

City of Alexandria, Virginia
BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Tuesday – September 18, 2018
7 p.m.
Alexandria City Hall
Sister Cities Conference Room #1101
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Summary Minutes

Commission Members:

Ben Klein (Chair), Kathy Stenzel (Vice Chair), Margaret Gullen, Nicholas Lee, Ericka Miller, Jesse O’Connell, Joe Valenti, Michael Wenk

Absent: Skip Maginniss (excused), Kirk McPike (excused)

Vacant: Representative for Mayor Silberberg, Representative for Councilman Chapman, Representative for Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

OMB Staff:

Morgan Routt, Arthur Wicks

Others in Attendance (Guests/Staff/Public):

Robert Ray (nominated Representative for Mayor Silberberg)

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order:** Chair **Klein** called the meeting to order at 7:00 with a quorum present.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** **Wenk** moved to approve the May 15 minutes as written. **O’Connell** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. **Valenti** moved to approve the July 5 housing sub-committee minutes as written. **Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- III. Discussion of Commission Membership Transitions and Election of Officers**
 - a. **Klein** reminded the commission that the election will bring significant membership turnover. He suggested that we elect new officers this fall to ensure stability in leadership transition.
 - i. The commission discussed the appropriate date for officer elections
 - b. **Gullen** suggested that following the election when member members of council have identified likely commissions nominations they should be invited to observe commission meetings. **Klein** agreed, and said that the new council should be encouraged to identify commission members quickly.
- IV. FY 2020 Workplanning**
 - a. Budget guidance will be out later this fall.

- b. **Valenti** recaps the affordable housing sub-committee meeting and leads a discussion of how to approach this in the FY 2020 work
 - i. **O'Connell** says that our job is not to create policy but to examine the various elements of possible policies that have budget implications. Asks staff to consider what the commission can/should be briefed on so that the commission can synthesize and summarize that information for Council
 - ii. **Wenk** asks for clarification about the type of ideas the commission should be considering. **Klein** says that we should not play the role of pre-judging any given idea but analyze and explore as many options as feasible.
 - iii. **Klein** wants to think about what the process will look like to develop a useful deliverable
 - iv. **Lee** would like the opportunity to review/compare what other localities have done or are doing
 - v. **Klein** suggests that we aim for a high-level presentation during the Council budget retreat and then ask for guidance/mandate from Council regarding further work
- c. Discussion of process to engage with the budget guidance in November
 - i. Consensus that the commission should prepare a brief reflection similar to what was produced for FY 2019
 - ii. **Ray** suggests we reflect on how to prepare to address the full totality of costs in front of the city without having to further cut services or programs
 - iii. **Stenzel** says to include a reminder about the joint task force report
 - iv. **O'Connell** would like to highlight the work on emphasizing revenue as well as a reminder about the alignment of budget cycles
- d. Discussion of topics to cover in FY 2020 workplan
 - i. **Wenk** suggests economic growth, school achievement gap, infrastructure, affordable housing, and transportation
 - ii. **Stenzel** suggests housing, revenue, and school/city collaboration
 - iii. **Klein** suggests worker compensation and reminds the commission that the preferred work process will be the development of a series of shorter topical memos along with an abbreviated budget reflection
 - iv. **Valenti** suggests the impact of state and federal tax changes, and the wide-scale metro shutdown in Alexandria in summer 2019
 - v. **Wenk** asked about the Potomac Yard metro project
 - vi. **O'Connell** suggested a review/summary of the city's use of its bonding authority as well as a primer on how cities can successfully weather recessions

V. OMB Report

- a. Council retreat on 11/10, budget guidance out 11/3, budget delivered 2/19, budget adoption first week of May
- b. City staff has recently met with Schools staff, working on the plan to separate the CIP and the ops budget planned for FY2021
- c. FY2018 closeout will be completed soon

- d. FY2020 forecast will begin soon
- e. Staff is moving ahead with the priority-based budgeting process
 - i. **Wenk** asks for clarification on how money is allocated following the prioritization process
- f. **Stenzel** asks for an update on how it has been going with the Schools superintendent and CFO. **Rouff** says things have been positive so far.
- g. **Wenk** asks for an update on the implementation of recommendations from the joint City/Schools task force
 - i. **Rouff** says they are working on the fleet study and the facilities master plan process

VI. Adjournment: **O'Connell** moved that the meeting be adjourned, **Gullen** seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

VII. Next Meeting: October 16, 2018