

**MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

**May 27, 2008**

**Commission Chambers – 10:08 a.m.**

**Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Moss, Muoio and Robinson Jr., City Administrator Mitchell, City Attorney McKenna and City Clerk Kauthen.**

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Baywinds Hog Fence</u> – Commissioner Muoio [a] stated that feral pigs are causing damage in the Baywinds community; [b] asked Assistant City Administrator Balbis for an update on the issue; and [c] inquired if the Baywinds residents are required to sign a legal agreement for the fence. Assistant City Administrator Balbis stated that [a] the fence should be erected by mid July, 2008; and [b] he was not aware of any legal agreements that the residents would be required to sign. City Attorney McKenna stated she would look into the issue.</b></p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Parker Avenue</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] stated he would like the Parker Avenue road status as a thoroughfare to be removed by the City and County; [b] stated that the County is saying that the road cannot be narrowed if it is considered to be a thoroughfare road; and [c] asked that Traffic Engineer Collins update him on this issue. Planning Director Wu stated that a traffic volume study is being conducted on the road. Senior Planner Hansen [a] stated that the evaluation of Parker Avenue is part of the transportation element analysis of the comprehensive road plan; [b] explained the process of removing the road as a thoroughfare; [c] stated that the Planning Department is evaluating the positives and negatives of changing the status on the road; [d] stated that a change in status could effect future funding opportunities; and [e] stated that the County has no jurisdiction on the road as it is a City road. City Attorney McKenna stated that [a] the City entered into an inter-local agreement with the County over this issue; and [b] any inter-local agreement will take precedence over a thoroughfare map. The Mayor expressed her concern over losing funding opportunities.</b></p>

<p>3.</p>	<p><b><u>Discussion on Evaluating the Management of the Construction Services Department</u></b> – Commissioner Moss [a] inquired if Matrix Consulting Group is going to evaluate the management of the of Construction Services Department; and [b] stated that he would like an evaluation of the management as part of the Matrix Consulting Group report. Commissioner Douglas stated she spoke with Matrix Consulting Group Vice President Alan Pennington, who informed her that Matrix Consultation Group will not be looking at the management of the Construction Services Department. Deputy City Administrator Miller stated [a] that Matrix Consulting Group will be looking at the management of the department as part of the attitude and culture section of the report; and [b] she would speak to Vice President Alan Pennington on the issue.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>Status of RFP for Gaines Park</u></b> – Commissioner Robinson stated he would like an update on the RFP for Gaines Park. The Mayor stated that [a] the RFP was sent out again due to the disqualification of one of the bidders; and [b] this project is a priority for the City. Deputy City Administrator stated that [a] the RFP has been re-worked and will be re-opening on June 5, 2008; [b] the process will be expedited; and [c] a timeline will be provided for the Commissioners as soon as possible.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>Sodding and Vacant Lots</u></b> – Commissioner Douglas [a] expressed her opinion that due to the water shortages the sodding and watering of vacant lots is becoming an issue; [b] stated that developers do not wish to spend the money to water and sod their vacant lots; and [c] stated there is a developer in District One who would be willing to allow his vacant lot to be used as a community garden until it is developed. Commissioner Muoio [a] suggested using drip irrigation to water the vacant lots; and [b] stated developers could use drought resistant grasses such as bahia grass on their lots. The Mayor [a] expressed her opinion that it is environmentally better to have the lots sodded than fenced up; [b] suggested that the City code should be changed to allow for more drought resistant grasses; and [c] stated that a</p>

	<p>notice should be sent out to lot owners informing them of cheaper alternatives to sodding. Principle Planner Schneider stated he would send flyers to owners of vacant lots informing them of alternatives to sodding lots.</p>
9.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Douglas expressed her opinion that there is a homeless problem in the building to the south of Good Samaritan Medical Center. Planning Director Wu stated [a] that the building has been gutted and is to be turned into a condominium; and [b] he would look into the issues.</p>
6.	<p><u>Conference Rooms Naming</u> – Chair of the Nominating Advisory Board Frost stated that the Nominating Committee [a] has come up with three names for new City Center overflow room and the room which will act as the current room 519; [b] suggested Flagler Gallery, Grassy Waters Gallery and the Pioneer Gallery as possible names for the overflow room; and [c] suggested The Banyan Boardroom, The Burdines Boardroom and The Mayor Earman Boardroom (after the first Mayor of West Palm Beach) for the equivalent of room 519. Commissioner Moss suggested calling the [a] equivalent room to 519 The Mayors’ Boardroom; and [b] overflow room either The Children’s Gallery or The Downtown Gallery. It was the consensus of the Commission to name the overflow room The Flagler Gallery and to call the equivalent room to 519 The Mayors’ Boardroom.</p>
9.	<p><u>Other [Continued]</u> – The Mayor requested a report on the use of public spaces. Deputy City Administrator Miller stated that a report should be ready by the end of the week.</p> <p>Commissioner Moss [a] expressed concern over how the operational costs will be funded for the new library; and [b] suggested identifying lease space opportunities. Deputy City Administrator stated that [a] the issue of leasing spaces is being looked into; [b] the City appropriated half a million Dollars for automated book check-in and check-out which will help reduce</p>

	<p>the man power needed; and [c] the library staffing issue will be addressed at a later time.</p>
7.	<p><u>Construction Services Department Fees Issue</u> – City Administrator Mitchell [a] stated that the Construction Services Department does not have enough money for the October 2008 payroll; [b] stated that there needs to be either a fee increase or a reduction in services. The Mayor [a] stated that the City does not want a loss in services; [b] stated that no decisions can be made until the Matrix Consulting Group report has been received; and [c] suggested that Clint Glass, David Baker and Russell Greene look at the issue. Commissioner Moss [a] expressed his opinion that the fee schedule needs to be based on projects not cash flow; and [b] stated he would like an analysis of last years cash flow.</p>
8.	<p><u>Mayor’s Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.</p>
9.	<p><u>Other [Continued]</u> – Planning Director Wu stated a referendum was passed to allow ad valorem for County and State taxes which freezes taxes on improvements done on historic homes for fifteen years. Commissioner Douglas stated she would like to see the tax figures.</p> <p>Finance Director Sherman [a] presented the figures for a possible capital plan fund fire assessment fee; [b] spoke of getting a bond for capital improvement projects; [c] stated that Fire Stations Four and Five are in bad shape; [d] stated that under the proposed fire assessment fee, households would be charged \$20 and businesses would be charged nine cents per square foot; and [e] stated that the tax collector deadline for an inclusion of the fire assessment fee would be September 15, 2008. The Mayor [a] inquired into the state of the fire stations; [b] spoke of selling Fire Station Four to the Armory Art Center of the Palm Beaches; and [c] inquired into the amount saved by businesses due to the millage reduction. Fire Lieutenant Sheppard stated that the vehicle maintenance leases would be</p>

ending next year. Commissioner Muoio inquired into the impact a rise in millage would have on business properties.

Commissioner Douglas [a] stated she supports a fire assessment fee; [b] expressed her concern over the vehicle leases all ending at the same time; [c] expressed her opinion that the City needs to start looking at staggering out leases; and [d] iterated the importance of finding funds to help pay for next years vehicle leases. It was the consensus of the Commission to have [a] a public hearing on the fire assessment issue; and [b] Finance Director Sherman bring options for funding for Fire Stations Four and Five and other fire stations.

Commissioner Moss [a] stated that the owner of Orchid Estates was supposed to fix Palmetto Lane once all the lots were sold; and [b] inquired if there was a way to repave the road. City Administrator Mitchell stated that the [a] owner of Orchid Estates only has one more lot to sell; and [b] Planning Department has tried to contact him regarding this issue. City Attorney McKenna stated that [a] the road is not part of the City jurisdiction; [b] the development order does not contain any provisions for the road; and [c] she would look into the issue. Deputy Planning Director Jones-Vann stated that [a] the road is a public road; and [b] that as part of the engineering agreement with the developer, he was supposed to pave the road once all the properties were built. The Mayor [a] inquired into the cost of paving the road; [b] stated that at some point public safety must supersede an agreement with a developer; [c] stated that the road should be evaluated; [d] stated that GASB should handle the issue; and [e] inquired if a lien could be put on the developers remaining owned lot.

Commissioner Moss [a] expressed his opinion that downtown events impede neighbors way of life; [b] inquired if organizers could be asked how they would mitigate the impact on surrounding neighbors; and [c] stated he would like for the Community Events and the Parks and Recreation Department

	<p>to look into guidelines for organizers to address the issue. The Mayor [a] stated that the Parks and Events Committee could investigate the issue and come up with a list of issues that organizers need to address; and [b] suggested that the Parks and Events Committee meet with stakeholders. City Administrator Mitchell [a] stated that the Boat Show has nine years left on their contract; [b] stated that Sunfest has eight years left on their contract; and [c] stated that the Meyer events tend to get the most complaints. Commissioner Douglas stated [a] as the Commissioner on the Parks Committee she would like Director of Parks and Recreation Thrower to contact her regarding this issue; [b] that residents have had problems with event trucks running next to condominiums; and [c] that at Sunfest there were inadequate bathroom facilities for dogs.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson [a] stated that he has met with the Florida state townhouses who have concerns over the construction of the Iron Mountain facility; and [b] suggested that somebody from the Planning Department contact them to find out what their concerns are.</p> <p>Commissioner Muoio inquired if there is an update on the Jog Road Lighting issue. Assistant City Administrator Balbis stated that [a] the City is negotiating with a consultant; and [b] a study should be completed in the next 30-40 days.</p>
10.	<u>Adjournment</u> - 11:36 a.m.