

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

Board Members	Meeting Attendance	Cumulative Attendance from 01/18/ 2007	
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	P-3	A-0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	P	P-2	A-1
Mary Graham	P	P-3	A-0
Allan A. Kozich	P	P-3	A-0
Patrick McTigue	P	P-2	A-1
Douglas Ruth	P	P-3	A-0
Steve Kirsch	P	P-2	A-1
Don Bastedo	P	P-3	A-0
Norman W. Thabit	P	P-3	A-0

**Others Present**

Albert Carbon, Director, Public Works Department  
 Mina Samadi, CRA Engineering Design Manager  
 Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect  
 Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief  
 Sandra Goldberg, Prototype, Inc., Recording Clerk

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

Chairman Jarrett called the March 15, 2007 meeting of the Fire-Rescue Blue Bond Ribbon Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was achieved with eight committee members present [Mr. Kozich arrived at the meeting at a later time.]

**2. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2007**

Mr. Carbon stated that the meeting location should be changed from the Commission Chambers to the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Commission Conference room.

Member Bastedo made a motion to approve the February 15, 2007 minutes as amended. Member Ruth seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Carbon stated that the change orders for Stations 53 and 47 were included with the Committee's packet and asked if anyone had any questions on them. Member Graham stated that she had no questions; she just wanted to make sure the Committee was made aware of them.

Chairman Jarrett asked about the cost of \$47,000 to redo the drain field. Mr. Snedaker responded that there were two drain fields and the costs included digging down four and half feet, bringing in a lot of fill, and a lot of man hours. Mr. Snedaker confirmed that all work and costs were verified before approving the change order.

Mr. Carbon stated that the cost to remodel the Station 29 training facility to house the fire staff during construction is approximately \$40,000. The two big ticket items are \$8,700 for the fire sprinkler system and \$6,000 for the fire alarm.

Mr. Carbon reported that the appraised value of the Sunrise property as of about eight months ago was \$1,135,000.

Mr. Carbon indicated that the construction cost estimate for Station 49 is \$4.7 million and the current size of that station is 15,415 square feet; or a cost of \$265/sf.

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

Station 53: Mr. Carbon distributed current construction status photographs which the Committee members reviewed. Mr. Carbon stated there was a \$9,000 change order credit for the generator. Mr. Carbon indicated there are some construction challenges such as the underground tank installation, the A/V system, and the security system, but they are being resolved.

Station 47: Mr. Carbon distributed current construction status photographs which the Committee members reviewed. Mr. Carbon indicated there is a pending change order of \$52,000, probably having to do with the drain fields. The construction challenges include the delivery of the pre-stressed joists which are due in the first week of April.

Station 29: Mr. Carbon reported that the remediation plan has been approved by the County. The remediation is scheduled to begin Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and then it should take three to four weeks to complete. Proposals for the fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems for the temporary facility are being obtained, and the permitting process is underway.

Station 49: Mr. Carbon stated that the plans have just been received back from DRC and the design team is working on creating the final plans. The project team is working with Broward County and FDOT on the permits and traffic signal issues. Mr. Carbon

indicated that land is still being identified which can house the firefighters during construction.

Mr. Carbon remarked that Member Thabit had suggested he start looking for temporary facilities to house the fire fighters during construction. Mr. Carbon stated that FEMA is offering trailers for fifty cents on the dollar and he is looking into that.

Chief Bacic indicated that temporary facilities for staff are needed for Stations 49 and 54. Station 47 needed to be larger as it will be running two rescues and an engine. At Station 49 there will need to be room for five personnel, one engine and one rescue.

Station 54: Mr. Carbon stated that a neighborhood meeting was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting participants requested minor façade changes. The plans were submitted the next day to DRC and the project team is looking for accommodations for temporary housing. Ms. Samadi indicated the plans should be submitted to the Planning & Zoning Board for its May meeting.

Member Ruth inquired about the alley vacation. Ms. Samadi reported that there were no issues with the alley vacation.

Station 3: Mr. Carbon stated that the land use amendment is in the County process. Ms. Samadi indicated the amendment would be going to the County Commission in April. Mr. Carbon indicated the surveying and platting have begun and the civil design went to the City Commission last week.

Station 46: Chief Bacic indicated that the Public Information Office was working on scheduling the neighborhood meetings; however no date has been set yet. Mr. Carbon stated the project team has begun the land use amendment process.

Ms. Shuler asked for clarification about the three neighborhood meetings planned. Mr. Carbon responded that Commissioner Moore had requested that a meeting be held with the adjacent homeowner associations, but also to have a meeting for the park users because the station will be in the park and the fields are being reduced.

Mr. Carbon continued that the design team is being put together to work on the survey, design, and plat, et cetera.

Station 8: Mr. Carbon indicated there were still positive discussions proceeding with the Hospital District. The Real Estate office and Bond Counsel are determining what financing options are available to accomplish the joint project. Mr. Carbon indicated that by early April the decision will need to be made whether to proceed or not with building the station on the same site.

Station 13: Mr. Carbon stated that the negotiations with the State have reached a stalemate. The State is now asking that the City build a seawall along the intercoastal and docks in addition to \$980,000 for the dredging. Mr. Carbon stated that again, the decision will need to be made in early April whether to proceed with constructing the new station on the same site.

Station 35: Mr. Carbon reported that a meeting is being set up with the church; the church requested a meeting with Commissioner Teel. The project team is also looking at properties at 56<sup>th</sup> and U.S. 1, one at 56<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and one at Floranada and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Carbon concluded his report by stating that the project team is looking at costs and delivery of the projects. The project management process is being reviewed so as to try to get more personnel working exclusively on the projects, and negotiations are ongoing with URS for them to complete the program management. Mr. Carbon stated he hopes to have the resolution before the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Carbon addressed the Committee's request for a cost analysis for the fire stations from 2004 to the present. Mr. Carbon indicated there were too many variables to come up with a number. For example, Station 53 was 19% over the original estimate. Station 47 was 31% over the original estimate, but that was because it changed from a satellite station to a battalion station, which is much larger. Mr. Carbon indicated he cannot confidently say there are any linear or graphable elements for analysis.

Mr. Carbon stated that the estimated costs savings, which he will have for the next meeting are approximately \$2.4 million.

Member Graham asked if any of the contractors that have worked on the stations will bid future stations so that there is continuity. She commented that also, the costs seem exorbitantly high. The Committee discussed that problems or changes that are identified during the construction process should be incorporated into the plans for the upcoming stations, and if the same contractors are used, the City will benefit from those cost savings.

Member McTigue inquired about the change in the bay concrete floor thinness from eight inches to six inches in consideration of the slab cracking which occurred at Station 2. Chairman Jarrett stated that it was originally designed at four inches and was changed to eight inches; it was then reduced back down to six inches.

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

Chairman Jarrett asked to discuss further the tracking of the bond status. Chairman Jarrett stated that the reality is that the projects will run out of bond money and the Committee needs to start immediately on either finding ways to cut sufficient costs so the projects can be built, or determine alternate funding sources to complete the ten

stations. Chairman Jarrett suggested that a percentage be determined that can be applied to the original budgeted costs and ask the City Commission to fund the Fire Department in the annual budgets to meet the increased costs.

[Member Kozich arrived at 7:12 p.m.]

The Committee discussed different ways of calculating the increased costs and reached the consensus that in order to present a justifiable case to the City Commission; the actual costs must be used. The Committee agreed that since Station 47 is scheduled for completion in January 2008, it would be appropriate at that time to determine the actual final costs for the station and present a request to the City Commission to fund the deficiency for that station back into the bond fund. The Committee reasoned that this method would spread the increased costs out over time as each station is completed and not require an immense expenditure all at one time.

Member Bastedo asked if Mr. Carbon had prepared the updated building schedules for Stations 53 and 47. Mr. Carbon replied he would have them for the next meeting.

## **5. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Jarrett.