



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE  
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**1/2022 through 12/2022  
Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Douglas Meade, Chair	P	1	0
Frank Snedaker, Vice Chair (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)	P	1	0
Mark Booth	P	1	0
Raymond Dettmann	P	1	0
Don Larson	P	1	0
Charles Tatelbaum	P	1	0
John Vratsinas	P	1	0

**Also Attending**

**Staff**

Irina Tokar, Senior Project Manager  
Danica Grujicic, PMII  
Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief  
Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer  
Betty Crews, Administrative Assistant  
Carla Blair, Prototype, Inc.

**1. Call to Order**

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

**• Roll Call**

Roll was called and quorum was present.

**Communication to City Commission**

Chair Meade indicated that the Committee expressed interest to extend their peer review and responsibility in addition to oversight of the Bond. A rough draft was sent to

Committee members, and he questioned if there were any comments and if this was something they wanted to send to the Commission for their review. Mr. Tatelbaum mentioned a typo, the second word in the first paragraph, “had”, does not belong there. Mr. Vratsinas stated there was a typo in the last sentence of the last paragraph of Page 2, should read “City Commission”. Ms. Tokar clarified that the last paragraph should say, “City Commission”. Chair Meade commented that his copy says, “The Committee strongly urges the City Commission...”.

**Motion** made by Mr. Tatelbaum, seconded by Mr. Vratsinas, to approve the rough draft. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**DRAFT**  
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**Motion** made by Mr. Tatelbaum, seconded by Mr. Vratsinas, to approve the rough draft. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

## **2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- **December 2, 2021**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Larson, and seconded by Mr. Booth, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

## **3. Staff Liaison Report**

Senior Project Manager Irina Tokar presented the Fire Bond Expenditure Report and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

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

Ms. Tokar read the staff memorandum for Fire Station #8.

Fire Station #8 Fire Station is complete and operational. The warranty period for the building and the site is expiring at the end of this month. The City conducted the warranty inspection, and we are in the process of finalizing the punch list to be addressed by the Contractor. As previously reported, water hammer noise is continuing. The Consultant inspected the water piping and pointed out a few installation issues that were addressed by the Contractor. We also conducted a meter bypass test that was recommended by the Contractor as a possible cause for the noise. The findings were sent to the Consultant, and they are looking at other possible solutions. All the tests were done at no cost to the City and the Contractor also installed an additional water hammer arrestor at no charge. Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) signalization work is still pending due to the additional funding needed. This work is to coordinate the Fire Station signals with the adjacent railway crossing as it was required by Broward County Traffic Division. The change order for the additional new conduit was submitted by the Contractor since they are not able to use the existing conduit due to the size and its condition as confirmed by the Engineer of Record. Commission approval is required prior to proceeding with the traffic signalization scope.

### **Fire Station #13:**

Ms. Tokar read the staff memorandum for Fire Station #13.

Fire Station #13 ACAI Associates, Inc., the City's architectural consultant, submitted the Design Development drawing for the administrative review as Site Plan Level II on November 9, 2021. ACAI addressed the majority of the comments received. We have the following pending comments including the requirement to conduct an archeological survey, public outreach for the properties within a 300 foot radius, requirement for platting as per Broward County Planning Council (Exhibit II), Sunrise Boulevard improvements as a condition of approval of the Driveway Connection Permit with FDOT, and completion of an arborist survey of the trees that potentially may be impacted during construction of the required retaining walls around the site. We received authorization to proceed with an archeological survey and we are in the process of scheduling the work. We also are working with Public Information Office (PIO) on required outreach. ACAI is finalizing the request for the additional services to proceed with the additional ALTA Survey, required title work to prepare and process plat approval, arborist survey, design of required additional street improvements along Sunrise Boulevard required by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as well as schedule adjustment. The platting process may take approximately from 9-12 months but can occur concurrently with permitting and bidding if agreement is reached between City, County and State. We have also requested the Consultant reach out to the Broward County Planning Council to confirm if platting is absolutely necessary since this is a replacement of the existing fire station use. ACAI is working on finalizing the Design Development cost estimate. Design adjustments, if necessary, will be made prior to proceeding further with the Construction Documents.

Mr. Tatelbaum commented that they just researched today and he was not sure if the Planning Counsel was looking at Sub-Section 6 of the policy cited, because there is a Special Exception for a governmental facility, where the Broward County Commission finds the construction of the facility is essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and Commissioners can waive certain things. He wanted to make sure ACAI was familiar with that because it could expedite the entire process.

Ms. Tokar stated that was correct and noted there are some other exceptions in the code they can possibly use. They would like to avoid this process because it would be additional cost and time. The consultant was directed to look into this to see what can be done, so they can avoid the process.

Mr. Tatelbaum indicated that his Land Use law partner said the City has to get the County Commission to vote on it, and then it can be bypassed to a large degree.

Ms. Tokar advised they would look into this.

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

Ms. Tokar read the staff memorandum updating for temporary Fire Station #13.

The project for temporary Fire Station #13 is on schedule and is currently in the construction phase. This temporary Fire Station #13 will be used until the new Fire Station #13 is constructed and ready for occupancy. The Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued to the Contractor for commencement of construction starting on 01/18/2022 with the final completion due 05/18/2022.

Chair Meade questioned if construction has started.

Ms. Tokar stated they applied for the Building permit and sent submittals. They are waiting for the Building Department to allow them to start clearing the site. They need to submit Engineer shop drawings for the full permit approval, so they are waiting for Building Department permission to start the site preparation work while they are getting engineered shop drawings for the full approval.

Chair Meade commented they have four months and asked if they have not started yet was pushing the date or if it will remain at May 18, 2022.

Ms. Tokar indicated the contractor has said they are experiencing staffing issues due to COVID and delays in material. The date given is per contract, no extensions have been granted to the contractor at this point. She noted that permitting and submittals are part of the contract.

#### **4. Communication to City Commission regarding extending the scope of the Fire Rescue Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee**

Chair Meade indicated that the Committee expressed interest to extend their peer review and responsibility in addition to oversight of the Bond. A rough draft was sent to Committee members, and he questioned if there were any comments and if this was something they wanted to send to the Commission for their review.

Mr. Tatelbaum mentioned a typo, the second word in the first paragraph, "had", does not belong there.

Mr. Vratsinas stated there was a typo in the last sentence of the last paragraph of Page 2, should read "City Commission".

Ms. Tokar clarified that the last paragraph should say, "City Commission".

Chair Meade commented that his copy says, "The Committee strongly urges the City Commission...".

**Motion** made by Mr. Tatelbaum, seconded by Mr. Vratsinas, to approve the rough draft. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

#### **5. Fire Bond Committee Future Meeting Dates:**

**February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23; July 28; August 25;  
September 22; October 27; November (TB); December 22, 2022**

Chief Bacic asked if anyone had any questions for him.

Chair Meade questioned who has leeway if the fire signals and train signals are coordinated; which signals go first?

Chief Bacic stated the train always has the right-of-way. The signals at Fire Station #8 help prevent traffic going eastbound from backing up on the tracks, especially with Brightline trains; they come through so quick and they do not want anyone getting hurt. When Broward County Traffic Management looked at the project, they said signalization was needed at that location. The Fire Department likes having a light to warn everyone when fire trucks are coming out, so they do not have to wait when they get to the street. If a train is coming, the train lights are going to come down and will stop traffic on both sides, as well as the fire trucks. That is why it was so important when Fire Station #8 was built that there was another Station east of the tracks. Having Fire Station #8 east of the tracks is a huge thing when looking at response times, especially where there is a long train going two miles an hour.

Mr. Booth referenced the staff report and noted there is still a problem with the noise at the Fire Station.

Chief Bacic advised they were having plumbing issues; the plumbing rattles, makes a loud noise at night, and wakes up the whole Fire Station. A couple different things were done to mitigate, but the noise is still there. They were looking at doing some testing with the meter to see about the size of the meter coming in. He did not know if that test was completed; he will have to check.

Mr. Booth questioned if anything has been eliminated. During the last report they could not find out where the noise was coming from and they still cannot figure it out.

Chief Bacic asked Ms. Tokar if the test was conducted.

Ms. Tokar replied the test was done and the contractor said the water meter was under size, so they did a bypass test and the noise is still there. They are trying to find out what is wrong; it might be a design or installation issue.

Chair Meade questioned if these are pressure flush toilets.

Ms. Tokar indicated they are flush valves.

Chair Meade asked if there is a possibility of putting a tank toilet in or if it is illegal in a public building.

Ms. Tokar stated it is legal. It is a good suggestion; she will bring it up to the designer and contractor.

Mr. Booth questioned if it only happens when the toilet is flushed.

Chair Meade commented it is not with the sinks or showers, only when flushing the toilet.

Ms. Tokar indicated they already installed additional hammer arrestors, which is supposed to address the noise; they even installed two extra ones. It is a mystery, the contractor did a lot of work at no charge and is working diligently trying to resolve this.

#### **6. Adjournment – Next regular meeting: February 24, 2022**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

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