



ROTARY CLUB OF BENICIA

Lorie Tinfow Speaks about Benicia's Priority Based Budget

Today, our own Rotary club member, Lorie Tinfow, spoke about Benicia's Priority Based Budget process. Lorie is the City Manager for Benicia, and she wanted to share about this process which our city is now undergoing.

Before coming to Benicia, Lorie worked in the public sector in Pacifica, Walnut Creek, Pleasanton, Saratoga, and Walnut Creek again. Prior to working in this arena, she worked in the private sector and did not start public work until she was 35. With degrees from Stanford and Harvard (Earth Science and City and Regional Planning), she comes to Benicia with much experience and expertise.



When Lorie first worked in Walnut Creek, she learned about Priority Based Budgets. Walnut Creek was hard hit with the economic downturn in 2008. People didn't shop, people didn't dine, people simply didn't do...and Walnut Creek was faced with a looming financial crisis.

Mario Giuliani works for the city, too, and he is leading the City of Benicia staff effort to move through the Priority Based Budgeting process. In March, the City of Benicia reached out to the community for their input.

A measure of **fiscal health** is denoted these processes:

- Incorporating economic analysis and longterm planning into decision-making
- "Spending within our means"
- Establishing and maintaining reserves
- Understanding variances (budget vs. actual)
- Transparency about the "true cost of doing business"

A measure of **fiscal wellness** is denoted these processes:

- Achieving fiscal health
- Identifying, defining and valuing the results of government
- Valuing programs based on evidence of their influence on results
- Systematically evaluating program efficiency
- Supporting resource allocation decision making with prioritization of programs

So why is the City of Benicia doing this? It is important for us as a community to understand where our dollars go to support our programs. This process will show which programs are meeting our needs. A handout of this overall process is on page 3 of this bulletin.

Thank you, Lorie, for sharing this interesting, data-driven process with us — and helping us understand how this will help make Benicia a better place to live!

Happy Dollars

- * **Martha Christopher** has a new puppy, Mason, rescued from Winters. Mason is a delightful Cocker Spaniel that has found his forever home with her and Jerry! She was \$10 happy.
- * **Jim Trimble** was \$20 happy as Chris was going away for a few days. He was also happy because of the 4 scholar ships and 2 grants available for our local high school students at BHS and LHS.
- * **Bob Triglia** was \$20 happy about the scholarships, too.
- * **Steve McClure** was \$5 happy as his daughter, who plays softball, was contacted by a coach who will call her later this week — possibly about playing softball for college!
- * **Charles Young** was at Rotary today. *Welcome, back, Charles!* We've missed you! Of course, Jim Trimble promptly fined him but Bill Warren bailed him out and paid Charles' fine.
- * **Bill Pugh** owes \$1 because he couldn't answer a question.
- * **Susan Hurl** owes \$1 because she couldn't answer a question.
- * **Darrell Doi** owes \$5 because he couldn't answer a question.
- * **Bill Warren** owes \$1 because he couldn't answer a question.
- * ***So.....is anyone reading this bulletin anymore???***

Noteworthy

- * If anyone is planning to attend the Rotary District Conference in May in Lake Tahoe, Marlene Straberger, our exchange student, may need a ride to and from.
- * The Liberty High School Golf Tournament is Wednesday, April 19.
- * John Blunt was selling more peanuts and M&M and coffee. Thank you, John.
- * The annual BEF run is Sunday, April 22.

Priority Based Budgeting: How it works in Benicia

