

Measure O Oversight Committee
March 14 2023 Meeting:

1. Call to order: Present, Maureen Brennan, Frank Grimsley, Elizabeth Genai, Chief Johnson and Angie Noble
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Confirmation of Agenda
4. Approval of May 2022 minutes: F. Grimsley, E. Genai, Aye, M. Brennan, abstained
5. Public Communications:

Director Bowman introduced herself as a previous Measure O committee member, and welcomed our new member, with instruction to contact her anytime for information in the future.

6. Discussion of Measure O Oversight Committee report:
Powerpoint presentation by member Maureen Brennan, with discussion about the language of Measure O, the original intention as described by the Contra Costa County legal counsel in 2016, and, are we in compliance. Discussion followed.

Member A. Noble stated that Pensions and health care is “taking care of our employees.” If we only look at the Measure O language, it might look punitive, and that we are not supporting our firefighters.

Member F. Grimsley stated that it is important to focus on the “prime objectives” of Measure O. If we’ve spent all of our monies on pensions and benefits, then we have nothing left when we need to buy important life-saving equipment, hire more paramedics, etc. “We need to give them what they need, to do their job, and prioritize money for specific objectives.”

E. Genai stated that money for pensions and benefits should come from the general County budget portion of our income, as an operational expense. Measure O money was designed to be used for other purposes.

Chief Johnson stated again, that Measure O money is “including but not limited to . . .” the specific Measure O language. Our current budget of \$8.8 million, \$6.7 million without Measure O, “all goes into one pot.” “It’s easier to track that way.”

Member M. Brennan pointed out that Measure O language states that parcel tax revenue be kept in a separate fund, and should not go into one pot. She was disturbed that at a recent Board meeting, Chief Johnson suggested that the District needed to

contract out fire-prevention programs, an item specifically covered by the Measure O portion of the budget.

We all agreed to review the budget online, and have further discussion at our next meeting in April.

7. Discussion of Community Outreach: We still have need of one more representative on the committee, due to the resignation of Annie Ziff.

8. Election of officers for 2023:

The original MOU for Measure O committee included election of a Secretary position. A motion was made that we discontinue this practice. A vote was taken.

Ayes: F. Grimsley, E. Genai, A. Noble, and M. Brennan

No: None

Also, M. Brennan was nominated for President, by E. Genai, seconded by F. Grimsley

Ayes: F. Grimsley, A. Noble, E. Genai, and M. Brennan

No: None

Also, F. Grimsley was nominated was nominated for Vice-President, but declined due to time constraints. A. Noble then nominated E. Genai, seconded by M. Brennan.

Ayes: F. Grimsley, E. Genai, A. Noble, M. Brennan

No: None

9. Schedule of meetings for 2023:

We discussed returning to monthly meetings, as the consistency helps members to remember the dates. However, since our duties are predominately to assess the budget presented in February, we decided to have one additional meeting this year in April, another in May, before final budget approval, and one in September to re-assess budget allocations for 2023. We also hope to attend, but not required, a budget committee workshop in June and an appropriations meeting in September to aid in this assessment. Meetings will be the second Tuesdays of the month at 6:00pm. Chief Johnson is not required to attend. A motion was made by SA. Noble, and seconded by F. Grimsley

Ayes: F. Grimsley, M. Brennan, E. Genai, A. Noble

No: None

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.