

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

November 10, 2008

Commission Chambers – 10:11 a.m.

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

1.	<u>Dashboard Presentation by Parks and Recreation</u> – Deputy City Administrator Miller explained the dashboard program and made a presentation of the City’s five strategic priorities. Director of Parks and Recreation Thrower [a] made a presentation of her department’s achievements relative to the benchmarks set for tree trimming activities, the safety of the community centers, complaint response time, survey participation, positive press, summer camp enrollment and course completion at youth empowerment centers. Commissioner Muoio recommended implementing electronic dashboards. Commissioner Moss inquired as to what can be done to reach youth who do not participate in City programs. The Mayor stated that information from other youth program agencies will be collected.
2.	<u>Presentation on the City’s Response to the Palm Beach International Airport Environmental Impact Statement</u> – Senior Planner Hansen [a] stated that staff has concerns about the environmental impact statement that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released regarding the proposed runway expansion; [b] announced that staff is working on a response to the study and plans to send it to the FAA the following week, in order to meet the November 24, 2008 comment deadline; [c] noted that much of the feedback received from neighborhood leaders during a meeting held the previous week, along with information provided by consultants, will be incorporated into

	<p>the letter; [d] announced that the FAA will hold a public workshop at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; [e] stated that he and Public Information Officer Robbins will release a public service announcement regarding this issue on Wednesday, November 12, 2008; [f] announced that the Town of Palm Beach stated they are opposed to the airport expansion, but have not yet decided whether to officially join the City on its fight against the expansion; and [g] stated that he and Planning Director Wu will attend a meeting with the Town of Palm Beach to follow up on this matter.</p>
7.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Muoio inquired about the proposed State Road 710 Connector Project. Senior Planner Hansen [a] responded that a letter was sent to the Florida Department of Transportation providing the major issues and concerns that the City has regarding the road; [b] noted that the Treasure Coast has collected comments from other agencies and will provide them to FDOT and other review agencies; [c] announced that FDOT and their consultants are trying to set up a meeting with City staff in order to discuss the City’s concerns; and [d] stated that St. Mary’s Hospital will also issue letters expressing their concerns to FDOT.</p> <p>The Mayor [a] expressed her concerns regarding a possible conflict of the redesign of the Flagler Memorial Bridge (North Bridge) and the City’s waterfront project, due to the likely increase of traffic on Flagler Drive; [b] noted that a letter she sent to FDOT regarding this issue did not receive a favorable response; [c] asked whether the Commission would support her efforts in opposing the current redesign proposal; [d] asked Senior Planner Hansen to assist in this matter; and [e] expressed her concern regarding the intersection at Flagler Drive and Okeechobee Boulevard at the Middle Bridge. It was the consensus of the Commission to support the Mayor’s position against the proposed redesign of the Flagler Memorial</p>

	<p>Bridge. Traffic Engineer Collins stated that he agreed with FDOT for an improvement plan and a work order has been issued to do some modifications to the intersection on Okeechobee Boulevard at the Middle Bridge.</p> <p>Commissioner Douglas expressed her concern regarding speeding on Dixie Highway from Riviera Beach to Northwood Road. Traffic Engineer Collins responded that traffic calming on such a major road would be difficult, particularly since the road belongs to FDOT.</p>
3.	<p><u>Drought Resistant Plantings vs. Grass in Swales</u> – Commissioner Douglas suggested allowing drought resistant plants to grow in swales rather than require grass that uses up water resources. The Mayor suggested the Commission contact Kirk Olney of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee who had previously volunteered to spearhead this issue. Planning Director Wu suggested that staff be permitted to revisit the Code that requires grass in swales. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow staff to revisit the Code regarding this matter.</p>
5.	<p><u>Discussion of FDOT’s Plans for Forest Hill Boulevard</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] stated that FDOT wants to make Forest Hill Boulevard four lanes with a median the width of a lane, which would require the removal of the trees along the side of the road; [b] noted that one possible solution to this issue would be that the City would take over the boulevard and maintain it as four lanes without the median; and [c] announced that FDOT is planning to remove the privacy walls that were built in the right-of-way around homes several decades ago. Traffic Engineer Collins responded that he gave a presentation regarding this matter in 2006, during which it was determined that the City could not afford to fix the roadway or to pay the ongoing maintenance costs if it acquired Forest Hill Boulevard. The Mayor [a] asked whether the County still</p>

	<p>issues grants for state roads; and [b] suggested using the grant money, if it is available, for larger trees to be planted along the boulevard. Commissioner Moss suggested encouraging FDOT to buy trees immediately, so that they have time to grow before they are planted in approximately two years.</p>
4.	<p><u>Discussion on Traffic and Speed on Summit Boulevard</u> – Police Captain Fahey [a] noted that stealth equipment was used to record speed limits in a 24 hour period at the intersection of Parker Avenue and Summit Boulevard; [b] reported that the average traffic speed on Parker Avenue was 31 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone; and [c] stated that the average traffic speed on Summit Boulevard was 34.32 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone. The Mayor asked for information regarding the ease with which traffic leaving the zoo can make a u-turn on Summit Boulevard.</p>
7.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Moss suggested that selective enforcement against grid-lock should be implemented during rush hour at the intersections before the bridges.</p>
6.	<p><u>Mayor's Matters</u> – The Mayor [a] stated that at a Florida State Legislature meeting she will ask for continued state funding for the water system, the youth empowerment centers and the stormwater-reuse expansion project at Howard Park; [b] iterated that during a meeting she attended with the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, it was recommended that the City move forward with capital projects in order to stimulate the economy; [c] noted that staff is working on expediting capital projects; [d] asked that an ordinance be drafted that would allow the City to design unfunded projects in order to be ready to receive federal funding as soon as it becomes available; [e] announced that a public discussion regarding economic stimulation will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches at 8:30 a.m.; [f] announced that a Downtown Public</p>

	<p>Art Programming Charrette will be held Thursday, November 13, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and [g] announced that a non-partisan inaugural party will be held the week of the Presidential Inauguration during Clematis By Night.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Douglas asked that the Mayor restate her position regarding whether the City should move forward with the City Commons and Waterfront Project. The Mayor provided an update regarding the City Commons and Waterfront Project and explained why she believes it should move forward.</p> <p>Commissioner Muoio asked that Director of Finance Sherman provide an update regarding the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 budget at a future meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Moss inquired about the effective date of the City’s Charter Amendment that was approved by voters during the November 4, 2008 General Election.</p> <p>The Mayor [a] stated that a working group will discuss other possible amendments to the City’s Charter; and [b] expressed her concern regarding legal fees.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Adjournment</u> – 11:57 a.m.</p>