

**Levy Oversight Committee
Minutes
June 22, 2010 Meeting**

Members Present: Sally Bagshaw, Seattle City Council; Tim Burgess, Seattle City Council; Chris Gilbert, Local 27 Representative, Seattle Firefighters Union

Staff Present: Gregory Dean, Fire Chief, Seattle Fire Department (SFD); Assistant Chief Susan Rosenthal, SFD; Kieu-Anh King, Central Staff, Seattle City Council; Catherine Cornwall, City Budget Office; Greg Shiring, City Budget Office; Fred Podesta, Acting Director, Fleets and Facilities Department (FFD); Mary Pearson, Deputy Director, FFD; Dove Alberg, Director, Capital Development & Construction Management, FFD; David Kunselman, Fire Facilities Levy Program Manager, FFD; Christina Faine, Fire Levy Communications Officer, FFD

Guests: John Coney, Queen Anne resident, Ross Budden, Concerned Neighbors of Fire Station #20

1. Changes to the minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting were discussed. The revised minutes will include Chris Gilbert's comment about concern for firefighter parking at Fire Station 32 (W. Seattle Junction). In the header, the date of March 23, 2010 will replace February 23, 2010.
2. Public Comment
John Coney expressed interest in the Fire Station 20 project, including the land acquisition piece. Ross Budden requested an update on the Fire Station 20 project.
3. Levy Program Highlights (as shown in a PowerPoint presentation):

Program Overview

Seventeen major Fire Levy projects are underway. Most of the projects are in construction. The construction contract has been awarded for Fire Station 21. Three projects are in the close-out warranty phase.

Marine Projects

The Chief Seattle, the last of the fireboat projects, is in design development. Following a Homeland Security Grant award, the project scope was expanded to include a larger pilot house and engines and a new firefighting system. The project has received \$2.6 million to date, with a total of \$5.5 million expected. Completion of design is anticipated by the end of August 2010. Guido Perla Associates are the naval architects.

Fire Station 14 (SoDo)

Bassetti Architects have completed schematic design, and the project is ready to move into design development. The building is a historic landmark. Due to the complexity of the project, the GC/CM, or General Contractor Construction Management delivery method, will be used.

Fire Station 9 (Fremont)

Mithun architects are in design development. The Design Commission completed its reviews of the project on May 20. At the review, the project team displayed designs incorporating comments from the Design Commission review in January. The architects researched the numerical “tapper code,” a historical version of the 911 dispatch system, and integrated elements into the detail of the building façade. About 200 neighbors attended the open house on May 15.

Fire Station 6 (Central District)

The new station, with Weinstein Architects, received the final approval at the Design Commission review on May 6. The Master Use Permit (MUP) review is in progress. About 200 neighbors attended the neighborhood open house on March 27.

Fire Station 13 (Beacon Hill)

Hoshide Williams Architects are in construction documents with the seismic upgrade project. The original scope was modified to include an addition on the back of the building so the battalion chief can remain at the station. The station is a mirror image of Fire Station 16 in Greenlake; both are historical buildings. The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) will review the project on July 16. Once the ARC has approved the project, the project goes to the full Landmarks Preservation Board. Firefighters will remain in the station during construction. The neighborhood open house is scheduled for June 27.

Fire Station 16 (Green Lake)

The seismic upgrade with Hoshide Williams is in construction documents. The project also has an open house scheduled on June 27. Neighbors will have a chance to talk to real estate services staff regarding the temporary location at Marshall High School. The Architectural Review Committee will review the project on July 16. To minimize the visual impact, the generator will be located on the roof. The Medic Unit 17 will be relocated to Fire Station 17 in the University District.

Fire Station 21 (Greenwood)

Powell Construction was awarded the job. The start of construction is expected in July, once the temporary facility is available. The temporary facilities will be reconfigured from a battalion to a single company station. The Miller Hull Partnership designed the new station.

Fire Station 2 (Belltown)

Bayley is finishing construction on the historic building. Commissioning and functional tests are under way. During construction, crews are housed in a temporary facility. Crews are expected to move to the completed station in mid-July. The project architect is Arai, Jackson, Ellison, Murakami Architects.

Fire Station 17 (University District)

The project is in construction with Graham Contracting. SDOT is completing traffic signalization. This allows the firefighters to take control of traffic lights – stopping traffic – when they are responding to a call. The move-in is scheduled for June 22. During construction, crews are housed in a temporary facility. Bassetti Architects designed the project.

Fire Station 28 (Rainier Valley)

The Berschauer Phillips Construction Company completed Phase II of the project, including conversion of the old basement into a stormwater vault and the new rainwater harvesting system. The recently installed public art has been well received. Schreiber, Starling, and Lane designed the new station.

Fire Station 30 (Mt. Baker)

The project is in construction with Synergy Construction, Inc. The building will be built on 49 piles. The installation of the concrete floor plate has been completed. During construction, crews are housed in a temporary station during construction. Schacht Aslani Architects designed the project.

Fire Station 35 (Crown Hill)

The project, with Kirtley-Cole Associates, is well ahead of the construction schedule. Mechanical systems are ready for start-up. Crews are living in a temporary facility during construction. Rice Fergus Miller is the project architect.

Fire Station 37 (W. Seattle/High Point)

This project, also with Kirtley-Cole, continues with construction. The concrete masonry and steel erection is completed. Permanent power has been brought to the station. Miller Hayashi designed the station.

Fire Station 38 (Hawthorne Hills)

The project is in construction with Corstone Construction. Structural masonry work is completed. Roof framing is under way. Schreiber, Starling and Lane designed the project.

Fire Station 39 (Lake City)

Howard S. Wright Constructors completed construction. Firefighters moved into the new facility on April 21. At the dedication on June 12, neighbors appreciated the opportunity to tour the new fire station. Howard S. Wright Constructors did an excellent job and have expressed an interested in continuing to bid City work. The Miller Hull Partnership designed the project.

Interim Facilities

There are 9 active interim facility projects. The site for interim Fire Station 16 in Green Lake will be under contract soon with the Seattle School District.

Bids to Date

Interim Fire Station 21 and Fire Station 21 have been added to the bid list. The bid climate remains favorable for the Fire Levy program.

Financial Summary

All projects are currently on budget. 51 percent of the budget for the active projects has been spent or encumbered. 63 percent of the budget for all projects has been spent or encumbered.

Discussion Topics

Three projects will go out to bid this year: Fire Station 6 (Central District), Fire Station 13 (Beacon Hill), and Fire Station 16 (Green Lake).

Projects expected to open this year include Fire Station 2 in Belltown, Fire Station 17 (University District), Fire Station 35 (Crown Hill), Fire Station 37 (W. Seattle/High Point), and Fire Station 38 (Hawthorne Hills).

Professor William Bradford has resigned as a member of the Levy Oversight Committee given his professional demands. The City Council will appoint another member, who, by ordinance, is a Seattle resident with financial expertise. Councilmember Burgess said the Council welcomes suggestions of potential candidates for the position.

Three out of the four parcels on the new Fire Station 20 (W. Queen Anne) site have agreements or are under contract. The property acquisition is moving forward with each of the three property owners. Condemnation is underway on the fourth parcel. The costs are currently within the range anticipated by the real estate staff.

Questions/Comments

David Kunselman said the consultant services advertisement will run in the DJC tomorrow for Fire Station 20.

Ross Budden asked if proceeds from the sale of Fire Station 20 will go back into the Fire Levy. David Kunselman explained that this is how the Fire Levy program was set up.

Chris Gilbert reported receiving inquiries questioning SDOT's support of pre-empt signalization operations at certain stations. Chris did not have a list of specific stations, but David did note that they are currently discussing a new signal at Fire Station 35 (Crown Hill). Chris will follow-up with his inquiries to see if this is still a concern and forward the details.

Councilmember Burgess asked if the current plan to fund the Fire Levy program is still fully in place. Catherine Cornwall, City Budget Office policy analyst, said the Executive is supporting the 2010 adopted Levy Financial Plan and expects no change at this time.

Fred Podesta, acting Fleets and Facilities Department Director, said that while it is early in the process, we are operating under the assumption that the current budget will fully fund fire station projects next year.

Dove Alberg, Director of Capital Development and Construction Management, said the Fleets and Facilities proposed 2011-2016 CIP budget that will be submitted on July 9 continues to fully fund the Fire Levy program through its 2015 completion.

Councilmember Burgess asked if there is any place where the Fire Department may need service; are there any parcels we should be looking at?

Chief Dean said that over time there have been discussions of locating a fire station in the south Lake Union area.

David Kunselman said Fire Station 8 (Queen Anne) would be moved up in the order of projects to take advantage of a possible interim station site. It will now start in the fall of 2010, with Fire Station 25 (Capitol Hill) starting in the fall of 2011. Councilmember Burgess asked about the likely costs if Fire Station 8 were changed from a seismic to a new project.

Capital Development & Construction Management will provide a rough order of magnitude (ROM) cost.