

CITY OF OAKLAND

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 23, 2006

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Dinah Benson, Maeve Elise Brown, Thomas Doctor, Ted Frey, Marcie Hodge, Mike Petouhoff, Courtney Ruby, Benjamin J. Scott (Chair), Donald White, Gene Zahas

Committee Members Absent:

Jeff Fearn (excused), O. Fabomi Ojuola, Jessica Pitt, Derrick Yoon

City Representatives Present:

Sydney Oam, *Budget Office*
Councilmember Jean Quan, *Finance and Management Committee Chair*

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

I. Administrative Items

Sydney Oam to note members whose absences are excused.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the January 23rd meeting were approved, with one addition to state the resignation of Henry Hieslmair.

III. Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) Overview and Discussion

Brooke Levin, Assistant Director of Public Works Agency, spoke about the LLAD and some of the key points she made were as follows:

- Operating costs (i.e. PG&E, water, supplies) have gone up.
- Over the past years, the City has added many acres of parks and open space (i.e. Mandela Parkway), added more street lights, planted more trees; however, there was no new funding to pay for the maintenance costs.
- LLAD received a one-time funding from the General Purpose Fund to cover some of the current year's deficit.
- It is estimated that the LLAD will experience deficits of approximately \$1.8 million in FY 06-07, \$4.5 million in FY 07-08, and \$5.0 million in FY 08-09.
- The question to consider in making funding decisions in regard to the LLAD is: What is the appropriate service level?

Chair Benjamin Scott inquired about the efficiency, workflow and staffing of the people who work on the LLAD. The issue of costs, including costs of light bulbs, was raised. Councilmember Quan provided an overview in her response to the Chair's inquiry. Brooke Levin talked about the accountability, hiring new staff and the standard of operations. She also talked about illegal dumping and graffiti throughout the LLAD parks. With the parks reorganization to Public Works there is more support to assist the Parks staff with these issues.

There was more discussion on the proposed of new measure to increase LLAD fee in the amount of \$45 per year. Mike Petouhoff made a motion in support of the City Council to put this new measure out to the public, provided that accountability issues and performance measures be addressed. Dinah Benson seconded the motion. All members voted "aye" on the motion.

IV. Next Meeting - February 27, 2006

The focus will be on the LLAD discussion and the Quarterly Revenue & Expenditure (R&E) report.

V. Open Forum

Benjamin Scott informed members of his concern about the BAC members' absence. The BAC is such an important committee; therefore, he believes that it's critical for members to attend the meeting. If members are to be absent, they should inform him or the City staff. He noticed many unexcused absences.

Sydney Oam to email members the First Quarter R&E report.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydney Oam
Budget & Operations Analyst III
CAO Budget Office