

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

February 4, 2008

Commission Chambers – 10:07 a.m.

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

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| 1. | <u>Street Name Change Procedures and Regulations Update</u> – Deputy Planning Director Jones-Vann gave an update on the procedure to change street names. The Mayor [a] stated that changing street names should not be encouraged; [b] stated that the percentage of people in the neighborhood needed in order to change a street name should be looked into; [c] iterated the importance of having citizen input when someone is looking to change a street name; and [d] suggested having the Historic Preservation Board review applications for street name changes. Commissioner Robinson [a] suggested an entity wishing to change a street name should contact the neighborhood first, before the City gets involved; and [b] stated he would like to see how other municipalities in Palm Beach County address the issue of renaming streets. Commissioner Mitchell stated that renaming streets has a greater impact than just those people living on the street. James Dunbar from Antioch Missionary Baptist Church spoke of the importance of having a standard operating procedure. |
| 2. | <u>Clematis Street Historic District</u> – City Urban Designer Aponte [a] stated that the Historic Preservation Board has assessed that Clematis Street meets the criteria to be designated as a historic district; [b] spoke of the three phases needed in order to designate the street as a historic district; and [c] explained how the buildings could be preserved under the new designation. Commissioner Robinson [a] inquired as to how the non-contributing buildings on the street would be affected; and [b] iterated the importance of preserving buildings once they have been declared as historic. Historic Preservation Planner |

	<p>Mittner spoke of giving buildings transfer of development rights when a building is remodeled. Commissioner Mitchell spoke of tax incentives available to properties wishing to remodel once they have been declared historic. Raphael Clemente from the Downtown Development Authority [a] expressed concern that the historic designation may not get support from the property owners; and [b] inquired if a conservation district would be something that could be considered. It was the consensus of the Commission to do a survey of the property owners on the street to get their opinions on the issue.</p>
3.	<p><u>North Shore Neighborhood Association Bus Traffic on North Shore Drive</u> – Ron Dixon, President of North Shore Neighborhood Association [a] spoke of the concern his association has over the traffic patterns around Bak Middle School of the Arts; [b] stated he would like to see a change in the traffic pattern but would not like to see any increase in pavement or widening of Echo Lake Drive; and [c] expressed his opinion that it was unfair for the bulk of the school traffic to be in his neighborhood. Traffic Engineer Collins stated that [a] additional school zone signs and stop signs have been added to the area; [b] the Police Department has put up messages to warn people of the school zones; and [c] the Police Department has been issuing traffic tickets in the area. Joseph Sanches, Chief of Facilities Manager for the School District of Palm Beach County spoke of a meeting with the neighborhood association and stated [a] it was decided that the school district would spend an additional \$400,000 to put two additional lanes on the district land; and [b] the bus routes have been established to alleviate traffic issues. The Mayor suggested that Traffic Engineer Collins and Mr. Sanchez get the different neighborhoods to readdress the issue. Virginia Grant, from Echo Lakes Association of Neighborhoods [a] spoke of the traffic routes she has observed people using; and [b] expressed her opinion that due to the Bak Middle School of the Arts not being a neighborhood school, the neighborhood is subject to double the traffic. Kathy Deming, a resident of North Shore</p>

	<p>Drive spoke of her experiences walking her daughter to the Bak Middle School of the Arts. Floyd Andrews, a resident of Echo Lakes Drive expressed her opinion that the real problem is the conflict between the associations. Commissioner Moss stated that the pedestrian safety issue should be addressed. Commissioner Mitchell suggested staff work with the associations to come up with some options to solve the issue.</p>
4.	<p><u>Electric Jitney Service. Golf Car Issue</u> – Assistant City Attorney Conforti [a] explained the issue; [b] spoke on how the Florida State Statutes apply to the issue; [c] spoke of a court case where golf cart had been deemed as unsafe modes of transportation. Tim Welsh, owner of a low speed vehicle taxi stated that [a] he had insurance for his vehicle; [b] he has modified the vehicle to conform to the Florida State Statutes; and [c] that his vehicle should be considered a low speed vehicle. Police Lieutenant Maale [a] stated that a resolution would be needed regulating the hours of operation for the jitney; [b] stated that additional signage would be required to allow Mr. Welsh’s vehicle on the streets; and [c] spoke of the issues regarding insurance on the vehicle. The Mayor [a] suggested that the Downtown Development Authority look into this issue; [b] acknowledged the financial investment Mr. Welsh has made; and [c] stated that the Police Department should check the vehicle for safety compliance. Commissioner Douglas [a] read into the record the Florida State Statute’s definition of a jitney; and [b] concurred with The Mayor that the Police Department should check the vehicle for safety compliance. Commissioner Mitchell [a] inquired into the route that Mr. Welsh’s vehicle is currently taking; and [b] stated that she did not like the idea of having golf carts on the street or vehicles that look like golf carts. Commissioner Moss suggested staff should look at the Mr. Welsh’s vehicle to make sure it complies with Florida State Statutes. Mark Mahone expressed his opinion that Mr. Welsh should be allowed to run his business in West Palm Beach.</p>

5.	<p><u>Mayor's Matters</u> – The Mayor [a] provided an update on the City's water pipes; [b] stated that samples of City pipes have been sent to experts for analysis; [c] stated that the Housing and Community Development Department has a program for people who are income eligible to help replace corroded water pipes.</p>
6.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] stated that the PMSO Union has made a proposal for an early retirement program; and [b] requested that the Administration Department come up with a list of pros and cons of the proposed program for the Commissioners. The Mayor expressed her concern [a] that the program is a untargeted way of cutting the budget; and [b] that vital staff who are needed could retire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[The Mayor left the meeting at 11:36 a.m.]</p> <p>Commissioner Douglas [a] stated she had received complaints from residents over the noise levels from the church services being held at Curry Park; [b] stated the issue needs to be addressed; and [c] requested to know when the Community Link Meeting will be held. Commissioner Moss stated that City Attorney McKenna will have an update on the Noise Ordinance sometime this month. Planning Director Wu stated that the Community Link Meeting has yet to be scheduled.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson [a] requested that the Police Department enforce the Panhandling Ordinance on the Southside of 45th Street and Australian; and [b] announced that a funeral service for Leah Schad will be held February 20, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church.</p>
16.	<p><u>Adjournment</u> – 11:41 a.m.</p>