

**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
CITY HALL 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
AUGUST 26, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative
January 2008 - December 2008

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Bunney Brenneman, Chair [6:33 pm]	P	8	0
Bernard Petreccia	P	5	3
Robert Caine	P	7	1
L. Thomas Chancey	P	5	3
Robert Cole	P	6	2
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	P	7	1
Terri Murru	P	7	1
Raymond Parker	P	6	2
Fred Stresau	P	7	1
Debora van Valkenburgh	P	8	0
Claire Vickery	A	4	4
Nathaniel Wilkerson	A	2	6

City Representatives

Hal Barnes, P.E., Engineering Design Manager
Robert Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

Lynn Shatas, FPL

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Dr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call & Announcements

Roll was called and attendance noted. A quorum was present.

III. Self Introductions

There were no self introductions.

IV. Minutes of July 22, 2008 Meeting

Mr. Petreccia commented that he was not in attendance at the July 22, 2008 meeting, but that he did read the Minutes thoroughly. He stated that it was a great meeting, but most of all, the way the Minutes were prepared and written, they were very thorough and commended the Recording Secretary.

Mr. Parker noted that on page 2, the third line down, it reads Vice Chair Rodstrom, but should be corrected to read Vice "Mayor" Rodstrom. On page 4, on the third line down, "the cancer treatments" should read "his father's cancer treatments."

Motion made by Mr. Petreccia, seconded by Mr. Caine to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2008 Meeting of the Utility Advisory Committee, with the corrections as noted above. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (9-0).

[Chair Brenneman arrived at 6:33 p.m.]

V. Unfinished Business

- **Status of RFP #3**

City Staff

Hal Barnes, City Engineering Design Manager, advised that he was sitting in on behalf of Peter Partington, who was out of town. He stated that Mr. Partington had provided him with the draft Commission memo. He confirmed that a recommendation would be going to the Commission on September 3, 2008. Mr. Barnes advised that he had consulted with Mr. Dunckel who had agreed the recommendation could be released to this Committee tonight.

Mr. Barnes stated that the recommendation was in favor of a contract with Power Services, Inc. There were four submittals that had gone through the ranking selection process. The Commission asked that the process be broken into phases, which they have done. The first phase is the item now going to the Commission and is for review of and improvement of the existing Franchise Agreement with FPL, with the general proposal to bring about undergrounding of the electrical infrastructure. The Phase I recommendation is for \$94,255.00. The memo then details Phase II and Phase III, which would come later.

Mr. Barnes confirmed for Ms. Murru that the Commission would only be voting as to Phase I at this time.

Mr. Stresau, responding to Mr. Cole's inquiry, advised that the other consultants were Williams Consulting from Lakeland, a firm from Atlanta, and a firm from Washington, D.C., that was more a legal firm and who did not submit anything for Phase II or III. He explained that Williams Consulting had one electrical engineer on their staff and did not have anyone handling legal. Mr. Stresau opined that they could not review the Franchise Agreement without having a legal staff.

Upon Ms. Murru's query, Mr. Stresau confirmed that he was, in fact, on the Selection Committee, that he voted for Power Services, Inc., and that he felt very comfortable with this firm.

Chair Brenneman asked Mr. Stresau to share his thoughts on Power Services, Inc., with this Committee.

Mr. Stresau commented that the people listed on the staff of Power Services, Inc., were also listed as being on their staff a year and a half ago. He said that every principal person that listed a resume has been with the company "forever." The company is located in a small town outside of Raleigh, and consists mostly of electrical engineers. Their legal staff are from Tallahassee and regularly sit and speak to the Public Service Commission. Mr. Stresau expressed that approximately 15 different cities in the State of Florida were listed in their resume. In addition, the President of Power Services, Inc., graduated from North Carolina State in 1968 and since then has worked basically with Franchise Agreements.

Ms. Murru questioned if the funding for the project was in place and whether it was secure. Mr. Barnes advised that the Commission item states that funding is available.

Motion by Ms. Murru, seconded by Ms. van Valkenburgh that the Utility Advisory Committee strongly supports the recommendation of the Selection Committee and requests that this Committee's 100 percent support of this recommendation be passed onto the City Commission with the assistance of Staff Liaison, Peter Partington. By voice vote, this motion was passed unanimously (10-0).

Ms. Murru thanked Mr. Stresau and acknowledged his dedication of time and effort as a member of several Selection Committees. Thereupon, a resounding round of applause ensued throughout the 8th Floor Conference Room.

- **Other Unfinished Business**

As to the meeting of the Infrastructure Subcommittee, Mr. Parker asked how many members appeared for the meeting. Chair Brenneman stated that there were five members in attendance out of the nine on the Subcommittee. Mr. Parker apprised the Board that he received an email about the meeting that was scheduled for August 14th. The email was dated August 8, 2008, but he did not receive it until August 15th. Chair Brenneman confirmed that Betty Crews, Assistant to Peter Partington, sent out the notices for both the Infrastructure and Tree Subcommittees, and that there were other individuals who indicated that they had not received these emails timely. Chair Brenneman felt perhaps this was related to the City's "elaborate firewall."

Chair Brenneman related that Ms. Shatas was gracious enough to go over the siting of substations, but that she indicated that none were anticipated at this time. If it were to become necessary, a meeting may be scheduled upon short notice. If so, members will

most likely be called, in addition to being advised by email. Chair Brenneman said that, depending on what the City Commission does, if there is deemed to be a need for a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee, there will not be much notice, and the Committee would be at the beck and call of the consultants, if hired. Because the consultants would be flying in for such a meeting, the Committee members would have to appear on possibly very short notice, meaning a few days. Chair Brenneman emphasized that if the consultants were involved, there absolutely could not be members who did not respond as to a quorum. It would be imperative that there be a quorum present in such case.

VI. New Business

- **Line Clearing Information** **Lynn Shatas, Area Manager, FPL**

Lynn Shatas, Florida Power and Light, stated that the only thing to advise was that she should have the fourth quarter line clearance information in the month of September and she will email that information, including the attachments and civic association neighborhoods to the Committee members. Ms. Shatas asked if there was anyone on the Board that did not want to receive an email, but would prefer having a copy mailed to them. Everyone present agreed that email was their preference.

- **Other New Business**

There was no "other new business" to discuss.

VII. Good of the Committee & Announcements

Chair Brenneman announced that Mr. Stresau had called a workshop meeting of the Tree Subcommittee for Thursday, September 4, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. Everyone was welcome to attend, even if not a member of that Subcommittee. The meeting will probably be held on the Fourth Floor in the large conference room. Chair Brenneman advised that the subject of this meeting will be the two displays that this Committee is supporting. Both displays have been ordered and are in-house.

Photographs for the displays will be taken and developed by local photographer, Art Seitz, who will work with Mr. Chancey, Mr. Dempsey and Chair Brenneman, along with all of the members of the Tree Subcommittee. Photographs are currently being taken by various individuals. Mr. Slaymaker, in charge of Vegetation Management for FPL, is also aware of some of the sites where examples of good and bad tree planting, pruning and management are located.

Chair Brenneman advised that the second display will consist of more of examples of species specific to Fort Lauderdale. This is different than FPL's "Right Tree/Right Place" display which relates more to areas to the north of Fort Lauderdale.

Also discussed at the Tree Infrastructure Committee meeting was that the Riverwalk Trust was currently working with Mr. Dempsey, Urban Forester, on a project called "Tree Harmony" in Riverwalk. This project will demonstrate the right trees for local planting. The Tree Subcommittee, by general consensus, indicated that they would like to work with that project. In addition, Chair Brenneman explained, there is grant money available, and Mr. Dempsey will work on that.

Vice Chair Lewis asked who will be selecting the sites that will be the subject of the photographs for the displays. Chair Brenneman advised that the Tree Subcommittee will take input from Bill Slaymaker, Vegetation Management for FPL; Mr. Stresau, Landscape Architect; Mr. Chancey, Landscape Architect; among others. Input will also be provided by the other members of the Subcommittee as to the photographs. Photographs will be brought in for review and a list of examples and their sites will be selected from the photographs brought in. This list will be given to Mr. Seitz, who will then go out and take the photographs. These photographs will be developed and will go on the displays. Mr. Chancey also stated that he was aware that Coral Springs and other areas have put together information that would be valuable to this display. As such, he will pick up these brochures and bring them in for the Subcommittee to review at this same time.

Mr. Petreccia asked if other members knew of sites and locations that would be appropriate, whether they could likewise take photographs and bring them in. Chair Brenneman emphatically encouraged this and advised that this would be welcomed.

Ms. Murru asked about the cost of this project, and Chair Brenneman explained that it had already been paid for and they were \$5,000 each. This amount was covered by funds that were expended over the period of two budgets.

Chair Brenneman explained that the displays are approximately 10 feet wide by 8 feet tall, with a type of fabric that would allow Velcro to adhere to it for the displays. She stated that Mr. Barnes is a Physical Engineer and heads up Neighborhood Services. Chair Brenneman said that people rave over Mr. Barnes' displays. Ms. Murru said that she likewise uses such displays in her business, and is aware that there are many venues which do not allow such large displays, and will only allow a table top display. Therefore, Ms. Murru said, she wanted to make sure this Committee was in line with the wide spectrum of places that will allow such a large display. Chair Brenneman said that she trusted Mr. Barnes and Mr. Dempsey implicitly with this.

Mr. Barnes advised that these displays are not convertible to a table top, but that he does have smaller displays available for a table top display.

Chair Brenneman related that this Committee has been the recipient of two \$10,000 grants, from which the displays were purchased, as well as the printed material. These displays will be used for the many functions at which Mr. Dempsey is asked to speak.

Ms. Murru asked if this Committee could make the photographs available via the City's website, and to also make them digital so they can be uploaded to homeowners associations' websites.

Chair Brenneman next addressed 2009 Arbor Day and Green Expo. She explained that the Tree Subcommittee embraced Mr. Dempsey's idea to hold Arbor Day and Green Expo separately as they were completely different types of programs. The Green Expo is an event wherein there are tables and displays which are accessed by walking around, where the Arbor Day celebration is a more formal event with the Tree City designation. In order that Arbor Day receives the recognition it deserves, the Green Expo will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2009. The timing at this point is still flexible. Because of the tremendous heat during this time of the year, it was determined to begin the event at 9:00 a.m., and to conclude by 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m., depending upon recommendation of Parks and Recreation.

Chair Brenneman explained that Arbor Day is formally celebrated throughout the country on April 24th. Mr. Dempsey suggested that it be scheduled during the evening during prime time news, so the event would receive television coverage. Chair Brenneman explained that Mr. Chancey has an affiliation with NBC-6 and is involved with certain programs which have developed quite a following. Therefore, media coverage will be attempted for Arbor Day. It is also hoped that the City of Fort Lauderdale will again receive the Tree City USA Designation. If there is an award, it would be presented to the City at the Arbor Day celebration.

Chair Brenneman expressed that Mr. Chancey felt the school children could come, so it would be started very late in the afternoon. Mr. Dempsey and Parks and Recreation have stated that they can cover the costs of the event, except for the cost of refreshments. Thus, this Committee will need to come up with something creative to cover the cost of refreshments.

Mr. Chancey said that the idea is to have the event when the children are available, and that the refreshment issues will be worked out. The key is to hopefully hold the event at a location where the children will be encouraged to return the next day with their parents for the Green Expo. As such, the Arbor Day celebration will be somewhat of an introduction to the Green Expo.

Mr. Chancey said that he had a Naturescape Broward meeting and an inspector's meeting on this coming Thursday. It is his intention to inform the individuals at these meetings in advance of the planned dates for the City of Fort Lauderdale's events, in hopes that their events not be scheduled at the same time. This should also encourage communication and the word to be spread.

Chair Brenneman stated that Ms. Shatas advised that Plantation's event will be held in February of 2009. Therefore, the City of Fort Lauderdale can schedule Earth Day, Water Matters and the Green Expo for Saturday the April 25, 2009. Arbor Day will be

scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009, which would act as the kick-off for the Green Expo the following day.

Mr. Petreccia asked what kind of budget was being estimated for the refreshments. Chair Brenneman responded that this was currently unknown. She suggested that the festival and event planners, Terry Rynard and Debbie Bilicka, from the Parks and Recreation Department, be contacted as to the projected cost for refreshments. Mr. Petreccia asked that Chair Brenneman inquire into this, as there may be people who could assist with the refreshments. Chair Brenneman did state that it would not exceed a maximum cost of \$3,000.

Mr. Chancey said that he did not recall much money ever being spent on Arbor Day, but he would need to clarify that. In addition, he was not personally shooting for the nightfall as the time for the Arbor Day celebration to take place. Previously, Mr. Chancey stated, Arbor Day has been celebrated in the middle of the day and there was no need for refreshments. Previously, it had been held at schools, various parks, including Stranahan Park, Bubier Park, and downtown, and that it was held just before lunch. When the celebration concluded, the visitors would go to lunch on their own.

Mr. Chancey suggested that this detail be worked on so that it does not become an event such as when the Green Expo was done in the library in the evening time. Chair Brenneman clarified that Mr. Dempsey was suggesting that it be held on Friday evening, in the 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. prime news time. Mr. Chancey agreed that if the time suggested would be late evening, then \$3,000 made sense for refreshments. Mr. Chancey asked if overtime was taken into consideration for the Parks' employees. Chair Brenneman said that Mr. Dempsey indicated his staff members and crew members were available and they would be scheduled around the times. She asked Mr. Stresau if this was also his understanding. Mr. Stresau stated that this sounded like a lot of money to him. Mr. Chancey agreed.

Mr. Chancey said that if the event were moved into the evening on a Friday night and school children would be expected to hang around, that this would not be likely to happen. He offered that if this Committee wanted to try it, that it could be attempted. He said that originally the first Arbor Day celebrations had City Commissioners, business people and FPL in attendance, among others. However, there were not many children in attendance. Mr. Chancey expressed that such an event would be fine with him as well. It was after that time period, Mr. Chancey said, that he had brought the Youth Garden Club children to the events by buses. He stated that this could all be figured out later.

Mr. Barnes said that Mr. Partington had asked him to research a question that the Committee had raised at its July 22, 2008 meeting during discussions surrounding undergrounding. At that time, there was an inquiry as to the dollar amount of the 10% utility tax the City had collected. Mr. Barnes said, according to the City's Finance Department, for the fiscal year October 2006 through September 2007, the amount of the utility tax collected was \$15,014,546.00, which is typical per year. The figures for the

current year were not yet available. Mr. Barnes confirmed upon questioning by Mr. Petreccia that this amount went to General Funds.

Mr. Caine recalled at that last meeting undergrounding ordinances was discussed, and it was indicated that the City Staff was going to do some research on that subject. Chair Brenneman advised that they were still in progress of doing that research. Chair Brenneman explained that Mr. Partington had expressed that this would take a while and that it could be placed on the September Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Caine asked if this could be placed on the Agenda under "Unfinished Business" and an update be provided on this topic every month.

Mr. Petreccia said that his neighbor asked him a question about the drought surcharge on the water bills. Because it appeared that this area may not be having a drought, his neighbor asked him to advise on the status of the surcharge.

Mr. Chancey stated that it was brought up at a recent Naturescape meeting through Commissioner Jacobs that the South Florida Water Management was in control of the amount of water that was allocated to each City. Mr. Chancey said that as of that meeting, it was explained that the City had received all of the water it was going to get.

Mr. Chancey said that they were also being told that the lake was still down and that the water restrictions were still in place. He said that this would ultimately be something to be explained by the City.

Chair Brenneman advised Mr. Petreccia that this Committee has nothing to do with the water utility. She said that it would be Mr. Partington's option as to whether he would contact someone from the City Staff to provide this answer. Because the City has its own water department and it does not involve a franchise agreement, it is not something that would involve this Committee.

VIII. Next Meeting – UAC Regular Meeting September 23, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

IX. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.