

MINUTES

City of Lakewood
Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee
Executive Board Room, 5000 Clark Ave., Lakewood, CA
March 20, 2024
6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Crystal Jones-Duncan at 6:01 p.m. in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

PRESENT: Crystal Jones-Duncan, Chair, City Council Appointee, Seniors
Jeannie Clark, Vice Chair, City Council Appointee, At-Large
Joanie Dixson, Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Rose Nelson, Lakewood Women's Club
Ron Piazza, City Council Appointee, Business Community
Ahmed Rafi, City Council Appointee, Neighborhood Watch

ABSENT: Cassandra Chase, City Council Audit Committee
Jeff Wood, City Council Audit Committee
Valerie Youell, City Council Appointee, Youth

ALSO PRESENT: Paolo Beltran, Deputy City Manager
Anne Rodriguez, Asst. Director of Finance and Administrative Services
Kelli Pickler, Deputy Director of Public Works
Kevin Yamakawa, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works
Sam Chambers, Asst. Project Manager, Public Works
Barbara Di Iorio, Executive Secretary

I. Introduction of New Member

Chair Jones-Duncan introduced and welcomed Joanie Dixson as the newest member of the Committee. Ms. Dixson will serve on this committee as the current Chairperson of the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Dixson introduced herself as the First Vice President of F & M Bank, where she has been employed for the past five years. She added that, in her 30 years working in the banking industry, she has always become involved in the community. She is happy to be on this committee in addition to all the other service organizations in which she is already involved.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2023 Meeting

A motion to approve was made by Member Piazza, seconded by Vice Chair Clark, and carried without objection, to approve the September 27, 2023 minutes of the Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee.

III. Review of Annual comprehensive Financial Report for the Year Ended on June 30, 2023 and Mid-Cycle Budget Update

Assistant Director Anne Rodriguez provided a report supported with slides that briefly reviewed the process and purpose of the ACFR. The financial performance for FY 2022-23 (year end June 30, 2023), was reviewed, followed by a review of the FY 2023-24 (current year) General Fund midyear budget.

IV. Status of Capital Improvement Projects Funded by Measure L

Public Works Principal Civil Engineer, Kevin Yamakawa, provided a report, supported with slides, updating the committee on Capital Improvement projects. An explanation of annual projects included ADA improvements, fire and security, painting, roof, fence, hardscape, playgrounds, and other maintenance. Information was provided on upcoming improvement and repair projects at the Bloomfield Park Activity Building and the Burns Community Center daycare kitchen, as well as for completed projects including The Centre carpet replacement and lighting and ceiling improvements, and the City Hall modular trailer and office refurbishment.

Mr. Yamakawa reported that Southland Industries has been contracted to do the replacement or renovation of existing electrical, HVAC and/or roof infrastructure at eight facilities in the city. Southland Industries is also conducting an Investment Grade Audit to determine the best course of action for the city to take to prioritize and address the needs of the aging facilities. Updates were provided on projects including the Mayfair Pool Fence replacement, Palms Park Exterior Infrastructure, and Community Center improvements. He also reported on the development of the Del Amo Boulevard at Clark Avenue corner lot Civic Center site to accommodate a multi-use public event space, restrooms, and amenities.

V. Public Safety Updates

Deputy City Manager Beltran provided an overview of what the city's Public Safety Department does. He noted that in 2018, the City Manager was tasked to create a stand-alone Public Safety Department to express the City Council's serious commitment to public safety. The report was supported with slides that explained the various components of law enforcement, Sky Knight, community engagement, emergency management, and school safety services. Because of Measure L, many of these programs were expanded.

VI. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present to comment.

VII. Committee Member Comments

Chair Jones-Duncan thanked Members Clark and Nelson for their service, and these members expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the Committee.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Jones-Duncan adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Di Iorio
Executive Secretary