



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE  
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024  
6:00 P.M.**

**1/2024 through 12/2024  
Cumulative Attendance**

| <b>Board Member</b>      | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Frank Snedaker, Chair    | P                 | 4              | 0             |
| David Cooper, Vice Chair | P                 | 4              | 0             |
| Michelle Heiser          | A                 | 3              | 1             |
| John Vratsinas           | P                 | 3              | 1             |

**Also Attending**

Gary Foster, Senior Project Manager, Engineering  
Omar Castellon, Assistant Public Works Director, Engineering  
Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief  
Vickie Beauvais, Administrative Assistant  
Karen Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Omar Castellon, Assistant Public Works Director, introduced himself briefly. He advised that Ingrid Kindbom would be taking over as liaison to the Board, and Gary Foster had recently joined the team.

**• Roll Call**

Roll was called and quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- April 25, 2024**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Vratsinas, and seconded by Ms. Heiser, to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2024 meeting as presented. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**3. Staff Liaison Report**

Mr. Castellon summarized the memorandum dated July 25, 2024. He noted the Expenditure Report was attached.

### **Fire Station #8:**

Mr. Castellon advised the only thing left on Fire Station No. 8 was installation of the insulation, which should be done shortly. He acknowledged the work had been delayed many times, but it was a small job and staff believes it will solve the noise issue. He stated the change order would be going for Commission approval in August.

### **Fire Station #13**

Mr. Castellon noted ACAI Associates, Inc., City of Fort Lauderdale's architectural consultant, had gone out of business with one (1) week notice, so staff is in the process of putting together a bid package to complete a Design Criteria Package (DCP) to go out for Request for Proposals (RFP) to go out in the next week.

Chair Snedaker asked if this would be a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contract. Mr. Castellon stated the 30 percent design information would be provided and then bids sought for completion of the design and construction.

Mr. Vratsinas expressed concern there may be additional air conditioning problems. Mr. Castellon clarified that experience with design of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in South Florida would be required. He discussed performance bonds and construction bonds briefly.

Mr. Vratsinas asked if the HVAC experience requirement would limit the number of consultants able to respond to the bid. Chair Snedaker commented that there should be enough consultants.

Chair Snedaker stated the design package had previously been between 60 and 90 percent, and that design had been through the Development Review Committee (DRC) process and other steps. He asked if that plan was being thrown out entirely. Mr. Castellon stated it would be presented to the consultant awarded the DCP, and they would use it as a basis for the conceptual design.

Chair Snedaker pointed out the site had particular needs because of the grades and related issues with drainage, and it had taken a while to work those issues out previously. He suggested there may be a way to hire some of the design consultants who did parts of the original work to save reinventing the wheel.

Mr. Foster shared that when hiring a design consultant, they would hire their own subcontractors, making it very difficult to force a concept on them.

Mr. Vratsinas commented that he believed they were beyond the point of micromanaging the subconsultants and other issues. He asserted they needed to finish Fire Station 13 and close the chapter on this Board.

Mr. Castellon shared that the City Attorney's office had been consulted, and they advised this was the appropriate path to follow.

Mr. Cooper commented that the concern was that the lessons learned previously are not incorporated into the new design, and then rework needs to be done. Discussion continued.

**Temporary Fire Station #13** (This project is funded through other sources and managed by TAM)

Mr. Castellon stated he had confirmed with TAM, and they reported the station would be functional by the end of the month. He noted he believes the only thing left was for Comcast to come to connect the internet.

Chair Snedaker clarified that the station would not be occupied at the end of the month. Deputy Chief Robert Bacic advised that the Fire Chief was evaluating the timeline. Chair Snedaker asked if equipment would need to be relocated. Deputy Chief Bacic stated everything is already ready to go. He noted Ocean Rescue would remain in their temporary station until their trailer was ready at the Aquatic Center, which would be several months.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a. Discussion of Fire Stations**

Chair Snedaker asked if the City had been able to do anything to go after ACAI Associates, Inc. financially, whether through insurance or some other option. Mr. Castellon stated legal was in the process of looking at the issue, and he could provide an update when it was available.

#### **5. New Business**

Chair Snedaker commented that he was seeing a lot of new construction and asked if there had been any progress on the possibility of putting Fire Impact Fees in place. He noted the Board had sent a memorandum to the City Commission asking them to review the idea to mixed reception, but nothing had ever happened. He pointed out there are impact fees for sewer, water, and parks, and this Board had previously asked why not fire.

Mr. Vratsinas pointed out this issue may not be within the purview of the Board. Deputy Chief Bacic confirmed the focus was the original \$40 million bond. Mr. Cooper added that there was a separate Fire Rescue Advisory Committee. Discussion continued.

##### **a. Staff Liaison Transfer**

Item previously addressed.

**b. Discuss Combining the November/December Meetings**

Mr. Vratsinas suggested the Board combine its November and December meetings. Discussion ensued as to the best date and time for the meeting.

**Motion** was made by Mr. Vratsinas, and seconded by Mr. Cooper, to combine the November at December meetings on December 5 at a time to be determined, with 6 p.m., 5 p.m., and 4 p.m. as options in order of preference. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**6. Adjournment – Next regular meeting: Thursday, August 22, 2024**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by C. Parkinson, Prototype, Inc.]