

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

April 2, 2007

Room 519 – 10:37 a.m.

Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Moss, Muoio and Robinson, Jr., City Administrator Mitchell, City Attorney McKenna, City Clerk Kauthen and Commissioner-elect Douglas [arrived at 10:41 a.m.];
Absent: Commissioners Mitchell and Weeks.

<p>1.</p>	<p><u>Dreher Park</u> – Assistant City Administrator Rearden [a] stated that the Palm Beach Zoo and the South Florida Science Museum have requested additional parking in Dreher Park and an additional entrance on Southern Boulevard; [b] stated that a consultant was hired to research the parking issue; and [c] noted that staff is awaiting permission to hire a consultant for the additional entrance. Commissioner Moss disclosed that he is a member of the South Florida Science Museum Board of Trustees. City Attorney McKenna recommended that Commissioner Moss not participate in discussions regarding Dreher Park until she researches whether there could be a conflict of interest. Commissioners Robinson and Muoio and Commissioner-elect Douglas conceded to allow a study to be conducted regarding the proposed new entrance.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Youth Empowerment Center</u> – Director of Parks and Recreation Thrower [a] stated that the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center has tripled its attendance in three weeks; [b] noted that the center averages thirty to fifty visiting youths per day; [c] noted that courses the center offers, such as job preparedness courses, are becoming popular. Commissioner Robinson requested statistical information regarding the number of youths that visit the center from zip code 33407. Commissioner Moss suggested that the center provide business attire to youths enrolled in the job preparedness courses for use during job interviews. Director of Parks and Recreation Thrower stated that she would research the idea and ask Teen Temps, Inc. if they would be able to provide clothing directly.</p>

7.	<p><u>Partnership Between City and Boys and Girls Club</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] requested that the lighting and fencing issues be resolved at the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center and the Boys and Girls Club; [b] asked whether the City or Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc. is in charge of public safety at the Boys and Girls Club; [c] requested statistics regarding how many youths from zip code 33407 use the Boys and Girls Club; and [d] asked that a workshop be held regarding the Boys and Girls Club. President and CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc. O’Connor made a presentation of the Agreement that defines the responsibilities of the Boys and Girls Club and the City. Assistant City Administrator Rearden stated that [a] the budget for the fencing from the north end of the Boys and Girls Club to the south end of the parking lot is approximately \$79,000; and [b] the lighting issue is being addressed.</p>
3.	<p><u>Gaines Park Aquatic Center Usage, Ball Field Lighting & East Parking Lot – Lack of Lighting</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] stated that residents had informed him that as of March 30, 2007, forty-two lights were out at Gaines Park; and [b] requested that this issue be resolved.</p>
11.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Muoio requested an update regarding the lighting at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.</p>
4.	<p><u>Code Compliance Dumpster Enclosure</u> – Commissioner Robinson stated that [a] the case of the store owner that he had discussed at the previous Mayor/Commission Work Session has been taken over by the Special Magistrate; [b] he received a new complaint regarding an unenclosed dumpster at an address on Monroe Drive and South Dixie Highway; and [c] the Mayor’s Response Team is currently handling the complaint.</p>

5.	<p><u>State Legislative Updates</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] noted that he met with Palm Beach County’s Legislators in the Florida Senate during his trip to Tallahassee; [b] stated that one Senator suggested that the City create a list of all the unfunded mandates that the State has placed on the City and their costs and then share the data with the Florida League of Cities; and [c] asked that the City follow this recommendation to better understand how the City’s General Fund budget would stand without the unfunded mandates.</p>
6.	<p><u>Fencing of Canals Adjacent to 15th Street and Palm Beach Lakes/I-95 & Robbins Drive/Lake along Village Boulevard</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] stated that he will ask Chief of Facilities for the Palm Beach County School District Sanchez to expedite the fencing of the canal near Roosevelt Elementary School; and [b] noted that he will also ask Mr. Sanchez to have the school district maintain the property around Roosevelt Elementary School’s parking lot located at 15th Street and Windsor Avenue.</p>
11.	<p><u>Other [Continued]</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] asked to find out whether CSX owns the freight unloading area on Windsor Avenue between Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard and 14th Street; [b] requested that staff ask CSX to clean up that area if they do indeed own it; [c] noted that the land along the CSX tracks in the City also needs to be maintained. City Attorney McKenna recommended that the City get in touch with CSX executives regarding the clean-up of their tracks.</p>
10.	<p><u>Mayor’s Matters</u> – The Mayor [a] requested an update regarding the vacant lots located around the City; [b] asked whether it would be possible to require the developers who have unused vacant lots to have the lots sodded; and [c] asked whether it would be possible to require that the lots be surrounded by buffers to hide them from view if it is not possible to require that they be sodded. Commissioner Muoio noted that many cities require restoration bonds from</p>

	<p>developers that state that land that is left vacant must be restored. City Attorney McKenna [a] stated that Code Compliance can require that the developers police the properties and keep them clean, but they cannot currently require developers to landscape the vacant lots; and [b] stated that she would research what can be done regarding the landscaping.</p>
8.	<p><u>Group Homes</u> – Commissioner Moss asked that the City create regulations regarding group homes. The Mayor recommended that the City work with realtors to find prime locations for group homes. City Attorney McKenna stated that data that supports a regulation is required for the regulation to go into effect. Neighborhood Liaison Smith stated that the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), which licenses group homes, said that they would like to meet with neighborhood associations regarding their placement. The Mayor asked that Neighborhood Liaison Reilly bring DCF into contact with the neighborhood associations.</p>
9.	<p><u>Clear Channel</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] disclosed that his ad agency has clients who buy advertising from Clear Channel, Communications Inc., but that Clear Channel is not one of his agency’s clients; [b] stated that Clear Channel’s attorney had submitted a letter to the Mayor of Riviera Beach stating that they would like to do the following: [1] withdraw their application that was competing with another company for a billboard in an industrial district, [2] remove their billboards in the Pleasant City area, and [3] place a billboard in the industrial area along one of the Interstate 95 ramps near the Palm Beach International Airport; [c] noted that the proposed placement of that billboard would conflict with an Ordinance that is currently in effect; [d] suggested that an Ordinance be created that would allow the billboard to be placed on the highway ramp; [e] stated that he does not object to the placement of billboards in industrial areas along off-ramps on the interstate, as long as they meet the City’s regulations</p>

	<p>regarding proximity to residential areas; and [f] asked that City Attorney McKenna have a discussion with Clear Channel. It was the consensus of the Commission that either the Ordinance in effect should be extended, or that a new one should be created. Planning Director Wu stated that a ratio study is needed for the proposed billboard location. City Attorney McKenna stated that she can discuss a policy change with Clear Channel, but that she cannot negotiate with them on what the policy should be.</p>
11.	<p><u>Other [Continued]</u> – City Administrator Mitchell asked that the Commissioners and the Mayor attend the Budget Retreat on April 18, 2007. Commissioner Moss noted that the date conflicts with Commissioner Mitchell’s schedule. City Administrator Mitchell stated that he would select an alternate date that would allow all the Commissioners and the Mayor to attend.</p>
10.	<p><u>Mayor’s Matters [Continued]</u> – The Mayor announced that staff will soon be providing updates regarding the City Center Project, Northwood Village and Pleasant City Revitalization Project, and the Waterfront Project; [b] suggested that CRA Executive Director Briesemeister provide an update of the Northwood Village and Pleasant City Revitalization Project at the next CRA Meeting; and [c] stated that City Commons and Waterfront Project Manager Goldberg will provide an update of the Waterfront Project and Deputy City Administrator Dorritt Miller will provide an update of the City Center Project at later dates.</p>
11.	<p><u>Other [Continued]</u> – Commissioner-elect Douglas expressed her concern regarding trash and debris on the walkway along the western wall of the Palm Beach County Convention Center and on the east side of the tennis courts. The Mayor suggested calling 822-2222 to report such issues after-hours, or contacting either the Mayor’s Response Team or the City Administrator during the day.</p>

	<p>Commissioner Muoio [a] requested an update regarding Roebuck Road; [b] suggested that important policy issues, such as affordable housing, be discussed more frequently at Mayor/Commission Work Sessions; and [c] suggested starting Mayor/Commission Work Sessions earlier. It was the consensus of the Commission to begin Mayor/Commission Work Sessions at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>The Mayor [a] requested an update on the buffering of State Road 7; and [b] stated that she will add Coleman Park to the agenda of the next Mayor/Commission Work Session and integrate that with the affordable housing issue.</p> <p>Commissioner Moss announced that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a meeting regarding State Road 710 on April 10, 2007 on North Jog Road.</p> <p>The Mayor [a] announced that the Commission must appoint a second person to join Commissioner Moss in attending MPO Board meetings; [b] noted that Commissioner Mitchell volunteered to attend MPO Board meetings until someone was appointed. Commissioner Muoio offered to attend MPO meetings. The Mayor then asked that the appointment of Commissioner Muoio be added to the Consent Calendar of the next City Commission Meeting.</p> <p>City Attorney McKenna [a] stated that the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council requested that the City amend the Equal Opportunity Ordinance to include gender identity; and [b] announced that an amendment to the Ordinance will be brought before the Commission at a future date.</p>
12.	<u>Adjournment</u> – 12:10 p.m.