

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

City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33301
July 17, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Board Member	Attendance	1/2008 through 12/2008 Cumulative Attendance	
		P	A
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	6	0
Dianne Shuler, Vice Chair	A	4	2
Don Bastedo	P	6	0
Mary Graham	P	4	2
Steve Kirsch	P	6	0
Allan Kozich	P	6	0
Delores McKinley	A	4	1
Patrick McTigue	P	6	0
Douglas Ruth	P	6	0
Norman Thabit	P	6	0

Staff

Robert Bacic, Battalion Chief
Frank Snedaker, Chief City Architect
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 6:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: June 2008

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

3. Staff Liaison Report

Construction

Station 47:

Mr. Friedman reported there would be a moving coordination meeting next Monday and he anticipated move in within two weeks. He stated almost all punch list items were complete, and WaterWorks 2010 was almost finished. Chief Bacic explained that the exact move-in date would be established at the move-in meeting. He stated one of the big issues at this station was connection of the fiber; the old station 47's fiber must be taken down and transferred to the new station 47. He noted that at station 53, fiber had been run before the move and only required switch over.

Station 53

Mr. Friedman informed the Board that this station was moved in and operational. There were a few small punch items remaining. Mr. Friedman remarked that the remaining punch items were "very minor."

Design

Station 29

Mr. Snedaker reported Station 29 was out to bid. The bids would be opened August 6 and they expected to award the contract at the first City Commission meeting in September. Mr. Snedaker said minor changes had been made during the permit review process and would be incorporated into an addendum.

Station 49

Mr. Snedaker anticipated drawings for Station 49 would be completed the following week, and would be submitted for initial permit review at the end of July.

Station 3

Mr. Snedaker stated there would be a final coordination meeting with the consultants on July 22. He anticipated drawings ready to be submitted to the Building Department in early August.

Public Meetings

Station 46

Mr. Snedaker stated this had gone to the City Commission at their first July meeting, and they were now preparing to submit applications to the Broward Planning Council by August. The City was also preparing other land use amendments that would add 4.2 acres to the Parks and Open Space land use in the City. They believed this would increase the likelihood of being granted the land use change for the Fire Station.

Mr. Snedaker explained that the land use change was a complicated process. It must first be presented to the Broward County Planning Council for two hearings. It would then be presented to the County Commission, and come back to the City Commission for two hearings. Finally, it would go back to the Planning Council for certification. Mr. Snedaker anticipated that if all these hearings went smoothly, they would have a final decision by February or March.

Temporary Station 49

Mr. Snedaker reported the City Commission had approved the temporary site plan for Station 49. Staff was preparing final DRC sign off for the following week and the plans would then go in for permit approval.

Preliminary Design

Station 35

Mr. Snedaker said they were working with the adjacent church and he felt they had a good opportunity to perform a land swap. The City and the Church's designers were working together on this. Member Ruth asked, "Any papers signed yet?" Mr. Snedaker stated they did not want to sign any papers until they had a plan that worked, and noted that this was often done. Mr. Snedaker informed Member Ruth that no concessions were being made to the Church.

Member Thabit asked the cost of the City's design work; Mr. Snedaker stated so far, they had only utilized staff time, which would not come out of bond funds. Member Thabit asked for an estimate of total costs to perform the land swap. Mr. Snedaker replied that it would cost "considerably less than it would cost to build a temporary Station somewhere." He added that if they could come to the agreement, the project would move ahead faster than it would if they needed to find a site and build a temporary Station.

Member Graham felt that staff time devoted to design work for various stations was “time taken away from other things, and I don’t believe you’re over-staffed.” She thought some of the projects were “somewhat ephemeral to be putting time and energy into them when there’s others that perhaps would be moving forward.”

Chair Jarrett asked how many square feet they would have if the land swap deal went through. Mr. Snedaker said they would have approximately the same square footage as they already had, perhaps a little more. He remarked that parking would be an issue, and the negotiations included shared parking during shift change periods.

Regarding his confidence level that the land swap would go through, Mr. Snedaker stated, “They want to do it; we want to do it” and both parties were moving forward.

Evaluation

Station 13

Mr. Snedaker stated they had a preliminary design and had opened negotiations with the State Parks Department regarding additional land at Birch State Park that would give the City back the original land area that had been provided in the original agreement with the State in the 1940s. He explained that when Sunrise Boulevard had been widened, the State had taken 40 feet. Mr. Snedaker confirmed for Chair Jarrett that if they got the 40 feet back, this would solve the problem of bringing the ladder truck in the back door.

Mr. Snedaker said they were also hoping to be able to shift the Station to the west so the existing Station could remain operational while construction took place on the new one.

4. Member Discussion Items

Annual Report

Mr. Snedaker informed the Board that their report would be presented to the City Commission at their first September meeting. Mr. Snedaker believed that the report had not yet been presented to the City Commission because the July agenda was already full due to the Commission’s August recess.

August meeting

Motion made by Member Thabit, seconded by Member Graham, for the Board not to meet in August. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

Station 53 Financials

Member McTigue referred to discrepancies in the URS and budget reports, and said he would like accurate numbers for the Board to review. Member Thabit thought they could suggest to Mr. Carbon that the next budget should include the correct amount budgeted, and amounts spent and obligated. The budget could be adjusted to match the contract and change order values.

Mr. Snedaker explained that the reports for stations 47 and 53 included general fund and bond monies. Also, the report only reflected the construction contract. Member Graham wanted the soft costs broken out from the budget figures as well.

Mr. Friedman said he had created the reports for Stations 53 and 47 because the projects were complete. He explained that the numbers on those reports were “accurate in terms of what we paid the contractor... with respect to...contract corrections because of change orders, allowances...” and he vouched for the accuracy of these reports. The other report was created by the accounting department, and included many additional factors. Mr. Friedman said he and Mr. Snedaker would suggest to Mr. Carbon that the roll up sheet figures should match the actual costs. Member Graham suggested the City Auditor should help with this.

Member Graham remarked that when the Board did not receive a breakout of hard and soft cost appropriations, they had no way of knowing “what’s being swapped, robbing Peter to pay Paul, between any of these.” She added that one of the Board’s reasons to delay their annual report was to wait for the final costs for Stations 47 and 53.

Motion made by Member Thabit, seconded by Member Graham, for the Board to be provided with a report at their next meeting itemizing total costs, including hard and soft costs, from all sources of funds, and indicating final per square foot costs to build Stations 47 and 53. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Friedman stated his report comprised the total hard costs to date for Station 47. He noted that the contractor had not submitted the final pay request, but there had been no additional change orders.

Member Graham determined that the per square foot hard cost for Station 47 was \$275.42. Mr. Snedaker said they were using a figure of \$255 per square foot, and noted that they had scaled back on a number of things and made the design more efficient. Mr. Snedaker explained that costs had been reduced by reducing the size of the bathrooms and the height of the buildings. Member Graham said total hard and soft cost added up to \$333.93 per square foot. Member Graham did not believe it would be possible to realize significant savings simply by reducing the square footage of the buildings.

Station 49 Financials

Chair Jarrett asked about the cost estimate for Station 49. Mr. Snedaker explained they would have this when the contract went out to bid. He could provide the Board with this information at their next meeting. Mr. Snedaker thought Mr. Carbon had added “a rather hefty contingency” to this station due to its unique design and location.

Mr. Sherman Whitmore asked about the parking issues at Station 49; Mr. Snedaker said this had been resolved. Mr. Snedaker said the size of the Station had been reduced approximately 25%. Mr. Whitmore wondered where people utilizing the community room at Station 49 would park and Mr. Snedaker explained the available parking. Mr. Whitmore stated, “If you’re cutting it back, you certainly don’t need a community room that nobody’s going to go for.” Mr. Snedaker explained the community room was part of the original proposal as an inducement to voters to approve the bond. He added that this room would be used for Fire Department classes and training as well.

Mr. Whitmore did not believe so many bedrooms were needed. Chief Bacic explained this was the City’s program, and was the same at every facility. Mr. Snedaker added that the bunk rooms served as offices as well. Mr. Whitmore also expressed concern about the height of the building.

Mr. Myles Wegman was concerned about the setbacks and the height of the building, and stated they had talked to the Mayor about “other options.” Mr. Wegman claimed the project had been approved “without plans.” Mr. Snedaker explained that this project had gone through the same process as any private development. Drawings were approved; there had been two hearings at the Planning and Zoning Board and two hearings at the City Commission, all with proper notice. Mr. Wegman insisted he was not notified and Mr. Snedaker agreed to check if he was on the mailing list.

Mr. Doug Perry stated he represented Mr. Malone, a Harbor Drive resident, and said no one on Harbor Drive had been notified. Mr. Snedaker clarified that Mr. Perry was referring to the temporary station and since Mr. Malone was not within 300 feet, he would not be notified. Mr. Malone’s corporation had been notified of the main station project.

Other Discussion Items

Chair Jarrett acknowledged that Florida State Representative Jack Seiler was present. Representative Seiler said he was unaware of the issue regarding Station 13, and invited the City to contact him regarding this. Mr. Snedaker explained the situation. Representative Seiler felt Birch State Park was a true treasure in south Florida, and locating a Fire Station here would greatly benefit the Park. Mr. Snedaker agreed to have Mr. Carbon contact Representative Seiler’s office.

5. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Attachments:

Financial Report

Minutes – June 2008 Special meeting

Fire Station Monthly Reports

Program Schedule