

Suggested IRBC Sub-Committees

It seems to me that infrastructure analysis task can be broken down into components based on general categories. Committees could thus be established for each category:

- (1) Functional necessities such as streets, bridges, fire and police facilities and utilities.
- (2) Amenities, such as libraries, parks, museums, swimming pools, athletic fields.
- (3) Administrative and support facilities such as the city hall, and corporation yard.
- (4) It is important to compare Palo Alto's budget, manpower requirements and facilities with other nearby cities. Since there are differences operating characteristics, it is essential that significant differences be identified and quantified, at least approximately. For example, Palo Alto manages its electrical and gas distribution systems in addition to water, sewage and storm drainage. The only nearby city with its own electrical and gas distribution is Santa Clara, and they generate some of their own electricity, whereas Palo Alto does not. While this job could be split up into the committees listed as 1, 2, and 3 above, there is some merit to having this as a separate committee as the outreach to adjacent communities will be simplified if it's only done once.

Notes:

- 1) I suggest that each subcommittee investigate and prioritize projects and maintenance tasks within its category and identify financial requirements as well. I would not have a separate finance sub committee.
- 2) I have included utilities as a functional necessity, recognizing that it is supported by and enterprise fund. Utilities are, nevertheless, tightly connected to streets and funds are transferred between the utility fund and the general fund, so some attention must be paid this.
- 3) The airport also will operate under an enterprise fund. While it should probably be classified in the functional necessity category, it is currently under county management. I feel that, for the moment it can simply be assumed to be self-supporting, but not generate useful amounts of income for the city.

Submitted by Ralph Britton, 1/11/2011