

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2004**

1. **Attendance – See Attendance Sheet attachment.**

2. **Review and Acceptance of February 2, 2004 meeting minutes.**

ACTION: Mr. Michael Rotbart motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Frank Del Vecchio. The motion passed.

3. **Change Orders**

The Administration informed the Committee that there had not been any new change orders approved since the last meeting.

4. **Presentation**

(A) Project Funding

Mr. Tim Hemstreet updated the Committee on the funding status of GO Bond Funded Projects managed by the CIP Office. He explained that the Power Point presentation outlined by neighborhood, those Right-of-Way improvements that the residents had identified, but which were not currently funded, based on A/E estimate at Basis of Design Report (BODR) approval. He added that this presentation also included an updated version of one made to the Committee in May 2003 that outlined unfunded portions of other streetscape and parks/facilities projects that were either in construction or design.

The presentation specifically addressed the projects funded by the 1999 General Obligation Bond, which was in the amount of \$92,465,000. The approved bond amounts by project type are \$24,830,000 for Parks, \$9,720,000 for Fire Life Safety and \$57,915,000 for Neighborhood Right-of-Way (ROW) improvements. He added that this report presented to the Committee identifies additional scope that currently isn't funded for Parks in the amount of \$13,886,000, \$550,000 for Fire and \$18,352,000 for Neighborhood ROW.

Mr. Leonard Wein suggested that perhaps another General Obligation Bond would be best for the neighborhoods that did not have enough funds in the first bond to construct all of the components that were desired.

Mr. Del Vecchio wanted to know how completion of the projects would be accomplished if there was a shortfall of funding. Mr. Hemstreet explained that most of the scope identified as unfunded in the report are more "wish

list” types of components that residents would like to see, but are not necessary to finish the original intent of the project.

Mr. Michael Robtbart wanted to know why the asphalt was removed from the 42nd Street Streetscape Improvement project, yet no other work had taken place. Mr. Hemstreet explained that the work is continuing and that the replacement of asphalt was delayed due to a water main replacement and that new designs and permits were needed. He added that it has taken six weeks to prepare that documentation, and that the construction should begin again shortly.

Ms. Deede Weithorn wanted to know if there would be more projects that are not going to be fully funded. Mr. Hemstreet responded that there might be some, but that they would not be known until the project scopes are more fully developed.

Mr. Roberto Sanchez added that another bond issuance might be good but many residents don't believe they will receive everything that has been promised under the existing bond. He continued by saying that some projects need to be finished before another bond can be considered.

Mr. Del Vecchio wanted to know the status of the West Avenue ROW improvements and the drainage issues. Mr. Hemstreet reported that the project has been behind schedule due to the stormwater improvements. He continued by saying that there are insufficient funds to do all the stormwater improvements. He continued by saying that the City was hoping to use stormwater revenue funds for funding these project improvements.

Mr. Rotbart wanted to know who was overseeing these projects while in construction. Mr. Hemstreet responded that if the project is slated for construction, the CIP Office is most likely managing the project.

Mr. Mijel Brazslavsky wanted to know why there was an assessment every month in his water bill for water and sewer. Assistant City Manager Bob Middaugh responded that the water and sewer rates fund many of the improvements that are being done in all the neighborhoods.

Mr. Jean-Francois LeJeune commented that Purdy Avenue and 20th Street and in front of Publix on West Avenue, which was improved by the City, has a terrible standing water problem when it rains. He wanted to know how issues are solved when flooding is a problem in these neighborhoods. He also wanted to know why it will take years to resolve these terrible flooding problems. Mr. Hemstreet explained that there is a project going on now in that neighborhood that might resolve that situation. Mr. Hemstreet continued by saying that many projects have long planning phases which in turn causes construction to be delayed

from the originally anticipated start dates. He continued by saying that in the West Avenue neighborhood, stormwater improvements were anticipated to cost more than what was originally planned and budgeted for, leading to a funding problem. He said that the funding was based on an engineering analysis.

5. Discussion Items

(A) Venetian Causeway Planning Effort

Mr. Hemstreet informed the Committee that this project is funded by GO Bonds and is also a County owned road. He continued by saying that the City of Miami Beach has recommended that a percentage of the \$1,827,000 allocated for the improvements to the portion of the Venetian Causeway be appropriated to fund a planning effort in conjunction with the City of Miami and Miami Dade County.

Mr. Del Vecchio wanted to know if the City has prior experience in participating financially with the County in planning, design and construction costs. Mr. Hemstreet responded that the Pine Tree and La Gorce Drive Median Improvements was a project that the County participated in with the City.

Mr. Hemstreet commented that it was the desire of the City to enter into an interlocal agreement with the County in order to implement the planning phase of the project.

Ms. Barbara Bisno, President of the Venetian Causeway Neighborhood Alliance, commented that the master plans that were prepared 8 years ago were presented to the County. She said that the County requested that the residents present this master plan to the City of Miami Beach and the MPO to receive enhancements that the County cannot provide. She explained that current funding includes approximately \$2,000,000 from FDOT, \$1,000,000 from the County, \$1,000,000 from MPO and \$1,000,000 from the City of Miami. She added that these funds in conjunction with a percentage of the City's funds should be enough for planning and design work to move forward.

Mr. Hemstreet commented that what is needed from the Committee is an approval to go ahead and request the Commission to appropriate the funds necessary for the project. The City would then enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the County for the planning phase of the project.

Mr. Del Vecchio commented that he felt this was an appropriate use of GO Bond funds. He continued by saying that an Interlocal Agreement with the County to implement the project and to have City staff participate actively in all phases of the project was also appropriate.

ACTION: Mr. Leonard Wein motioned to recommend that the City Commission appropriate the proper proportionate funds for the planning phase of the Venetian Causeway Improvement project, provided that there is an Interlocal Agreement with the County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Frank Del Vecchio. The motion passed.

Ms. Weithorn commented that for the past couple of years the Budget Advisory Committee brought up the issue of ensuring that there are sufficient dollars in the budget to maintain expenditures in GO Bonds. She requested that the GO Bond Oversight Committee meet with the Budget Advisory Committee at the May 3, 2004 meeting. Mr. Hemstreet said it would be placed on the May agenda.

6. **Project Status Report**

(A) Fire Station #2

Mr. Chartrand informed the Committee that the water tank portion of the project is on schedule. He added that the pump station has been finished and needs to be energized by FP & L in order to clean the water tanks and prepare them for filling with water. He continued by saying that work will start on the Fire Station portion of the project when the water tank portion of the project is complete, which is anticipated for the end of April 2004.

(B) Fire Station #4

Mr. Chartrand informed the Committee that the permit review process for the new building has been completed. He mentioned that the review process for the seawall has also been completed. He continued by saying that in order to demolish the old building, a permit has to be issued and that the project is waiting on that item. He added that there are some funding issues that need clarification from Coastal Engineering on the seawall portion of the project. He said that the project should begin in late spring or early summer 2004.

Mr. Del Vecchio wanted to know who is ensuring that the schedule is being followed and how they follow up on the project. Mr. Chartrand responded that Nestor Fernandez of URS and the CIP Office is managing the project. He also said that they are in continual contact with URS regarding the status of the project.

(C) Normandy Isle Park and Pool

Mr. Chartrand informed the Committee that there has been some progress on the project. He added that the contractor has corrected and finished the concrete portion of the shallow and deep pools. He said that a new construction schedule will be provided to CIP from the contractor.

7. Informational Items

- (A) Updated Calendar of Scheduled Community Meetings.

The calendar of scheduled community meetings was provided to the Committee, but not reviewed during the meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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