

**Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations
Executive Board Meeting
September 22, 2014**

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Mammano, President at 5:45 PM.
- 2) **Present:** Betty Shelley, Marilyn Mammano, Ron Centamore, Rochelle Golub, Chuck Black, Steve Stahl.
- 3) **Education Advisory Board Report:** Betty stated that the meeting was held last week concerning the bond issue and the board voted to approve the bond issue with caveats, such as addressing the poor physical conditions of the schools. The city will work with the oversight committee to be sure the funds are spent properly. There was much discussion, and will be presented as approved to the Commission in a very brief form as required.
- 4) **Third District School Board Update:** Heather Brinkworth, School Board 3rd District Member was asked how the oversight committee was going to be chosen and she is not sure who will be chosen for the oversight committee, but what she has heard was that it would be made up of a diverse group of leaders and business persons from all over Broward County and they all would be well known. Betty discussed a report from the Education Advisory Board that earmarked \$80,000,000 out of the \$800,000,000 bond issue that was going to be applied to Fort Lauderdale schools and a discussion took place that it should include the schools outside Fort Lauderdale that Fort Lauderdale children attend in Oakland Park and Pompano. Marilyn asked if we could get a list of the schools that Fort Lauderdale students attend in Broward County and could we get information concerning the amount of funds from the bond issue that will be directed to those schools, and said that number might make it more attractive for Fort Lauderdale residents to vote in favor of the bond issue. Heather explained that she has visited every school in her district since she was appointed to the position, has 2 children in Broward Schools, has both attended and taught at the schools and is very aware of the conditions of the schools. She stated that it is her position to look at every project presented to the board and the board is now working on the Education Facilities Plan and will address problems with the schools in the 5 year capital plan. For example the facilities department has set aside \$3.3 - \$3.5 million that will be used to address physical problems with the Stranahan School that is on their in the present Capital Plan Budget. Even if the bond issue passes \$800 million will not address all of the problems. \$3 billion is needed. Chuck Black stated that previous administrations have not handled the budget well and that is the biggest issue. Heather stated that when she came on the board she has the same feeling how funds are handled. As an example she did not approve a proposal last week due to the fact a project that was being worked on was not a priority 1 project and is up for more discussion at their next meeting. Chuck also mentioned that a lot of the east side schools have asbestos issues. Heather stated that the previous board estimates do not include asbestos abatement and roof, sprinkler and those types of issues need to be addressed as one project and not piecemeal that is not economical. She has help with her spouse who has 25 years' experience in Facilities Management that she is able to use as a reference on cost estimates relating to particular projects. Marilyn stated that it appears the citizens of Fort Lauderdale are going to be paying 50% of the bond issue, yet only 10% is allocated to Fort Lauderdale. Steve asked if there was any progress in documenting that no

changes could be made to the appropriations that if the public approves in November. Heather stated that recently they had to make changes in a previous plan to direct more funds to high priority projects and does not see that changing. Chuck Black mentioned the fact that his business has had numerous problems dealing with individuals at schools not accepting directives from the administration that is leading to waste and directives not being carried out as planned. Chuck will forward more information to Heather. Ron Centamore asked if new books were being purchased every year instead of re-using them. Heather stated that books now are workbooks that students tear out, use and turn in as class or homework. In the future all of the books will be replaced by electronic, computer means. Betty said there was a problem with the schools communicating with parents. Heather stated that the cards that are filled out now give 3 choices: e-mail, text, and phone and there can be multiples of all 3 and everything that is listed is used to communicate with parents. Marilyn asked if there would be any more clarification on the oversight committee prior to voting on the bond issue and how the members would be chosen. Heather stated that the oversight committee cannot be chosen until after the bond issue is voted on. The selection of members needs to be asked of Superintendent Robert W. Runcie at the CFLCA meeting in October. Heather asked that if anyone has any other questions feel free to e-mail her.

5) Neighborhood Support and NCIP Grant Update: Hal Barnes explained how he reports monthly to the City Manager on the status of projects. Presently there are 62 projects in various stages and there are now 5 projects under construction. 11 projects are in the design stage in transportation and public works. There are others waiting for CDBG matching funds to start them. The 10/1 budget will get 3 more projects off of the shelf to work on. Next year the allocation is approximately going to be \$70 to \$90,000 with \$200,000 in 2 years for matching funds, and \$500,000 for the neighborhoods. Ryan Henderson is maintaining a spreadsheet showing all projects and their status. He suggested to communicate status with us electronically. He also is requiring that public works report to him the status of all projects in design with percentage completed and expected completion date. His office has total control over projects but it is difficult to set exact dates on design, and if a project falls behind on the schedule, it is color coded red since the delay may have an effect on the entire schedule. Projects are prioritized from 1-20, and if problems arise, such as a lack of missing matching funds for a project, they will be moved down on the list and others moved up. Public Works will not design a project that is not fully funded. The City Manager has directed that 5 shovel ready projects are ready to be worked on at all times. In order for that to happen, some projects with lower priority but funded may be moved up in priority. There is only 1 engineer that oversees all of the projects that are in design, scheduled for construction to begin and questions that come up concerning projects underway. Also Hal explained that he works with Al Battle, CRA Funds, Transportation and Federal Funds to substitute CDBG with those funds to get the projects moving if they are available. When the CDBG funds come in for that project, it is applied to the next project awaiting matching funds. The commission as of October 1st has approved \$500,000 for neighborhood projects and applications for projects are due by September 26th. Monies for the projects that are approved will not see any funds until next October. Projects will never be swept off the table unless it is deemed that the project cannot be built or if the neighborhood withdraws their request for the project. Ron Centamore asked about a downtown project that is funded, but nothing is moving on it. Hal stated that it did not make sense to work on that small project, but made more sense to roll in into a larger project. Diana Alarcon has \$600,000 now and is applying

the funds to projects. Even though the project has been turned over to Transportation and Mobility he continues to track and make sure projects are not lost in the shuffle. Neighborhood Support is the only department not charged back for city staff time. There is one engineer and 15 project managers. Hal stated that he asked the engineer how he gets help on projects and he said he goes down and begs. Marilyn said that a point needs to be made to the commissioners that she agrees with outsourcing for specialized or for large projects but the NCIP projects should all be done in house. There is a need for neighborhoods to have a in house person to discuss and give updates on their projects. The Neighborhood Support Department or Public Works have funds to outsource any NCIP projects. From the time a NCIP application is turned in going through design, procurement and construction is typically 2-3 years. The way projects used to be handled a project manager was over a project from design all the way through construction, now the idea is that a project manager does design and that is all, another project manager does procurement and that is all, another project manager does construction and that is all. The problem is there is no overlap of knowledge between phases and things get lost, etc. Hal stated that he has asked for a job description for project managers and to this point, he has not received a good answer. Marilyn proposed the possibility, like our police and fire reports, to have department heads to give summary reports on projects and keep the public informed on the big picture of how the projects are moving along. A discussion took place with different ideas proposed that stressed on brevity and not lead to information overload. Marilyn stated that we could format a specific agenda for what information we want and exclude information we don't need. Hal brought up the fact that the rollout of the micro surfacing project was not explained to the public well enough this year that has led to a lot of contention over the roads that were done and others not done. Next year the plan is to let the public know exactly which streets are going to be done and a good explanation that streets in good shape are not addressed, fair streets are the only ones that are addressed that keeps them from getting to the poor stage that will require traditional and more expensive paving methods. The poor condition roads are addressed presently at 2 per year. Marilyn stated that there are numerous problems with the plans the city has, such as the Economic Plan that we have received no follow-up on and that the 2035 vision plan is not being followed or budgeted for. We will need to continue this conversation at a later time.

- 6) **November Elections:** There is a candidate night scheduled for Monday, October 6th – 7pm at ArtServe with possibly something held by the Chamber of Commerce, but nothing is scheduled yet.
- 7) **Watchful Neighbor:** A concern was raised about e-mails, based in New Jersey asking for membership of individual associations to help protect individual's property when they are away using contact information that only they have at a cost of \$50/yr. A possible scam and needs to be reported to the police if you are contacted.
- 8) **October Agenda:** Florida Friendly Landscaping Ordinance Presentation, Code Enforcement and Superintendent Robert W. Runcie.
- 9) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Stahl, Recording Secretary