

City of Fort Lauderdale
Budget Advisory Board
Date: May 18, 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	6	1	0
Desorae Giles-Smith	P	3	3	3
Garry Johnson	P	2	5	5
Michael McFarland	A	3	4	4
Delores McKinley	P	6	1	0
William Nielsen, Chairperson	P	7	0	0
Ken Strand	P	7	0	0
Joseph Welsch, Vice Chairperson	P	7	0	0
Don Winsett	A	2	4	4

Ex-officio Members

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

Others

Allyson C. Love, Director, OMB
Pat Rupprecht, Assistant Budget Director

Chairperson Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and a roll call confirmed that a quorum was not present. The approval of the April 20th minutes was therefore deferred.

Chairperson Nielsen asked if there were any questions on the March Monthly Financial Report. Mr. Welsch inquired as to the status of the FEMA reimbursement. Ms. Burrell said that the City has received very little money back so far and Ms. Love added that the reimbursement was, however, in the works.

Mr. Strand arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Welsch asked if the City would use its surplus if the FEMA money doesn't come in fast enough. Ms. Love replied that she anticipates receiving the reimbursement before the end of the fiscal year, but if necessary, the City will accrue the expenses to the grant fund.

Mr. Johnson arrived at 6:40 p.m. and Ms. Giles-Smith arrived at 6:42 p.m.

Ms. Love introduced Ms. Burrell as the new Finance Director.

A quorum was now present so the minutes of the April 20th meeting were unanimously approved.

The Chair asked if there were any comments regarding the action item on obtaining ideas from the homeowner associations. Ms. Love distributed a copy of the ordinance that established the Budget Advisory Board.

Mr. Welsch said that District 1 is looking for more police for traffic monitoring and to improve response time to home alarms. Other ideas were better park maintenance, including maintenance of the median strips on Bayview Drive and Federal Highway, and repair of leaking sprinkler systems.

Mr. Strand noted that the median on A-1-A between Las Olas and Sunrise boulevards has been poorly maintained for years.

Ms. Giles-Smith brought ideas from several of the homeowner associations in her neighborhoods. They include: more lighting on Sistrunk Blvd; standardizing the signage along Sistrunk storefronts; adoption of the WRT urban design criteria and land use revisions to the code; installation of speed bumps along NW 4th and 5th streets; more foot and bicycle police patrols in the neighborhoods; additional streetlights where it's currently inadequate; community computer skills training for youth and senior

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citizens at the Mizell Library and/or Sunland Park; more lighting on the front & back of the Lauderdale Manors Community Center due to crime, drugs, and gang activity; beautify NW 15th Ave and NW 10th Place; more police bike patrol and lighting in the River Garden Sweetings Estates; more code enforcement officers; trash cleanup of CRA properties; more funding for NCIP and BCIP; speed humps and streetlights for Dillard Park; and no parking or no standing signs for NW 23rd Ave.

Mr. Johnson said that for the Board to be able to prioritize these requests they would need to know the budgets for median maintenance, neighborhood patrol and code enforcement, and how the departments are addressing the neighborhoods concerns.

Mr. Strand felt the Board shouldn't be looking for ways to spend money but instead be looking to see how the budget can be more efficient.

Ms. Giles-Smith requested that the Police, Parks, and Public Works departments come to next month's meeting. Ms. Love stated she would see if they are available to attend the next month's meeting.

Mr. Strand felt that the Board was not equipped to analyze the budget. Instead they should be seeing how services could be improved without raising taxes. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Welsch disagreed saying if services aren't adequate, it may be necessary to raise taxes.

Ms. Giles-Smith asked if the Police, Parks, and Public Works departments would also give their staffing levels by district and the hours worked when they come. Mr. Strand felt that code enforcement needs to work beyond an 8:00-5:00 shift. Chairperson Nielsen noted that not everyone wants more code enforcement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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