

**MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

**February 2, 2009**

**Commission Chambers – 10:05 a.m.**

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

- 7. Southern Boulevard Presentation by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Senior Planner Hansen stated the FDOT is currently working on designs for the replacement of the Southern Boulevard Bridge. Mr. Costa, Project Manger for E. C. Drive and Associates, [a] spoke of the scope and findings of the project development and environmental study; [b] presented different bridge alternatives for the commissioners to review; [c] stated the design of the bridge has yet to be established; [d] stated that the FDOT prefers alternative bridge design number two; [e] stated that the bridge would not qualify for money from the federal economic stimulus recovery package; [f] stated that the estimated construction period will be around three years; [g] stated a public hearing was held with the neighborhoods on December 11, 2008 to discuss the replacement bridge; [h] stated that the residents are concerned over the impact the western side of the bridge would have on them; [i] stated that the FDOT’s preferred alternative bridge design could call for Flagler Drive to be shifted slightly to the North; [j] stated that the recommended design could have an impact on the Southbridge Condominium property; [k] stated the FDOT would compensate the Southbridge Condominium if the new bridge encroaches on their property; [l] stated that building a temporary bridge would be just as complicated as replacing the excising bridge; [m] explained the need for a left hand turn off of Flagler Drive; and [n] stated the FDOT is committed to minimizing the impact of the replacement bridge to the**

	<p>surrounding neighborhoods. Commissioner Moss [a] inquired if it is a possibility to apply some of the proposed federal government economic stimulus recovery package money towards the bridge; [b] stated that the local neighborhood associations and Traffic Engineer Collins have discussed prohibiting trucks from making a left hand turn onto Flagler Drive; and [c] stated that FDOT is working on a plan to solve the flooding issue on Flagler Drive. The Mayor [a] suggested having the City's Tallahassee lobbyist look into the issue; [b] inquired if the FDOT would compensate the residents of the Southbridge Condominium if the bridge was to encroach on their property; [c] inquired if the bridge was being widened in order to allow for a left hand turn lane onto Flagler Drive; [d] suggested that the FDOT and the Planning Department work with Southbridge Condominium on the issue; and [e] asked Assistant City Administrator Balbis to look at the Southbridge Condominium flooding issues. Public comment: Mr. Harteis, a resident from the Southbridge Condominium, Ms. Levine and Ms. Cleckner. Planning Director Wu expressed his concern over FDOT purchasing the Southbridge Condominium apartments and reselling the apartments at a later date with no parking spaces assigned to them. Mr. Harris of Reynolds Smith &amp; Hills, Inc., spoke of traffic study results specifically looking at the left hand turn from the bridge onto Flagler Drive.</p>
1.	<p><u>Update on Fire Stations</u> – Director of Engineering Services Bramley stated [a] he is in the process of finalizing the request for proposal to solicit design services for the design criteria package of the fire stations; [b] he is looking into the space requirements for the new fire stations; [c] he is looking into the cost control options that the City has at its disposal; and [d] that the City has a grant for \$150,000 towards the design of the Emergency Operation Center. Commissioner Mitchell [a] stated she spoke to fire chiefs from Boynton Beach, Boca Raton and Delray Beach over the size of their fire stations; [b]</p>

	<p>expressed her concern over abandoning certain neighborhoods if equipment is moved to Ibis when storms occur; and [c] suggested hiring three different architect firms for the three fire stations. Fire Chief Webb stated [a] he would be interested in Commissioner Mitchell's data on the size of other cities fire stations; [b] that the reason behind building a large fire station in Ibis is to store large equipment when hurricanes approach; and [c] he has plans to incorporate training sessions using the new buildings. The Mayor [a] stated she would like the new fire stations to be more austere; and [b] directed Director of Engineering Services Bramley to continue with the request for proposal. Commissioner Moss inquired if training areas are to be incorporated into the new fire stations.</p>
2.	<p><b>Ballet Florida</b> – Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister [a] gave an update on the negotiations of the CRA acquiring the Ballet Florida property; [b] stated that an environmental phase-one study has been done of the building; [c] stated that she has presented some parameters for the sale to Ballet Florida; [d] stated that the ballet has proposed some in-kind services for the City if the City is to acquire the property; [e] stated that the sale terms have yet to be agreed upon; [f] stated that the City has yet to do an appraisal of the site; [g] expressed her opinion that the CRA should not pay more than 2.5 million for the property; and [h] stated that the CRA has allocated 2 million dollars for a loan for Palm Beach Dramaworks. Commissioner Mitchell [a] stated she liked the idea of helping the ballet out but felt the money might not be available; [b] expressed her concerns over taking on another debt in the CRA district; [c] inquired into what the debt service would be on the building; [d] stated that the City needs to prioritize projects due to the current budget shortfalls; and [e] inquired if the City is planning to take over the Convention Center. Commissioner Muoio [a] stated she would like Ballet Florida to stay within the City; [b] disclosed that she was a board member of the ballet at one time; and [c] inquired into how other cities subsidize the</p>

	<p>arts. Commissioner Douglas inquired if there was a way to purchase the building and fund Ballet Florida at the same time. Commissioner Moss [a] inquired into the different appraisal amounts for the site; [b] inquired into securing Palm Beach Dramaworks; and [c] stated he would like an update on the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project at the next CRA meeting. The Mayor [a] disclosed that she has attended performances at Ballet Florida as a guest of the ballet; [b] directed CRA staff to look at negotiating with the Ballet; [c] stated that the City has offered the County TIFF for the Convention Center but has no plans to take over the center; and [d] stated the City is working with Palm Beach Dramaworks and City Place to find a new location for the Palm Beach Dramaworks. Finance Director Sherman explained the 2 million dollar shortfall in the CRA budget.</p>
4.	<p><u>Robinson Village</u> – Commissioner Muoio [a] expressed her opinion that Robinson Village community room is in need of more space; and [b] suggested having someone from the City help Robinson Village with cost estimates to expand their community room. Planning Director Wu stated that the Planning Department would coordinate the effort with the Police Athletic League. The Mayor stated there could be money in the stimulus recovery program for the community center.</p>
5.	<p><u>Update on the Expansion of the Downtown CRA from Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard to 15<sup>th</sup> Street</u> - Commissioner Robinson stated he would like an update from the CRA into the expansion of the CRA to include the area from Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard to 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The Mayor suggested discussing the issue at the next CRA meeting. Commissioner Moss inquired into the amount of money the general fund would lose should the area be taken over by the CRA.</p>

3.	<p><b><u>Neighborhood Association Representation</u></b> – Commissioner Douglas [a] spoke about the discrepancies in the testimonies provided by representatives from neighborhood and condominium associations; and [b] stated she would like an entity to reach out to the neighborhood representatives and offer an ethics training class. Commissioner Muoio [a] stated she has been working with Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc. on their ethics initiative; and [b] stated she would talk with them to see if they would be interested in hosting ethics training classes for the neighborhood associations. Commissioner Mitchell suggested having the City’s Ethics Officer do a workshop for the local neighborhood associations.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>Speed Bump Sign Notification on North Mangonia Circle and 7<sup>th</sup> Street</u></b> – Commissioner Robinson [a] stated he received a call from a citizen who had damaged his car while going over a traffic calming bump due to there being no signage warning of the traffic calming bump; and [b] inquired into the cost of installing additional signage. The Mayor stated that Traffic Engineer Collins should see if the proper signage is currently in place.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>TechSolve Presentation/Discussion – Efficiency Study</u></b> – Mr. Krings, Director of TechSolve [a] presented the different ways that TechSolve could assist the City in becoming more efficient; [b] spoke of some of the processes that TechSolve uses to achieve better efficiencies; and [c] stated he would create a list of possible areas the City might wish to have TechSolve look into for inefficiencies. Commissioner Moss [a] inquired if it was possible for TechSolve to concentrate on aspects that would save the City the largest amounts of money; and [b] stated he would like possible efficiencies to be ranked by what would have the most significant impact on the budget. The Mayor stated that TechSolve should get together with department heads to create a list of possible inefficiencies that TechSolve could investigate. Commissioner Douglas stated she</p>

	<p>would like the Water Utility Department billing process looked into. Commissioner Robinson stated he would like TechSolve to look into the four largest departments for any inefficiency.</p>
9.	<p><u>Western Northlake Corridor Study Update</u> – This item was not discussed.</p>
10.	<p><u>Swale Landscaping</u> – Mr. Olney, who created the Swale Program in Flamingo Park [a] stated that the program was created to find alternatives to grass in the swales; [b] stated that there are some people in his neighborhood who have been successful with the program; [c] suggested doing another swale program in the rest of the City on a trial basis; [d] suggested allowing the Beautification Committee to monitor the program; [e] encouraged the Commissioners to look at the 800 block of Avon Road to see how the program can work; and [f] suggested allowing people to use alternative drought resistant grasses instead of St. Augustine grass. Commissioner Douglas [a] inquired if Mr. Olney had a list of suggested plant alternatives to plant in the swales; and [b] expressed her opinion that the program could have a positive environmental impact due to eliminating the need to mow the swales. Commissioner Mitchell [a] expressed her opinion that there is value in having consistency of the swales on certain roads; [b] stated she was concerned that the City would have to have more enforcement officers monitoring people’s swales if the program was to go into effect; and [c] inquired why residents could not come to the City and ask to plant whatever they like in the swale. Planning Director Wu stated the problem with allowing people to plant what they like, is the subjectivity of the aesthetics of landscaping. The Mayor [a] expressed her opinion that uniformity in neighborhoods is a good idea; [b] suggested having Mr. Olney’s Committee continue to look into the issue; and [c] stated at the Sustainability Summit there will be a discussion on irrigation and water conservation.</p>

<b>11.</b>	<b><u>Mayor's Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Muoio stated she would like an update on the water plant. The Mayor stated that an update would be given at the next Mayor/Commission Meeting.</b>  <b>Commissioner Mitchell stated she would like an update from Administration on the old Goodwill Industries International site citations at the next Mayor/Commission meeting.</b>  <b>Commissioner Moss [a] stated he received a resolution from the Town of Miami Lakes asking the legislator to equalize spending based upon population; and [b] inquired if the law department could review the resolution.</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b><u>Adjournment</u> – 12:24 p.m.</b>