

**FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING**

City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33301
June 19, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	A
Don Bastedo	P
Mary Graham	P
Steve Kirsch	A
Allan Kozich	P
Delores McKinley	P
Patrick McTigue	P
Douglas Ruth	A
Norman Thabit [6:24]	P

Staff

Albert Carbon, Director Public Works Department
Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief
Mark Friedman, City Construction Manager
Eric Geen, URS
J. Opperlee, ProtoType Services Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Jarrett called the meeting of the Fire-Rescue Bond Blue Ribbon Committee to order at 6:12 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: May 2008

Motion made by Member Kozich, seconded by Member McTigue, to approve the minutes of the Board's May 2008 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff Liaison Report

Station 53:

Chief Bacic reported that personnel and most equipment had been moved into Station 53 that day, and the tentative opening date was June 24. Station 88 had a tentative opening date of June 26. Chief Bacic remarked that a CAD upgrade had been performed and all of the alerting was now operational.

Member Graham asked the date of substantial completion for Stations 53 and 88. Mr. Friedman stated Station 53 had been completed for weeks; all that remained was punch out work.

Chair Jarrett asked if the City would be responsible for demolishing the old stations. Mr. Carbon explained that demolition was not in the Fire Bond Program, but the buildings would be properly shut and secured. Chief Bacic stated a sign would be posted on closed stations indicating the new station location.

Member McKinley pointed out that some figures on the financial report were incorrect. Mr. Friedman had notified the accounting people of this. Member McKinley stated Fire Station 47 was over by \$50,000, but the report showed it to be under by \$30,000. Fire Station 53 was over by \$363,000 but the report showed it under by \$230,000.

Station 47:

Chief Bacic reported that the alerting system was almost complete. The fiber optic line and connectivity still must be run, but he anticipated completion in July.

Station 29:

Mr. Carbon reported Station 29 was out to bid and would be awarded July 15. He informed Chair Jarrett that there were 31 pre-qualified statements but 6 had been rejected.

Station 49:

Ms. Geen informed the Board that construction documents would be complete and delivered June 30. Mr. Carbon stated the temporary facility had been approved by the Planning and Zoning Board and would be on the July 1 City Commission agenda. The bid date would be set after the Building Department performed the initial review.

Chair Jarrett asked Mr. Carbon how the public meeting had gone. Mr. Carbon reported some residents had been concerned about the temporary station location and wondered

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if it could be located in the Las Olas Boulevard/Las Olas Place area. No concerns had been expressed regarding the design of the building. Mr. Whitmore had questioned why the project must not go through the DRC process again. Mr. Carbon had responded to this, and offered to forward his response to Board members.

Station 3:

Mr. Carbon informed the Board that plans were due in mid-July and the plat approval was on the June 24 County Commission agenda. He anticipated the plat would be recorded by the end of October and the project would then go out to bid. Mr. Carbon stated the driveway issue had been resolved with Broward County Transportation.

Station 35:

Mr. Carbon said Pastor Dan was pushing this project. He had stated he would give the City no more land, so Mr. Snedaker was arranging the Station to accommodate the site. Currently, they would only have 13 parking spaces, so they must seek parking relief and pursue a joint parking agreement with the pastor for the additional spaces.

Member Graham asked if there was a "Plan B" in the event the proposed deal fell through. Mr. Carbon stated they had a preliminary design for a back-in station that would face 18th Terrace [instead of Commercial Boulevard]. The date for the start of the construction documents was May 2009. Groundbreaking was tentatively scheduled for June 2010.

Station 46:

Mr. Carbon reported the Planning and Zoning Board had denied the City's request for a land use amendment at the previous evening's meeting, but he intended to go to the July 1 City Commission meeting to request they override that decision. Member Graham noted the land use amendment would take 12 to 18 months to be processed through the County. She had asked Mr. Carbon if there was a "Plan B" because she had been told by "those people that know the County's procedures" that the request to take land from Mills Pond Park would be denied.

Mr. Carbon explained that the design for Station 46 was schematic and was very similar to Station 3. Chair Jarrett felt that because they were so short on funds, if there was any doubt of approval, they should not be spending any money. Member Graham remembered that someone had remarked at the previous evening's Planning and Zoning Board meeting, "Half the City's for sale and the other half's in foreclosure." Member Graham suggested they find land on 19th Street, do a unity of title and a zoning change and locate a station there.

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Member Kozich asked if anyone had spoken to any County Commissioner regarding using land from Mills Pond Park. Mr. Carbon said he had not, and Member Kozich felt someone should. Mr. Carbon said Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, had spoken with people on the Planning Council, and “they seemed to be somewhat in favor of it.”

Since he felt there was a better than 50% chance the land use amendment would fail, Member McTigue believed they should look for other land options. This would allow them to say they could find no other options in the area, and any available property was too expensive. Mr. Carbon said he had the appraised value of the six properties they had investigated.

Member Graham said at the January Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, other viable sites had been discussed, but Mr. Snedaker and Assistant Chief Justinak had not addressed these suggestions. Member Graham felt they were not going about this the right way if the only reason they were investigating other sites was to use this information as leverage to justify taking parkland. Member Graham said if there was “some incentive to find a site to put a station on...I’m sure it would happen.”

Member McTigue pointed out that there was public benefit to the Fire Station, and they had recently gained 22 acres of park land. Member Graham said, “The idea is to keep gaining and not to diminish the holdings.” Mr. Carbon said the residents wanted the station at the park. Member Graham’s biggest concern was that there was no alternative plan.

Chair Jarrett encouraged staff to determine which County Commissioner’s district this was in and contact him/her to solicit support. He believed the feelings of the Commissioner whose territory this was would influence which way the vote went.

Stations 54 and 13:

Mr. Carbon said the evaluations indicated they could not refurbish these stations; they must build new ones for \$6.7 million.

Regarding Station 13, Mr. Carbon reported they were talking to the State Park Department about extra land so there would be no need for a temporary station.

Member Graham asked if nothing had been done regarding Station 54 since last July. Mr. Carbon replied that they had evaluated Station 54 for rehabilitation. They were now considering funding sources for rebuilding the 54 and 13.

Member Thabit suggested the City put some money aside each year for rebuilding Stations 54 and 13.

4. Member Discussion Items

Annual Report

Mr. Carbon stated the Board's annual report would be included in the backup for the City Commission's July 15 meeting. Mr. Carbon agreed to email the report to Board members and said they had until the end of next week to make comments.

5. Adjournment

The Board's next meeting was scheduled for July 17, 2008.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Attachments:

Financial Report

Minutes – May 2008

Fire Station Monthly Reports

Program Schedule