

**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
August 20, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.

Board Member	Attendance	1/2009 through 12/2009 Cumulative Attendance*	
		P	A
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	7	0
Frank Anderson [6:13]	P	4	0
Don Bastedo	P	6	1
Steve Kirsch	P	7	0
Allan Kozich	A	5	2
Patrick McTigue	P	6	1
June Page	P	7	0
Douglas Ruth	P	6	1

*Note: the Committee did not meet in January due to lack of a quorum

There are currently eight appointed members to the Committee. Therefore, five members constitute a quorum.

Staff

Chantal Botting, Battalion Chief
Frank Snedaker, City Architect
Mark Friedman, City Construction Manager
J. Opperlee, ProtoType Services Recording Clerk

Communications To City Commission

The Fire Bond Committee makes the following recommendations:

- The feasibility study should be paid for from the general fund
- The Fire Bond Committee requests a single representative on the selection committee for the consultant
- The feasibility study should use a 50-year projected population growth study of the greater Fort Lauderdale area
- The feasibility study should determine the appropriate size for personnel and equipment for Stations 8, 13 and 54
- The feasibility study should identify the preferred general vicinity for Fire Station 8

- The feasibility study should take into account areas within greater Fort Lauderdale, areas of possible annexation, as well as future areas of annexation
- The feasibility study should consider any and all Fire Stations within the adjacent areas
- The feasibility study should include the facility needs of all divisions of the Fire Rescue Department, including, but not limited to:
 - housing of reserve apparatus
 - ocean rescue
 - support services/logistics
 - comprehensive training facility
 - fire boat

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Jarrett called the meeting of the Fire-Rescue Bond Blue Ribbon Committee to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: July 2009

Mr. Ruth noted an error on page 2.

Motion made by Mr. McTigue, seconded by Mr. Bastedo, to approve the Board's July minutes as amended. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

3. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Jarrett remembered the Board had agreed months ago to wait until all members were appointed to elect a Vice Chair. He added that the Board was supposed to sunset soon. Originally they were waiting for Commissioner DuBose to appoint his two members, but he had not yet done so. Therefore, they might as well go on with the Vice Chair election.

Mr. McTigue nominated Mr. Kirsch for Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Page. Board unanimously approved.

4. Staff Liaison Report

Station 3

Mr. Friedman reported he was very pleased with progress at Station 3. There were already full height walls around the perimeter and all of the underground utilities were complete. Next month, concrete columns and beams would be done. Mr. Friedman stated there were a number of change orders under negotiation, but none had been approved as yet.

[Mr. Anderson arrived at 6:13]

Station 29

Mr. Friedman stated the shell and roof had been completed; all utilities and windows were installed; exterior stucco and cast stone was complete; interior framing and roofing were finished and MEP rough was in. Work was going very well on this Station as well and Mr. Friedman was very pleased with the quality and expediency of the work.

Mr. Friedman said there had been a total of \$54,000 in change orders at Station 29. There was another \$10,000 worth of change orders under negotiation.

Station 49

Mr. Friedman said Station 49 was now going well. Slabs would be poured the following morning. Total approved change orders on Station 49 totaled \$55,000. There were no other pending change orders. Mr. Friedman reported the retaining wall, foundation and underground utilities were complete. Within the next month the new seawall caps and boat slips would be installed; pre-cast concrete lighting poles would go in, the north driveway access and curbing would be built and exterior masonry walls would be completed.

Station 35

Mr. Snedaker explained that an issue had arisen at the Planning and Zoning Board that required them to request rescheduling. The request would now be heard in October. Mr. Snedaker stated they were negotiating the purchase of a narrow landscape strip they wanted for setback purposes. Chair Jarrett advised Mr. Snedaker to invite the president of the neighborhood association to appear at the Planning and Zoning Board hearing to state the association's support for the project. Mr. Snedaker believed Planning already had letters of support. Mr. Snedaker explained that the owner of the landscape strip was parking on it illegally and he wanted to be compensated \$1 million for the property. The City had offered him alternative parking elsewhere to be a good

neighbor. Mr. Snedaker informed Chair Jarrett that they did not need the land for the setbacks, but they did want the property.

Mr. Snedaker stated they had met with the engineers and the drawings were 90% complete. They would submit the plans to the Building Department for review, knowing that they had an issue with site plan approval. He acknowledged the project would be approximately two months behind.

Station 46

Mr. Snedaker said there was a meeting scheduled the following week with people from the Parks Department. They would set a schedule for access into the park. He stated they had a contract with the MEP and structural consulting engineer that was finalized and would go to the City Commission at their second September meeting.

Station 13

Nothing new to report.

Station 54

Nothing new to report.

Station 8

Nothing new to report.

5. Committee Report to the City Commission

6. Member Discussion Items

[This item was heard out of order]

Financial Reports

Mr. Snedaker informed the Board that the financial reports were included in their packets.

Ms. Page asked why \$1.4 million was listed under Station 8 now; it had been approximately \$470,000 in the annual report. Mr. Snedaker was unsure where the difference had come from and agreed to point out this discrepancy to Mr. Carbon.

Mr. Anderson said Stations 49, 29 and 3 should show up under the construction contract value since they had been awarded. It appeared they were recorded as encumbered funds. Mr. Snedaker explained that when they awarded, they encumbered an additional 10% contingency.

Land for Station 8

Mr. McTigue asked if the realtor had any luck finding property, and Mr. Snedaker said they were in a catch-22 situation since they were unsure of the size of the Station.

Stimulus Grants

Chief Botting had not received word yet regarding the grants. She said she reminded the grants office every week.

Feasibility study/Communication to the City Commission

Mr. Snedaker distributed a transcript of the City Commission meeting when the scope of the Board's services was discussed.

Chair Jarrett said there was disagreement with City staff regarding the feasibility study, and the Board was not happy with the fact that only two stations would be considered for it. Chair Jarrett was aware that Commissioner Rogers did not believe that Station 8 should wait for the feasibility study, but he felt some discussion could set his mind at ease on that. Chair Jarrett felt the consensus of the Board was that it would not be worth doing a feasibility study if only two or three stations would be included.

Chair Jarrett suggested the Board decide what to recommend to the City Commission regarding the study and submit this as their Communication to the City Commission. He pointed out that regardless of the technicalities of what was said at the City Commission meeting, they still had the right to make a recommendation.

Ms. Page felt a complete feasibility study was even more important, now that there would be a new Fire Chief. Chair Jarrett did not feel any station would be held up for the feasibility study because the study would be completed quickly. Ms. Page said stations 46 and 35 were already being delayed, so they could easily add these to the study. Chief Botting pointed out that these stations had been included in the grant application.

Chair Jarrett had researched this, and discovered that adjoining areas must be studied as well, and if this were done for the three stations, the study would need to encompass

much of the City. He therefore did not believe that requesting a study that considered all future needs of the City would be much more work than a proper study on the three stations.

Chief Botting said the City Commission minutes indicated stations 54, 13 and 8 would be evaluated for size and 54 and 13 would be evaluated for location. Future growth and annexed areas, including the northwest area, would be included in the feasibility study as well.

Chair Jarrett asked the Board to create a list of recommendations regarding the feasibility study to include in their minutes' Communication to the City Commission.

Mr. Bastedo felt the study should include annexed areas and the ocean rescue.

Chair Jarrett said the feasibility study would not address costs. He believed they would probably expend the remaining bond funds, and there would be a lull in construction of the remaining stations until the economy picked up. After that, if the City built one station every two years to complete the project, the City should be able to use \$2 million per year from a \$500,000,000 per year budget.

Mr. Anderson thought the study should have three components: determine the proper size for the three stations to handle population growth for five or ten years; consider future growth, including annexed areas and the northwest, based on a 35 or 50-year growth cycle; assess ocean rescue's current and future conditions.

The Board discussed how the study should be paid for and agreed by consensus to recommend that it be paid for out of the general fund.

Mr. Anderson cautioned that any changes made to a station that received grant funds must be resubmitted. Chair Jarrett said if they received the grants, they would build the stations as submitted for the grants. Mr. Snedaker reminded the Board that the City already had a signed agreement with the church for the Station 35 land acquisition.

Mr. Anderson said all existing stations such as Broward County and volunteer stations in potential annexed areas should be included.

Ms. Page wondered if they should consider providing services to adjacent areas currently served by other entities. This would require an existing Fire Station the City could take over, or building a Fire Station big enough to accommodate sufficient personnel. Chair Jarrett said to his knowledge, they could not compete with Broward County's service prices.

Chair Jarrett said so far the Board agreed the following should be covered by the study: the sizes of the stations 8, 13 and 54; divisions of the Fire Department not included in the fire bond, such as: the support division, a comprehensive training facility and ocean rescue facilities; long-term planning for the entire City, including areas of annexation, future annexation and areas that currently had long response times. Regarding future annexed areas, the study should take into account County stations located in these possible annexed areas. Mr. Anderson recommended specifying a time frame for determining the size of the first three stations. Chair Jarrett reminded the Board that they had told the citizens that they would build stations to serve the City for 50 years with the bond money.

Mr. Anderson wanted the Board to participate in selection of the feasibility study consultant. Mr. Snedaker believed this had been done in the past.

The Board further edited their recommendations regarding the feasibility study to include under Communication to the City Commission and agreed upon eight items.

Chair Jarrett advised Ms. Page would forward the list of their recommendations to Board members.

New Fire Chief

Mr. Anderson asked when the Fire Chief would be leaving and Chief Botting said it was sometime in October. Mr. Anderson wondered how a new Chief could affect everything the Board was doing. Chair Jarrett felt the new Chief would not affect it because the feasibility study would be completed before there was a new Chief.

7. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next regular meeting: September 17, 2009

Attachments:

Financial Report
Minutes – July, 2009
Fire Station Monthly Reports

Fire Rescue Blue Ribbon Committee
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Program schedule

[Minutes prepared by J. Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.]