

BFAAC Meeting Minutes November 17, 2015

Attendees:

Morgan Routh
Alex Braden
Whitney Harris
John Renner
Dak Hardwick
Patrice Linehan
Clarence Tong
Jean Sun Kim
Laurie MacNamara
David Baker
Michael Wenk
H. (Skip) Maginniss

I. Minutes

II. OMB Report

1. Civic Engagement Wrap-Up – Staff Report

- a. Four meetings were held this year. The number of attendees were down from last year, although those attending appeared engaged and interested. This year the public could ask questions via internet.
- b. Attendees focused on such issues as schools, transportation, public safety, and affordable housing.
- c. Attendees noted that increasing funding may include raising taxes and greater contributions by developers.
- d. Attendees had few suggestions on which programs should be deleted or reduced.
- e. In the future the challenge will be for staff to determine how best to provide information to the public and provide a reasonable opportunity for them to participate in the discussion.
- f. DH suggested that Staff consider “budget gaming” exercises, and that this recommendation should be included in one of our BFAAC reports. Also, it would be ideal if there could be a meeting or briefing with BFAAC prior to the retreat.

2. Council Retreat

- a. Staff summarized the agenda for the upcoming retreat.
- b. They will present preliminary estimates in the morning. At present, there is a \$24 million gap, compared to \$30 million last year at this time. There has been a \$12 million growth in revenue, but \$36 million in expenses is projected. Real estate taxes (income) is growing at a slower rate than projected.
- c. Personnel costs are rising.
- d. The base school budget is expected to increase by \$6 million and they will request an additional \$5 million.
- e. The Capital funding item will indicate an \$8 million increase for debt service.
- f. The City Manager has asked departments for options to reduce their budgets by 5%.
- g. Staff will present an updated 5 year model to Council.

III. Other Business

1. West End Transitway Presentation

- a. Allan Fye briefed the committee on the status of the project, including the alternatives, funding options and sources, and schedule. A written outline of the briefing was provided to the committee.
 - b. There will be a heavy reliance on the availability of NVTA funding (70%).
 - c. The projected start of construction is FY18-19.
2. ACPS Budget Forecast
- a. Patrice Linehan provided a copy of the provisional ACPS FY 2017-FY 2021 Fiscal Forecast to the committee as background information for future joint meetings with the School Board Fiscal Affairs Committee.
 - b. Dak Hardwick suggested that BFAAC should select three topics/issues to discuss at future joint meetings. After discussion, three issues were proposed: the possibility of developing “modular” costs indexed to such as population increases; the fund balance; and, ways to align (coordinate) the budgeting calendar with the City so more reliable budget information can be communicated at an earlier date.
3. Next meeting in January

IV. Adjourn