred to as Lieutenant Carter.

Member Thabit made a motion to approve the minutes with the above noted corrections. Member Graham seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Staff Liaison Report**

Mr. Carbon introduced Chief Jim Eddy and Mr. John Herbst, the City Auditor, to the committee members.

Mr. Carbon distributed photographs showing Stations 47 and 53 - construction progress. Mr. Carbon stated he sent the URS monthly construction report to the Committee and asked if there were any comments. Member Thabit requested that the Committee get the URS updates monthly. Mr. Carbon indicated he would provide the status reports monthly.

Member Thabit asked if the change order on Station 47 was approved. Mr. Carbon responded that it has not been approved yet. Lt. Carter asked if staff questioned the costs that are submitted by the contractors. Mr. Carbon indicated that staff does question every cost; that is the role of the construction management group. Member Thabit clarified that the proposed change order was still an estimate.

Member Graham asked if there was back up on the approved Change Order No. 1 for Station 53. Mr. Carbon stated Change Order No. 1 was approved by the City Commission and noted to attach approved change orders to the staff report for the next Committee meeting. Member Graham asked if there was a Change Order No. 2. Mr. Carbon replied that there were not any other change orders at this time.

Mr. Carbon continued with the update on the status of the fire stations as follows:

Station 29: The FDOT and Broward County drainage permits have been received and the project team is working with FP&L on the electrical. The remediation plan was submitted to Broward County and their comments have been received; a meeting is being scheduled to review the comments.

Chairman Jarrett asked what the FP&L issue was. Mr. Carbon replied it was the under-grounding of the power lines next to the station. Ms. Samadi clarified the power lines to go underground were both on the station site and adjacent to the site.

Mr. Carbon stated the plans for the training facility were being finished. The plans should be submitted to the Building Department on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. The City maintenance and construction staff will make the modifications.

Chairman Jarrett asked how the training facility would operate during the modifications. Chief Bacic responded that once construction starts all the training classes will be held off-site in other City facilities; however, the administrative staff for the training facility will still be accommodated on-site.

Chairman Jarrett inquired as to the cost of the remodeling. Mr. Carbon indicated he has not yet seen the plans but will have the cost estimate for the Committee at its next meeting.

Station 49: The plans were reviewed by the DRC on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Project staff is working on the Broward County and FDOT permits. The temporary facility is being worked on with fire department staff. The neighborhood meeting was held on January 30<sup>th</sup>; Member Kozich attended. Member Kozich stated the meeting went well; the primary concern was traffic flow on AIA.

Station 54: Mr. Carbon distributed the elevation drawings for Station 54 along with the postcards that went out to the neighborhood announcing the neighborhood meeting scheduled for Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Beach Community Center. Mr. Carbon continued that the DRC submittal is pending the outcome of the neighborhood meeting and project staff is working with the fire department on how to accommodate the fire fighters during construction.

Member Graham asked when the plans for Station 49 would be submitted to the Planning & Zoning Board for comments. Ms. Samadi responded that the comments from the DRC would need to be addressed and resubmitted for approval so the Planning & Zoning presentation would probably be in April.

Station 3: The City Commission approved the land use amendment; the amendment must now go to the County Commission for approval. County staff is making the determination if the amendment can go straight to the County Commission or whether it needs to go through one of its boards first. The consultants are about to begin on the platting and design. Member Graham asked who the consultant was working on the plat amendment. Ms. Samadi replied it is Keith & Schnars; the land use amendment was done in-house.

Station 46: The move to Mills Pond Park is still being worked; CDBG funds will be provided for the park improvements. A budget amendment will be required to release the CDBG funds. The community meetings need to be scheduled; there will be three meetings, two with the neighborhood and one with park users. The meetings are anticipated to be scheduled for late March.

Member Thabit asked if the block grant money was anticipated in the original construction costs. Mr. Carbon responded that it was not. Member Thabit suggested that if the fire bond would be saving a half million dollars, could that money be put into a reserve for use for other projects as needed. Mr. Carbon indicated that the block grant funds were being used only for park improvements; fire bond funds could not be used for that purpose and that the original plans did not anticipate moving the station. Mr. Carbon advised that the estimate of \$500,000 for the park improvements came from actual recent park improvement projects.

Station 8: Mr. Carbon stated that progress on Station 8 was slow. Project staff met with the architect to review the plans. The City's finance director is looking at funding options for the joint hospital/fire station project. Mr. Carbon indicated that once the financing options are identified he can review the bond requirements to see what is doable; other properties are still being considered for purchase.

Lt. Carter asked if there had been any decision made on the Sunrise property. Mr. Carbon stated that before that property is sold, a deal must be in place for another property because the Sunrise property could also be used for a land swap. Member Ruth asked what the appraised value was on the Sunrise property. Mr. Carbon stated he would provide that information in the next staff report. Chairman Jarrett asked about the land at the airport where Station 88 is located. Mr. Carbon indicated that property is leased from the airport.

Station 13: Mr. Carbon advised that the State was told that the City cannot afford a million dollars to do the dredging project the State wants in exchange for letting the City build the new station in Birch Park. The state primarily wants Long Lake dredged and to clean up the stormwater that is discharged into the lake. Mr. Carbon stated that the South Florida Water Management District is being contacted to see if they could fund the projects.

Chairman Jarrett asked if the State Representatives have been contacted about the issue and Mr. Carbon indicated they have. Mr. Carbon indicated there was also an issue about the park usage; if not used for a park the land would revert back to Antioch College. Mr. Carbon also posed the question to the State if they could use a portion of the park for a temporary station.

Station 35: Mr. Carbon indicated not much progress has been made at Station 35. The preliminary site layouts are being reviewed on how to utilize the existing site with the addition of some land in the back along 51<sup>st</sup> Street. Staff will also re-contact the church to discuss joint parking. Station 35 will probably happen last.

Member Ruth asked what was the appraised value of the property in the rear. Ms. Samadi replied that the appraisal obtained was done for the entire strip and was approximately \$25,000; the portion just along the fire station site is much less.

Lt. Carter requested that a revised time line be prepared and be included in the minutes so the public would be aware of the status.

Member Graham asked if a modular unit was still being considered for a temporary station. Mr. Carbon indicated that decision had not been made yet.

Member Graham asked when the construction was scheduled for completion on Station 88/53. Mr. Carbon stated that the scheduled completion date is September 7, 2007. Lt. Carter asked if the station is scheduled for completion in September, does that include equipment installation. Mr. Carbon indicated the building only was scheduled for September. Chief Bacic clarified that fire department staff is already coordinating the communications systems and IT infrastructure, and will issue the furniture bid. Chairman Jarrett asked if the furniture and equipment was still coming out of the fire bond. Chief Bacic indicated he understood that those items are part of the fire bond.

#### **4. Member Discussion Items**

Member Thabit stated that the issue of reduction of costs on the stations has yet to be concluded. Chairman Jarrett suggested that a spreadsheet be prepared tracking the costs and cost reductions and it be kept current. Member Thabit stated that the way to account for the potential savings is to move the monies out of the projects into a reserve and then the reserve can be used when the need arises, such as for land acquisition for Station 8 or for change orders that come up.

Mr. Carbon indicated that the costs for the stations have gone up due primarily to increasing the sizes of the stations and building more battalion stations. Member Thabit stated that in essence, there have been no reductions because of the increased costs of the stations.

Lt. Carter asked if there is a projection of the square footage for stations 49 and 54 because of the site constrictions. Lt. Carter stated he was concerned about the space available for storing extra apparatus. Mr. Carbon responded that there were significant increases over what was projected in the bond. Mr. Carbon indicated that is a question to address with fire department operations; it is not a fire bond issue. Chief Bacic commented that storage concerns have been addressed; Station 29 has available space for reserve apparatus.

Chairman Jarrett remarked that the main charge of the Committee is to make sure at the end that the tenth station can be built. Costs have risen and inflation not accounted for properly, but the savings staff is achieving needs to be tracked. The Committee needs to be aware of the status of the fire bond monies and need to be able to prepare the citizens in the event a rude awakening occurs.

Member Thabit stated the Committee needs to know in advance if money is running low in order to be able to present the justifications for the cost increases. Member Thabit stated that it takes time to process a budget amendment and over the next several years, possibly some additional money could be put into the fire department budget to address the costs that can't be met by the fire bond.

Member Graham stated that change orders will also arise. Member Graham asked if the Committee received the estimate for the beach station. Mr. Carbon indicated he would send that out to the members.

Member Thabit suggested that costs for each station be tracked and if costs are exceeded by \$100,000 for example, it would not be unreasonable to request \$100,000 for that station to be put in the budget so there is not a big hit at the end of the bond projects

Mr. Carbon stated that attendance from Committee members at the construction is not necessary; he will provide status reports at each Committee meeting.

## **5. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. by Chairman Jarrett.