

City of Fort Lauderdale  
 Budget Advisory Board  
 Date: April 20, 2006

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Absent/ Present</u>	<u>Cumulative from 10/20/06</u>		<u>Mandatory Meetings Missed</u>
		(P)	(A)	
Curtiss Berry	P	5	1	0
Desorae Giles-Smith	P	2	3	3
Elizabeth Hernandez	A	2	4	4
Garry Johnson	A	1	5	5
Michael McFarland	P	3	3	3
Delores McKinley	P	5	1	0
William Nielsen, Chairperson	P	6	0	0
Ken Strand	P	6	0	0
Joseph Welsch, Vice Chairperson	P	6	0	0
Don Winsett	P	2	3	3

Ex-officio Members

George Gretsas, City Manager, Absent  
 Betty Burrell, Finance Director, Absent  
 Shonda Singleton-Taylor, Deputy Director, OMB

Others

Allyson C. Love, Director, OMB  
 Ray Mannion, Acting Finance Director  
 Pat Rupprecht, Assistant Budget Director

Chairperson Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and a roll call confirmed that a quorum was present. The minutes of the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

Chairperson Nielsen asked if there were any questions on the January Monthly Financial Report. Mr. Winsett asked if any encumbrances had been released. Ms. Love stated that about \$600,000 had been released.

Ms. Giles-Smith arrived at 6:45 p.m.

The Chair asked if there were any comments regarding the action items. Mr. Berry recommended that the City Auction take place on a Saturday rather than on a Wednesday to accommodate working people.

The Chair then read aloud the letter he received from the Police & Fire Pension Board Administrator inviting members of the Budget Advisory Board to the Pension Board's monthly meetings. Mr. McFarland said that he would attend their May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Chair then gave Mr. McFarland the Actuary Report and the Investment Performance Review that the Pension Board included with their letter.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or concerns. Mr. Welsch said he looked up the ordinance for the Budget Advisory Board to ascertain the purpose of the Board. He did not feel the Board was providing input on the budget to the Commissioners. He expressed concern that because the Board does not get to see the proposed budget before it is presented to the Commissioners, there is little time for the Board to react. He asked the other members how they felt.

Mr. Strand said he felt the Board should do things outside of the meetings and the Chair agreed that it takes more than just sitting here. Ms. Giles-Smith suggested having neighborhood budget hearings to get ideas to share with the City Manager. Mr. Strand felt that would only result in getting more ways to spend money when we need to cut spending. Ms. Giles-Smith disagreed saying it was about finding ways to do better government and provide quality at the cheapest cost. The Chair suggested that members attend their own civic association meetings to ask for input.

Mr. Strand replied that the Board could send suggestions to the City Manager at any time during the year as a way to have input. Mr. Winsett felt that Mr. Welsch raised some good points. He agreed that the Board should take the initiative to get input from the community, whether by inviting them to come to our meetings or else attending theirs. Mr. Welsch felt a need to do more than that

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since not all homeowners belong to the civic associations. He suggested putting something in their newsletters. Ms. Giles-Smith also suggested utilizing the City's newsletter or having something go out with the utility bills. Mr. Strand replied that he could do more with the Council of Civic Associations by obtaining input from them. He also said that all members could talk with reporters to generate other ideas.

The Chair asked the members to come to next month's meeting with suggestions. Ms. Giles-Smith asked if the public could be invited to attend the next meeting. The Chair replied that he would put it in the Council of Civic Associations newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**Prepared By: Pat Rupprecht, Assistant Budget Director, Office of Management and Budget**