

Levy Oversight Committee Meeting Notes
February 27, 2007

Members Present: Dallas Baker, Local 27 Representative, Seattle Firefighters Union

Staff Present: Assistant Chief Bill Hepburn, SFD; Brenda Bauer, Fleets and Facilities Director (FFD); Dove Alberg, FFD; Mary Pearson, FFD; David Kunselman, FFD; Chris Potter, FFD; Monica Lake, FFD; Brad Tong, Shiels, Oblatz, Johnsen; Scott MacColl, Council Central Staff; Kieu-Anh King, Council Central Staff; Ellen Schroer, Department of Finance

Guests: Ross Budden, Valerie Paganelli, Concerned Neighbors of Fire Station 20

1. Valerie Paganelli expressed that Concerned Neighbors of Fire Station 20 have a vested interest in what happens in their community, and the group is very interested in seeing the project move forward.
2. The minutes of the November 21, 2006 were approved unanimously.
3. PowerPoint presentation:

Active Projects

Dove Alberg listed the active projects: the marine program, Fire Station 10, Joint Training Facility, emergency supply caches, and the neighborhood fire station program.

Leschi

Dove Alberg explained that Dakota Creek, the shipyard builder, is putting the finishing touches on the Leschi, the newest addition to the Fire Department's fleet. The boat is 108-feet in length and has a maximum speed of 14 knots. The vessel pumps 24,000 gallons of water per minute. The delivery is expected to take place in the 1st quarter of 2007. Currently, the Leschi is undergoing sea trials.

Chief Seattle

The parameters of the Chief Seattle's rehabilitation will be determined once staff are available to work on the project. The scope includes replaced or rebuilt engines and refurbished firefighting systems.

Fire Station 10

The new facility will include Fire Station 10, the new Emergency Operations Center, and the Fire Alarm Center. The building form took full height and shape in January. Concrete pads and curbs are in place for mechanical equipment. The anticipated construction completion date is December 2007.

Joint Training Facility

The Joint Training Facility (JTF) is a training location for the Seattle Fire Department, Seattle Department of Transportation, and Seattle Public Utilities. Brad Tong of Shiels, Oblatz, Johnsen said that the project is proceeding into Phase II. Training in classrooms, at props, and on the exterior grounds of the JTF continues. The first recruit class graduated in May 2006.

Brenda Bauer mentioned that there are a number of props on-site, including a highway overpass, a high drill tower, a collapsed building prop, and training props for utility workers. The JTF facilities have been used since February 2006.

Emergency Supply Caches

Dove Alberg discussed how four different sheds have been built in four different locations: North West Seattle, North Seattle, Central/South East Seattle, and West Seattle. Supplies, including cots, blankets, personal hygiene and basic first aid, have been procured. If the city is fragmented during a disaster, caches located in different parts of the city would remain accessible to citizens.

Neighborhood Fire Station Program

In discussing the design phases, David Kunselman explained that schematic design is the first design phase where layouts and adjacencies are determined, as well as very rough floor plans and elevations. The goal of the pre-design phase is to have the envisioned scope match the budget. Fire Station 2 is in pre-design and has challenging seismic issues. Fire Station 17 includes an addition to a landmark building. Fire Station 28 began as a renovation. After looking at the costs, it became clear that a new station would cost the same as the renovation. This is the value of pre-design. Fire Station 31 is the first seismic project.

Public Involvement

Each fire station project will have two community open houses — one early in the design phase and a second event late in design development. In addition to going through a regulatory process, new projects will go before the Design Commission, while historic stations will go before the Landmarks Board. Outreach is also taking place to District Councils and other community groups.

Project Schedules

Schedules for Fire Stations 2, 17, 28, and 31 were shown.

Financial Summary

For land acquisition, 84 percent of the money has been encumbered, or spent. Eighty-six percent of the funds have been spent for Fire Station 10. The Joint Training Facility is 77 percent encumbered. Emergency Fire Suppression Water Supply is 74 percent encumbered. For the Emergency Disaster Supplies project, 45 percent of available funds have been spent. The large fireboat is 94 percent encumbered. For the small fireboat, 99 percent of the money has been spent. For the total active projects, 47 percent has been spent.

Discussion Topics

Fire Station 28

Through the pre-design process, it was revealed that the expense of renovating the station — plus temporarily moving the station — equals the cost of a new station. Due to this finding, the community will receive a new fire station. The project will come before Council because of zoning exceptions.

Council Audit Report

The draft audit report was presented at the Public Safety Council Committee meeting. Fleets and Facilities will go back to the Committee in two weeks with a response. The auditor looked at scheduling and the systems for record keeping for four fire station projects: Fire Station 2 (Belltown); Fire Station 17 (University District); Fire Station 28 (Rainier Beach); Fire Station 31 (Northgate). Initially, when the auditor began this process, they didn't have a lot to look at since the neighborhood fire station program was completing the hiring of the architectural/engineering design firms for the first four stations and beginning preliminary design. The auditor had suggestions about efficiencies such as filing correspondence together instead of separating it out by project phase.

Council Consultant Report

After extensive review of the Fire Levy Program, the Council Consultant Report said the scope of work is appropriate. According to the report, the budget aligns with the project parameters.

Program Reporting

In response to the Auditor's Report, Fleets and Facilities staff will distribute monthly schedules in the form of a Gantt chart rather than written descriptions. Staff will continue to send out the financial summary and active project status on a monthly basis.

Land Acquisition

Fleets and Facilities staff are evaluating sites for Fire Station 6. For Fire Station 37 (High Point), Fleets and Facilities is taking over a City Light parcel and going through an acquisition with a church. Staff have had a settlement conference. Fleets and Facilities have taken possession and ownership of Fire Station 38 (Ravenna/Bryant). In several weeks, a remediation plan will be put together.