

**Levy Oversight Committee
Minutes
August 6, 2004 Meeting**

Present: Council Member Jan Drago, Council Member Nick Licata, Edsonya Charles, Mayor's Office, William Bradford, University of Washington, John Hinson Local 27, Seattle Fire Fighters. Scott MacColl, Karl Stickel, Mary Pearson, Dove Alberg, and Ellen Hansen

Absent: Dwight Dively, Chief Gregory Dean, Deputy Chief Brian Mills, Lt. Steve Brown

Introduction

Committee members and staff introduced themselves and members welcomed Professor Bradford to the committee.

Minutes

Minutes of May 19 were approved without corrections.

Program Issues

Construction Climate

Dove Alberg told the committee that bids are coming in over estimates, largely because of the drastic increase in the cost of building materials, and all sectors are experiencing large increases in building costs as a result.

- Joint Training Facility came in at 8.9% higher than expected.
- University of Washington projects, for example, are seeing increases running from 15 to 23 percent.

When asked why the costs are going up so fast, Dove told the committee that China is buying 25% of the world's steel. In addition, many companies have gone bankrupt, so there are fewer contractors and fewer steel companies available

Dove told the committee that Fleets and Facilities (FFD) is looking at ways to mitigate the impacts of these increases and will be developing a list of options for dealing with the increases.

Communications Plan

We are working first on developing communications plans at the program level (land acquisition and FS 10, which are most pressing) and continuing on the communication plan for the program as a whole.

The community will be involved before land is acquired, but will be told that the Fire Department's operational criteria must come first.

FFD reported that they had sent some suggested names for the FS 10 Community Advisory Panel to the Mayor's Office.

Marine Program

The Council has approved using UASI (Homeland Security) funding to fully fund the large platform boat and fund a fast attack boat. Construction on the latter will start in October. Interviews for the marine architect for the large boat begin the week of August 9.

Joint Training Facility

The bid came in over the engineer's estimate. FFD has been given the green light to award the bid. Legislation is being sent to the Council for approval to fully fund, and the facility will be built as planned.

Groundbreaking is to be held on August 11 at 10:00 A.M.

Land Acquisition

Fire Station 10: FFD announced they are taking the condemnation path for purchase of the surface parking lot bounded by Fourth and Fifth Avenues and Yesler and Washington. Mediation has been set for September, and a court date has been reserved if mediation fails.

Fire Station 17: An appraiser has been hired and is moving forward to appraise the three residential lots north of FS 17.

Dove Alberg explained that when the department sends legislation to the Council to approve acquisition, they always include a provision for condemnation.

Fire Station 6, 20, 37, and 38: Sites are being identified. The community will be involved in the land acquisition process. FFD will keep the Council informed about dates of community meetings and summarize what happened.

Fire Station 10

This is at the end of the pre-design phase. There will be a presentation on this project at the Executive Working Group meeting on August 24.

Edsonya Charles will send nominations for the Community Advisory Panel to Councilmember Licata. Mr. Licata said that Tom Im will chair the committee.

Other issues to be resolved: what kind of center for the homeless will be on this site. Edsonya Charles said that the Council will be informed about plans.

Other Concerns

John Hinson feels that firefighters do not have correct information about what was included in the levy measure that went to the voters last year. FFD will follow up with him about the best way to communicate with firefighters.

Action Items:

- Bring William Bradford's nomination back up for Council consideration.
- Edsonya Charles will send Mayor's nomination for FS 10 advisory panel to the Council.
- Ellen Hansen will write an article for the firefighters' monthly newspaper.

Decisions

- Post May minutes on the Fire Levy web site.