

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

December 10, 2007

Room 519 – 10:07 a.m.

Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Mitchell [arrived at 10:11 a.m.], Moss, Muoio and Robinson Jr., Deputy City Administrator Miller, City Attorney McKenna and City Clerk Kauthen.

1.	<p><u>Clear Lake Overview</u> – Planner Stelly [a] made a presentation on the <u>Clear Lake Overview</u>; and [b] stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (M.P.O) will be reimbursing the City for the project. Commissioner Moss stated that the City Commission has consistently voted against having bike and pedestrian paths behind people’s homes. Commissioner Robinson inquired as to the demographics of the project. Commissioner Mitchell [a] confirmed that no City moneys would be needed to match the grant; and [b] expressed her concerns of having people so close to Okeechobee Boulevard. The Mayor inquired into the accessibility for pedestrians or bicyclist from the North Neighborhoods.</p>
13.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Moss announced that the M.P.O and the Florida Department Of Transportation (F.D.O.T) have approved [1] the Australian Avenue mixed bicycle and trail overpass from North of Okeechobee Boulevard to North of I-95 for 2007/2008; [2] the North Flagler Drive bicycle and trail path from 42nd Street to Currie Park for 2008/2007; and [3] the overlook for Clearlake mixed bicycle and trail path for 2008/2009. Commissioner Mitchell confirmed that the North Flagler Drive bicycle and trail path is a rollover of a previously given grant.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson requested an update from Assistant City Administrator Rearden on the aquatics removal. Assistant City Administrator Rearden stated that he is working on getting the final permit.</p>
2.	<p><u>Palm Beach Atlantic University – Warren Library Phase II & Historic Building update</u> – Mr. Kino from Casey Ciklin Lubitz Martens and O’Connell law firm representing the Palm Beach Atlantic University [a] explained the history of the project; [b] stated that if the rectangular building immediately west of the Rotunda building (West Building) was</p>

to be designated as historic the whole plan would have to be redone; [c] spoke of the financial implications that declaring the West Building a historic building would have on the University; and [d] stated that the City has had eighteen years to designate the building as a historic building. Historic Preservation Planner Mittner spoke of [a] the review process; and [b] the Temple project which had similar issues. Mr. Fleming, Vice President for Development from Palm Beach Atlantic University [a] spoke of the history of the project; and [b] stated that delaying the project could negatively impact fundraising efforts. Commissioner Mitchell [a] raised concerns about the appropriateness of making decisions on this issue without it going through the proper channels; [b] inquired if this issue had arisen before; [c] requested that a meeting be scheduled for after the nineteenth of December 2007, to address the issue. Commissioner Muoio stated that the Commission will make a decision on the seventeenth of December 2007. Commissioner Moss stated the Historic Preservation Board and the Commissioners will have both meetings on the nineteenth of December 2007. City Attorney McKenna explained [a] the policy issues; and [b] that any decision made on this issue could become policy. The Mayor [a] explained the issues Palm Beach Atlantic University has with the City; [b] stated that the Commission needs to decide if the West Building should go before the Historic Board or whether to tell the developer to move forward with the project; [c] inquired as to the viability of incorporating the West Building into the plans; [d] stated that the Planning Department has been asked to change their procedures; and [e] stated that a special meeting should be held once the Historic Preservation Board has made a decision on the building on either the nineteenth or twentieth of December 2007.

11. Norton Park Water Taxi Update – The Mayor [a] spoke of the neighborhood meeting that took place on November 6, 2007; [b] stated that the residents that live in the condominiums across from the proposed dock are against the water taxi; [c] stated that the water taxi for this particular location should be abandoned; [d] stated that the dock could be placed in another location; and [e] requested that Neighborhood Services contact other neighborhoods to see if anybody would like to have a dock in their area. Commissioner Mitchell [a] iterated the importance of a dock being at a destination where people would want to go; and [b] stated that the Norton Museum is no longer

	<p>interested in having a dock. Commissioners Douglas and Muoio [a] expressed their opinion that the water taxi would be a good idea; and [b] stated that they would not push the issue since the residents were against the idea. Commissioner Moss [a] stated that the dock should not be imposed on the residents; [b] stated that other locations had been looked into. Commissioner Robinson stated that since the Norton Museum was no longer interested in the dock, the issue should be dropped.</p>
3.	<p><u>Bike Patrol – Northwest Community</u> – Commissioner Robinson stated that the [a] residents were promised that bike patrols would be on the Tamarind Avenue corridor; and [b] bike patrol would be helpful if only for visibility purposes. Commissioner Moss [a] expressed his opinion that the bike patrols are very effective; [b] suggested looking at ways to increase the bike patrols City wide; and [c] stated that the South end of the City would like even more bike patrols than are currently allocated. Police Chief Bush [a] stated that the bike patrol have always been funded by non-traditional sources, which are currently dwindling; [b] stated that there will never be a time when there will be a full contingency of police officers on bicycles due to it being unfeasible; [c] described how the bike patrols are used; [d] stated that continuing with bike patrols will require additional funding; and [e] expressed interested in the idea of looking at Segway scooters.</p>
4.	<p><u>Downtown Masterplan – Building Height</u> – Commissioner Mitchell [a] expressed concern over the change of height restrictions in the new Downtown Masterplan; and [b] stated that an ordinance has been decreed by the people, that no buildings east of Olive Avenue be over fifteen stories. City Attorney McKenna stated that the City did not change the building height but simply identified areas that would be eligible for incentive programs, which could include height. Planning Director Wu stated that [a] the map was changed for incentive programs to show reliable areas for receiving incentives; and [b] an ordinance would have to be passed to authorize the incentives.</p>
5.	<p><u>Fire Station Number Eight Staffing</u> – Fire Chief Ridgeway [a] provided an update on progress of the fire station number eight building; and [b] spoke of the Fire Departments current staffing issues. The Mayor stated that the Commissioners needed to make a commitment to the</p>

	<p>Fire Department, stating that the funds will be available to fully staff the department. Commissioner Mitchell inquired as to whether incentives could be implemented to convince fire fighters who are ready to retire to remain with the City. It was the consensus of the Commission to make funds available for additional fire fighters to maintain fully staffed stations.</p>
13.	<p><u>Other – Continued</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] informed the Commission that the Finance Department had looked into the unfunded mandates and that the total cost to the City is Seven Million Dollars; and [b] stated that the issue needs to be addressed.</p>
6.	<p><u>CRA Police Overtime – Northwest Community</u> – City Attorney McKenna stated for the record that police overtime is not an eligible activity for CRA moneys but innovative policing can be funded with CRA Moneys. Commissioner Robinson [a] inquired into how much had been spent on the Northwest area; and [b] inquired into the type of innovative programs being used in specific areas. Deputy Redevelopment Manager Kelley stated that [a] 1.8 million Dollars had been allocated to the Downtown area; and [b] the Police Chief allocated those funds as she sees fit.</p>
7.	<p><u>Housing Authority Board of Directors</u> – Commissioner Muoio [a] stated she would like to increase the number of people on the Housing Authority Board; and [b] stated that she had spoken to Mr. St. Laurence of the West Palm Beach Housing Authority who suggested adding this issue to the next Housing Authority Board Commission Meeting. City Attorney McKenna stated she would look into the matter.</p>
8.	<p><u>Rooming Houses City-wide</u> – Commissioner Robinson [a] stated that the house at 1825 Windsor Avenue has been turned into a rooming house; [b] inquired if there was a policy in place to deal with rooming houses; [c] expressed his concern regarding developers turning single family homes into rooming houses under the disguise of providing obtainable houses. Planning Director Wu stated that rooming houses are only allowed as a class B special permit in multifamily zoning districts.</p>

13.	<p><u>Other – Continued</u> – Commissioner Douglas stated she had received numerous complaints from residents about Art and Compassion, Inc. noise levels. City Attorney Mckenna stated that a revision in the current Noise Ordinance is needed in order to address the issue. Commissioner Douglas stated she would like to look into turning City owned lots into community gardens. Commissioner Mitchell stated she had looked into a similar idea using an empty lot in Antique Row.</p>
9.	<p><u>Review of Proposed City Housing Policy</u> – Commissioner Muoio stated that she would like Director of Housing and Community Development Johnson to present a policy to the Commissioners. The Mayor stated a presentation should be scheduled for the next Work Session. Commissioner Mitchell requested that the issue of affordable rental properties be looked into.</p>
10.	<p><u>Fund Usage (Three Million Dollars) Water Plant</u> – Commissioner Robinson requested a summary on the improvements to the Water Plant. The Mayor stated that not all of the money had been designated yet. Commissioner Douglas inquired whether the Commissioners had fulfilled the Mayor’s request for each Commissioner to recommend two people for the Water Plant Board. Commissioner Muoio [a] inquired as to the status of the report compiled by the Blue Ribbon panel; [b] stated that she had heard from members of the panel who were concerned their opinions were not being heard; and [c] requested that the Commissioners receive a copy of the panel’s report. Assistant City Administrator Rearden stated he would provide the Commissioners with copies of the report. The Mayor stated that the Blue Ribbon panel should reassemble with an independent facilitator and the findings should go to a citizens advisory group committee; [b] spoke of the importance of having customers input; [c] stated that US Water has been brought in to stabilize the water plant and to make an informed decision on moving forward with the plant.</p>
13.	<p><u>Other – Continued</u> – Commissioner Mitchell [a] stated she would like the Work Session Meeting moved to same day as the Regular City Commission Meetings; [b] stated that the Work Sessions should be in the Commission Chambers where they would be able to be televised. Commissioner Muoio stated she was not in favor of having Regular City Commission Meetings and Work Sessions on the same day.</p>

	<p>Commissioners Douglas and Moss stated they liked the idea of moving the Work Sessions to the Commission Chambers.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson informed the Commissioner that there may be some complaints due to the Town of Mangonia Park placing large billboards up on 45th Street.</p>
12.	<u>Mayor's Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.
17.	<u>Adjournment</u> – 12:25 p.m.