

Orlando City Council - Workshop  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
400 South Orange Avenue  
March 14, 2016

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer  
Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1  
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4  
Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5  
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6  
Kyle Shephard, Chief Assistant City Attorney  
Amy Iennaco, Interim City Clerk  
Charles Ramdatt, Public Works Director  
Dean Grandin, Planning and Development Director  
Richard Forbes, Historic Preservation Officer  
Frank O'Dea, Director of Transportation Development, FDOT District 5  
Noranne Downs, FDOT District 5 Secretary  
Loreen Bobo, P.E., FDOT I-4 Ultimate Program Manager  
Jody Litchford, Deputy City Attorney/Volunteer Central Florida Leadership Academy (CFLA)  
Police Officer, Edgar Malave, Sergeant at Arms  
Police Officer, Raul Zayas, Sergeant at Arms

\*Commissioner Ortiz was absent from the meeting

Mayor Buddy Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He indicated there would be three separate Workshops presented as follows: 1) Ultimate I-4 Update; 2) Central Florida Leadership Academy update; and 3) HPB and BZA set-backs presentation.

He welcomed Charles Ramdatt, Public Works Director to provide the introductions and brief update for the Ultimate I-4 Update. Mr. Ramdatt introduced three presenters FDOT District 5 Secretary Noranne Downs provided the project overview of the 21 miles of I-4 improvements. She discussed the scope of the project and the 40 year contract including 6.33 years of design and construction, estimating the design-build cost to be \$2.323 billion. She also discussed the planned access to express lanes and aesthetics planned for downtown under I-4.

Next, Mr. Frank O'Dea was introduced to review the operations and maintenance portion of the project. He stated they are pleased with the performance and maintenance. He discussed major portions of the project impacting Orlando, including the Kirkman Interchange, Ivanhoe and the Fairbanks curve.

Lastly, Ms. Loreen Bobo, FDOT I-4 Ultimate Program Manager, completed the presentation and discussed the location of sound walls, explaining process and timing. She also discussed employment, specifically on-the-job training opportunities that exist for Parramore and other local residents. Ms. Bobo highlighted two success stories of local citizens who took advantage of the employment training opportunities. She provided the following web addresses for further project hiring information: <http://i4ultimate.com/project-info/working-on-i-4/> and contact information at website: [WorkforceDevelopment@SGLConstructors.com](mailto:WorkforceDevelopment@SGLConstructors.com).

Ms. Bobo presented the general project schedule including the "Grand National Overpass" to be completed by Fall 2017, substantial completion January 2021 with final acceptance expected March 2021. She also discussed

a pedestrian bridge planned for Kirkman Road. She promoted an app that can be downloaded from website I4Ultimate.com to assist in up-to-date information on lane closures and alerts.

At approximately 10:20 a.m., this portion of the workshop was opened to comments and questions and discussion ensued.

**The Ultimate I-4 update was concluded at 10:38 a.m. and the Central Florida Leadership Academy (CFLA) update began.**

The Mayor introduced Ms. Jody Litchford to provide Council members an update since the academy's inception 6 years ago. Ms. Litchford provided a brief update sharing the highlights of the charter school and the success of the students. She stated it is an Orange County Public Charter School with free tuition and open to any Orange County student. She stated this school is a unique school with an emphasis on Character education, and preparation for life and fulfilling a personal destiny. Ms. Litchford explained that CFLA is patterned after the Hyde Schools, which began as boarding schools in Maine and Connecticut, and now also have charter schools in the Bronx and Brooklyn, NY, a magnet school in New Haven, CT and affiliated schools in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Orlando. She stated the academy fosters a "whole-child" approach and focuses on leadership training and community service. She stated another unique aspect of CFLA is that it is now a North American pilot for Life Kinetik Training which is a neuroscience based exercise program. She indicated it is demonstrated by studies in Europe to improve focus and memory.

Ms. Litchford indicated the CFLA is fully accredited by SSACS/CASIU and State of Florida Grade of B. She remarked on the steady growth of the academy since inception in 2010. The first graduation class of 2015-2016 has all graduating seniors applying to college or the military. She indicated there is a 0 dropout rate. She stated the school's student body is diverse and the majority of students qualify for free/reduced meals.

She further discussed the uniqueness of the students and introduced one of the students, Cortez Fisher, who thanked members of Council for the opportunity to be part of the program. She further discussed the future plans to expand the capacity to 500 students, as well as to become a laboratory school for this method of character-based education.

At 10:49 a.m. the Mayor opened up the workshop for discussion.

**At approximately 10:55 the Central Florida Leadership Academy Update was closed and the HPB and BZA Set-Backs Presentation began.**

The Mayor indicated that the HPB and BZA set-back presentation is a result of two recent quasi-judicial hearings and a review of the conflict between actions of the HPB and BZA boards. In looking into the issue he asked staff members Mr. Dean Grandin, City's Planning Director and Mr. Richard Forbes, Historic Preservation Officer to provide their recommendations to Council members.

Mr. Grandin began by providing background history in regards to disagreements between the two boards with respect to different recommended setback rules. He reviewed the most recent case involving a residence.

Mr. Forbes then reviewed the pros and cons of accessory structures, providing a couple of examples of a historic house with a historic garage apartment. He provided statewide and national perspective and a sampling of cities which give HPB decision making on setbacks within historic districts. He explained current HPB review practice.

Lastly, Mr. Grandin explained three possible options for solving the issue between the two boards, discussing pros and cons of each option. He indicated staff recommendations based on pros and cons supported the first option which includes amending the land development code to allow HPB to solely decide appropriate setbacks

within historic districts. He stated staff would like to have the LDC change ready for review at the March 28, 2016 Council meeting.

At 11:05 a.m. this portion of the workshop was open for discussion.

At 11:25 a.m. the Workshop was adjourned.

Amy T. Iennaco, Interim City Clerk