



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

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FIRE RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING
APRIL 22, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

Board Member	Attendance	1/2021 through 12/2021 Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Douglas Meade, Chair	P	3	0
Frank Snedaker, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Mark Booth	A	2	1
Raymond Dettmann	P	3	0
Patrick Dirindin	P	3	0
Don Larson	P	2	1
Charles Tatelbaum	A	2	1
John Vratsinas	P	3	0

Also Attending

Staff

Irina Tokar, Senior Project Manager
Dr. Nancy Glassman, Interim Deputy Public Works Director
Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief
Vanessa Mutchnik, Recording Secretary, Prototype Inc.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

• **Roll Call**

Roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

• **February 25, 2021**

Motion made by Vice Chair Snedaker, seconded by Mr. Vratsinas, to approve the minutes of the Committee’s February 22, 2021 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

III. Staff Liaison Report

Senior Project Manager Irina Tokar asked if anyone had any comments regarding the Fire Bond Expenditures Report. There were no comments.

- **Project Status – Fire Station #8 and Fire Station #13**

Fire Station #8

Ms. Tokar reported that the contractor obtained a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) on March 23, 2021. The Fire Rescue Department has moved into the building and is operating from this facility. The Contractor is working on addressing punch list items including redoing the epoxy floor coating throughout the Fire Station and is recoating the fire bay flooring.

Quite a few complaints were received from the Fire Department that the bay floor is slippery and the epoxy floor throughout the Fire Station traps dirt, so that will be addressed with the Contractor.

Traffic signalization work, required with the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC), is underway and estimated for completion by June 2021. A draft of the agreement with FEC has been approved. The agreement also requires Commission approval and has been submitted for the May 4, 2021 agenda. Change Order #9, which includes FEC related work has been approved.

Fire Station #13

Ms. Tokar indicated that the same schematic drawings were attached because there was no meeting last month and she wanted to see if there were any comments. She noted there were a few suggestions at the last meeting.

ACAI Associates, Inc., their architectural consultant, is working on the design development of the four-bay, back-in Fire Station selected for this site. The original schematic design option for the four-bay station was approximately 15,000 square feet and they were able to reduce it to 14,373 square feet. They are still working with ACAI on further optimization of the proposed layout to minimize its square footage and to get more options for exterior elevations (Exhibit II).

The project design is progressing as planned and on schedule.

City staff submitted a grant application to the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program (GIP) requesting \$4,100,000 in additional construction funding. Unfortunately, their application did not receive funding during the first cycle of awards, but they are hopeful for the second cycle. Meanwhile, they are planning to submit the funding request

as part of the transportation infrastructure package including Fire Station #13 and Fire Station #88.

Their target date for construction is May 2022, pending receipt of the necessary funding.

In response to Chair Meade, Ms. Tokar stated ACAI selected the colors.

Chair Meade questioned if they were still going to work on optimizing space and functionality to maybe save some space somewhere.

Ms. Tokar indicated this is their first complete submission of the schematic design. Their first set of comments were sent to Deputy Fire Chief Bacic for review, and he has some suggestions. The there are any suggestions from the Board, they will be incorporated, and everything will be passed to the architect. Hopefully, a revised layout will be presented at the next meeting. They were not impressed with the elevations and think they could be better; they also think the layout could be optimized as well.

Vice Chair Snedaker mentioned the tower in front and questioned if anything was in the upper level or if it was decorative.

Ms. Tokar stated most of it was decorative. They do not think it is necessary and believe a similar design could be achieved without using space that is not needed.

Chair Meade commented that traditionally they were used to hang the hose to dry.

Vice Chair Snedaker stated the new hoses do not need that.

Deputy Fire Chief Bacic advised that was correct. With the technology and the way hoses are made, they have not had a dry hose in probably 20 years.

In response to Chair Meade's question about finding a better use for the space, Ms. Tokar thought the suggestion was to eliminate it.

Vice Chair Snedaker questioned if there were enough crew quarters for fire personnel in the future if an engine or something had to be added to that facility. He noted there would be more buildings and high rises in the future.

Ms. Tokar stated the reason they went with a four-bay station was so there was room for expansion. A full-size bay was for the possibility of upgrading the space for fire trucks. The layout can always be optimized, and the site was pretty much developed to the maximum.

Deputy Fire Chief Bacic advised the station was designed for an engine, a ladder, a Rescue, and a Battalion, and it has enough bedrooms and capabilities for max staffing. There is enough room in the station to accommodate sleeping quarters.

Vice Chair Snedaker mentioned the fact that the Fire Station is on a barrier island, so everyone must leave the Station even though it is designed to withstand the storm.

Deputy Fire Chief Bacic stated that was correct, they do not evacuate because of a storm, they evacuate because of storm surge. If there is an evacuation order, they are probably one of the last ones to leave the barrier island, but they need to evacuate like everyone else.

Chair Meade questioned what elevation the fire house has with respect to sea level.

Ms. Tokar stated as code requires for essential facilities, they are at eight feet.

Chair Meade questioned if that was the revised numbers that include Global Warming, etc. He was concerned because even though the trucks would be gone, everything in the Fire Station could be subject to damage.

Ms. Tokar replied yes and noted that the bay and living areas are the same elevation of eight feet.

Temporary Fire Station #13 (This project is funded through other sources)

Ms. Tokar stated this project for Temporary Fire Station #13 is on schedule. Craven Thompson & Associates (CTA) finalized the bidding package, and it is routed for internal approvals. They expect the bid to be ready for advertising at the end of April.

The projected construction start date is June 2021 with estimated completion in October 2021.

Vice Chair Snedaker questioned how long the bid would be on the street if it is advertised at the end of this month.

Ms. Tokar advised it would be 30 days.

Vice Chair Snedaker stated that would be the end of May, so he did not know how construction would begin in June since they have to go to two Readings with City Commission.

Ms. Tokar indicated it would be one Reading because it is straight contractor work, so they will try to draft everything and have CAM ready, so once bid numbers are available, they could submit it to the next Commission in two weeks. They are estimating four

months for construction because they have to meet an October deadline. There is a requirement from Broward County to upgrade the awarding system, so they are trying to avoid upgrading at permanent Fire Station #13, since they are going to use Temporary Fire Station #13.

Chair Meade stated they are looking for a full move in in October.

Note: The last few minutes of this meeting were not recorded due to technical difficulties.

V. Adjournment

The next meeting is May 27, 2021.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

{Minutes prepared by C. Guifarro, Prototype, Inc.}