

City of Alexandria, Virginia
BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Tuesday – February 27, 2018
7 p.m.
Alexandria City Hall
Sister Cities, Room #1101
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Summary Minutes

Commission Members:

Ben Klein (Chair), Kathy Stenzel (Vice Chair), David Baker, Martin Frost, Margaret Gullen, Skip Maginniss, Jesse O’Connell, Leonard Rubenstein, Joe Valenti

Absent: Kirk McPike (excused), Ericka Miller (excused), Robert Shea (excused), Michael Wenk (excused)

OMB Staff:

Arthur Wicks, Lisa Henty

Others in Attendance (Guests/Staff/Public):

None

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order:** Chair **Klein** called the meeting to order at 7:04 with a quorum present.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** **Gullen** moved to approve the minutes as written. **Stenzel** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- III. OMB Report**
 - a. **Wicks** walked through the upcoming work session calendar
 - b. **Wicks** noted that the ACPS budget request came in \$1.1 million higher the amount indicated in the Manager’s budget
 - i. **Maginniss** asked for some background or insight into this gap, given the effort between City and Schools to better coordinate
 1. **Wicks** confirmed that the Manager and the interim superintendent worked together on their budgets, and that the gap was a result of a choice to implement a textbook replacement program. Despite efforts to align ACPS/School Board budget calendars with City budget calendars, we haven’t gotten them fully aligned yet- so a last minute choice like this is still difficult to reconcile
 2. **Klein** pointed out that the gap in the schools request is smaller than in past years, which is positive progress

- 3. **Stenzel** agreed that calendar alignment is still an issue and one that we should keep pushing to resolve
 - ii. **Wicks** pointed out that there is a public hearing on 3/12 and BFACC should have a representative there
 - iii. **Klein** solicited feedback about when the BFAAC work session with Council should happen. The commission discussed various dates.
 - 1. **Valenti** moved to recommend 4/18 as the work session date. **O’Connell** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Discussion of City Manager’s Proposed FY 2019 Operating Budget and FY 2019 – FY 2028 Capital Improvement Program

- a. **Wicks** walked through an overview of the Manager’s budget and highlights key sections
- b. **O’Connell** asked for details about the King Street Retail District Initiative, what amounts the City will be spending on what elements.
- c. **Klein** wanted to know if concern was raised about the increase in DASH fees
 - i. **Henty** said that there was not substantial discussion of that issue
 - ii. **Maginniss** asked if the fee was still competitive regionally.
 - 1. **Henty** said yes
 - 2. **Rubenstein** followed up to ask if that comparison included a mileage baseline, given differences in route length in neighboring jurisdictions
 - a. **Henty** said she will check
- d. **Valenti** noted the expansion in RPCA funding and wanted to know if those expansion included fee increases
 - i. **Henty** said yes because there is capacity in certain RPCA programs and activities and they will invite non-residents to participate and charge a non-resident fee.
- e. **Klein** and **Stenzel** congratulated staff on a well drafted budget
- f. **Klein** asked when the cumulative impact report will be shared with Council
 - i. **Wicks** said that was still TBD
 - ii. **Rubenstein** reiterated that this report should be released to Council as soon as possible

V. BFAAC Memo #6 – Recommendations & Observations Related to City Manager’s Proposed Budget

- a. The commission discussed what topics we want to reflect on and what format to use (memo vs. report).
- b. The commission had a specific discussion on the issue of a meals tax for affordable housing, including how this policy proposal relates to prior commission precedent about dedicated funding sources
- c. **Frost** flagged the issue of a pending federal infrastructure package and what the implications of that could mean

- d. Topics that emerged from the discussions
 - i. Process (sub-committee)
 - ii. Revenue (sub-committee)
 - iii. Affordable housing (sub-committee)
 - 1. The commission agreed that we should first understand where there is overlap with other City commission jurisdictions, and ensure that we are aware of other recommendations
 - iv. Operations/CIP
 - v. School calendar alignment
 - vi. Employee compensation (sub-committee)
- e. The commission discussed if additional meetings needed to be added to the commission calendar in March and April
- f. Formation of sub-committees
 - i. Revenue: **Maginniss, Valenti, O'Connell, Gullen**
 - ii. Process: **Klein, Stenzel**
 - iii. Affordable Housing: **Valenti, O'Connell**
 - iv. Employee Compensation: **Baker, Rubenstein**
- g. Discussion of immediately upcoming meetings:
 - i. March 13 with ACPS (not mandatory)
 - ii. March 20
 - 1. Draft of sub-committee memos due
 - iii. New meeting in early April to review drafts
 - iv. April 18 work session with Council

VI. Adjournment: **Valenti** moved that the meeting be adjourned, **Stenzel** seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

VII. Next Meeting: March 20, 2018