



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

15-0395

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 5, 2015

TITLE: South Side School Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding the South Side School project.

Northeast Area:

The project is on schedule (Exhibit 1). The City's consultant, Synalovski Romanick and Saye (SRS) has completed the 100% design and construction documents. The design drawings require the review and approval from three agencies: 1) City of Fort Lauderdale Historical Preservation Board, 2) State of Florida, Department of State Division of Historical Resources (FDHR), and 3) Broward County Historical Preservation Board, in addition to other standard construction drawing reviews (e.g., permitting related reviews). The drawings were approved by the City's Historical Preservation Board on January 5, 2015 and by the Broward County Historical Preservation Board on March 18, 2015.

However, FDHR is not in agreement with Broward County and the City's Historical Preservation Board approvals and recommendations, and comments were provided from FDHR to the City on March 16, 2015. Specifically, FDHR objects to the exterior options selected by the City and County Historical Preservation Board and recommends proceeding with the alternates which were rejected by the City's Historical Preservation Board. Staff has submitted a response to FDHR explaining the City's Historical Preservation Board and Broward County's recommendations, and is awaiting a response (Exhibit 2). FDHR has indicated that they will complete their review by the end of April. Should approval not be received, City staff has set up a meeting with FDHR in Tallahassee for the purposes of moving this project forward.

If FDHR approves the recommendations of the City and County Historical Board based on staff's response by the end of April the projected construction commencement will not be impacted. However, if FDHR rejects the recommendations, then the construction drawings will need to be modified to incorporate FDHR's comments. These modified drawings will need to be resubmitted and approved by both the City and County Historical Boards. This will in turn result in delays in commencement of construction activities.

In view of the above, the following steps are being taken:

- a) Staff has set up a meeting with FDHR to discuss the comments and responses in an effort to expedite the approval, consistent with the City and County Historical Boards recommendations. The meeting will be scheduled if FDHR rejects any recommendations as submitted by the City.
- b) In an effort to keep the project progress moving forward, staff is proceeding with the bidding process with the current set of documents. Should there be any modifications required as a result of our meetings with FDHR and/or the City and County Historical Boards, a bid addendum will be prepared and issued.

Lastly, staff has been working with Brian Wishneff and Associates and SRS to make sure that the requirements by the Department of Interior are being met for the federal Historic New Market Tax Credit program.

Southeast Area:

Staff is continuing to work with the City's lobbyist in an attempt to get FCT to waive or reduce the current payment requirement of \$123,360 associated with the Restrictive Covenants that accompany the property. This work is currently on hold and it is not part of the current bid package.

Strategic Connections:

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Places Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 3: Be a community that finds opportunities and leverages partnerships to create unique, inviting, and connected gathering places that highlight our beaches, waterways, urban areas, and parks.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Here*.

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – Project Schedule
Exhibit 2 – Response to FDHR

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