

**Levy Oversight Committee
Minutes
February 14, 2006 Meeting**

Members Present: City Council President Nick Licata, City Councilmember Jan Drago, Dallas Baker, Local 27, Seattle Fire Fighters Union; Finance Director Dwight Dively; John Franklin, Mayor's Office Jordan Royer, Mayor's Office.

Staff Present: Fire Chief Gregory Dean, Fleets and Facilities (FFD) Director Brenda Bauer, Assistant Chief William Hepburn, Battalion Chief Molly Douce; Helen Fitzpatrick, Fire Department; Karl Stickel, Department of Finance; Dove Alberg, FFD; Chris Potter, FFD; Ellen Hansen, FFD; Hillary Hamilton, FFD.

Guests: Representatives from the Concerned Neighbors of Fire Station 20: Ross Budden, Valerie Paganelli, Garriel Keeble, Chris Grekoff, and Katie Frame

1. Valerie Paganelli spoke about the concerns of the community and their opposition to the plan to rebuild the station on an expanded site at its current location. She asked a series of questions and was told staff would develop answers to her questions.
2. The minutes of the December 13 2005 meeting were adopted with an amendment offered by Dallas Baker, who wished to document an exchange with Chief Dean about a work hardening room at the Joint Training Facility.
3. There was a discussion of issues facing the Fire Levy program
 - The Levy/Neighborhood Program Financial Update: The mayor is committed to completing the neighborhood stations program using a combination of revenue sources.

In the financial analysis commissioned by Fleets and Facilities, the consultant found that construction inflation will be significantly higher than anticipated and that the original cost estimates were based on suburban, rather than urban, stations. About 25% of the \$67 million gap can be attributed to the original low estimates. \$2 million can be attributed to the higher seismic requirements that were instituted after the levy was submitted to the voters, \$3 million to provide funding for sustainability, and the rest – the largest portion – to the unanticipated sharp increase in construction costs that is hitting all sectors.

The Mayor proposes to continue the program as adopted, review every two years and find the additional funding needed for each two-year period.

The Council has agreed to lift the funding proviso on the first four stations. They are also hiring their own consultant to review the Levy financials.

- Land Acquisition and Community Outreach: The City Council authorized purchase of property for Fire Station 38 by negotiated sale or by condemnation.

Neighbors of Fire Station 20 in West Queen Anne are concerned about the proposal to build a larger station at the current location. Communication with them is ongoing.

A mailing to the entire Fire Station 37 response area in West Seattle/Highpoint is planned for late February. Similar outreach will occur in the Central District response area of Fire Station 6 once sites have been evaluated and a final recommendation is made.

The master communications plan is being posted on the levy program web site.

- Joint Training Facility: The City has identified potential sites for mitigation. A proposal that would allow partial activity at the site is on its way to the Corps of Engineers.

Councilmember Drago asked about the timeline on these environmental issues and learned there is no firm timeline.

John Franklin asked if there is a building commissioning process under way. The project is still in the punch-list stage.

Dallas Baker asked for an update on the contingency in the project. We have reached agreement with the contractor, but still have to keep money in the budget for landscaping and are waiting for the Corps to give the go-ahead. The first priority is for the contingency to go to completing the landscaping that was in the original proposal. Mr. Baker noted that that was what he was hoping.

4. Other Questions

Councilmember Licata asked what percent of land Libraries acquired by condemnation and whether levy program staff had studied what they did in terms of outreach. He learned that their outreach plan had been studied and that the levy communication plan was quite similar to that of *Libraries for All*. Staff agreed to supply both plans to Mr. Licata.

Chief Dean explained how stations are sited and stressed the importance of their relationship to each other.

5. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.