

**BUDGET OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

May 31, 2017

**Officers**

|                |            |            |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| Lucia Jansen   | Chairman   | District 7 |
| Danyal Ozizmir | Vice Chair | District 5 |
| Robert Allen   | Secretary  | District 3 |

**Members**

| District | Delegate         | Present or Absent | 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate | Present or Absent | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate | Present Or Absent |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1        | James Vaughn     | A                 | Grant Perkins             | A                 |                           |                   |
| 2        | Nancy Burke      | A                 | Donald Conway             | A                 | Jude Collins              | P                 |
| 3        | Robert Allen     | P                 | Rosalind Nicastro         | P                 |                           |                   |
| 4        | Romulo Samaniego | A                 | Brian O'Connor            | A                 |                           |                   |
| 5        | Dan Ozizmir      | P                 | Jason Auerbach            | A                 | Andy Duus                 | P                 |
| 6        | Hans Thalheim    | A                 | George Sorenson           | A                 |                           |                   |
| 7        | Lucia Jansen     | P                 | Bill Galvin               | P                 |                           |                   |
| 8        | Joe Solari       | P                 | Thomas McGarrity          | A                 |                           |                   |
| 9        | Carol Zarilli    | P                 | Thomas Eagan              | A                 |                           |                   |
| 10       | Bertram Metter   | A                 | Alan Small                | A                 |                           |                   |
| 11       | Robert Maddux    | A                 | Gregory Zorthian          | P                 |                           |                   |
| 12       | El-Shaffei Dada  | A                 | Thomas Agresta            | A                 | David DeMilhau            | P                 |

Guests: Leslie Tarkington, Board of Estimate & Taxation  
 Peter Berg, RTM Land Use Chair, D8  
 John Dolan, RTM Finance Committee Delegate, D7

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair Lucia Jansen. There were 8 districts present with district 1,4,6, and 10 both delegate and alternate were absent.

The BOC Minutes for April 26, 2017 and May 2, 2017 were unanimously approved.

The BOC discussed several budget and financial matters. Lucia informed the BOC that, Alexis Voulgaris, the Health & Human Services RTM Chair, has agreed for the committee to jointly work with the BOC on the analysis and review of the soon to be released Nathaniel Witherell report written by the BET Special Committee. Second, the BOC discussed various ideas for the BOE to improve the information presented in their annual budget report. Soon a meeting will take place between the BOC and BOE to exchange the many new suggestions. Finally, Lucia mentioned in FY 17 (as early as September) the RTM will receive labor contract renewals for Teamsters, LIUNA, Fire, and Police.

## **Call Items #6 and #7 - RTM Approval of Bruce Museum Municipal Improvements**

Lucia invited Bob Brady, the proponent of the items, to the BOC meeting since they will have an impact on the Town budget. Mr. Brady could not attend, however, Peter Berg, who shares Mr. Brady's views and supports the items, attended the BOC meeting. Mr. Berg explained that the intent of the call items was to draw attention to a current *process* problem where the Town MI approval does not appear to be following the Charter, Section 99 and 100, describing Municipal Improvement (MI). They see an issue with many projects receiving BOS and P&Z MI approval and then moving on to the next phase of the permit process prior to the RTM voting on the proposed MI projects. They viewed the Bruce Museum expansion project as an ideal example to highlight what they see as a current flawed MI process. The BOC suggested that since the call items were more than anything a process issue that perhaps what was needed was a RTM subcommittee to delve deep into the concerns and to make proposed recommendations for the future.

The BOC then discussed the Bruce Museum MI approval and had many questions related to the future Town costs with the expansion of the project. Mr. Berg stated that there would be no added future Town expense with the project. That is, the current levels of Town funding would remain exactly the same. However, when asked for documentation describing the funding levels (and other aspects to the scope and cost of the project) there was none to provide at the BOC's meeting and none in the call included with the explanatory comments.

**A Motion was made and seconded to postpone the RTM's Municipal Improvement approval of the Bruce Museum expansion pending receipt of the following basic building block of information, (including, but not limited to: a full detailed description on the scope of the proposed expansion of the building footprint and associated landscape; disclosure of existing Bruce Museum operating and capital costs; detail outline of current Bruce Museum Town contribution, including direct payment amount, operating and capital subsidy, in kind Town services, and any other financial subsidy; disclosure of future costs and how much has been raised in pledges and direct donation for the project; an update of all related land use tests confirming there are no soil contamination issues; submission of the amended management agreement). Motion PASSED 8-0-0. Districts 1,4,6,10 were absent.**

The BOC then discussed the BOC's budget letter to Town Leaders with the goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2018-19. Lucia began by noting the grim fact that the General Assembly still seemed far apart in agreeing to a FY 18 budget by June 7 to responsibly address the \$5.1 billion shortfall of funds. Added to the state fiscal situation was the unexpected news earlier in the day that Aetna Insurance was close to a decision on moving their headquarters out of state. Discussion by various BOC members was for a FY 19 town budget showing serious fiscal restraint and reform in both operating and capital spending. Also mentioned was for the BOC to request for greater cost reform in future labor contracts. The BOC will continue the dialogue over the phone and email before the final letter is sent to town leaders in June 2017.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.