

**Thursday, January 11, 2018  
Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting – GCEDC  
Innovation Zone Conference Room – Suite 107  
3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee Members: P. Battaglia, J. Rizzo, P. Zeliff  
GCEDC/GGLDC Board Members:  
Staff: L. Farrell, M. Masse, E. Richardson, P. Kennett, S. Hyde, R. Tabelski  
Guests:  
Absent: C. Yunker

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ENTER PUBLIC SESSION**

J. Rizzo called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. in the Andrews Conference Room.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & ACTIVITIES**

**2a. Agenda Additions / Other Business –**

**P. Battaglia made a motion to add item 3e. Solar Discussion to the agenda; the motion was seconded by P. Zeliff. Roll call resulted as follows:**

P. Zeliff -	Yes
J. Rizzo -	Yes
C. Yunker -	Absent
P. Battaglia -	Yes

**The item was approved as presented.**

**2b. Minutes: December 5, 2017**

**P. Zeliff made a motion to approve the December 5, 2017 meeting minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by P. Battaglia. Roll call resulted as follows:**

P. Zeliff -	Yes
J. Rizzo -	Yes
C. Yunker -	Absent
P. Battaglia -	Yes

**The item was approved as presented.**

**3. DISCUSSIONS / OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD**

**3a. Board Self-Evaluation Process/Questionnaire –** L. Farrell provided a copy of the confidential evaluation of board performance questionnaire and asked the Committee to review. If there are no changes to the questionnaire, the staff will send these out to each Board member requesting that they be submitted to the Board Chair. The Board Chair will then tally the results to be submitted to PARIS and reviewed by the Board.

J. Rizzo believed that no changes are necessary to the questionnaire and that the process should remain the same as last year.

**3b. Committee Self-Evaluation Process** - L. Farrell shared that when the Committee had last reviewed and approved the Committee Charter it was pointed out that the Charter states that the Committee will do an annual self-evaluation. She is looking for some feedback as to what the Committee would like this process will look like.

The Audit & Finance Committee suggested that the Governance & Nominating Committee be the ones that facilitate this process; reminding all other committees that this should be done and reviewing all other committees' results.

J. Rizzo suggested adapting a short checklist for each Committee to use as a tool when performing their self-evaluations.

L. Farrell will develop a short checklist for Committee evaluations and will share with the Governance Committee at a future meeting.

**3c. Authority Self-Evaluation of Prior Year Performance** – M. Masse shared that Public Authorities are required to perform a self-evaluation of prior year's goals/measurements annually. This report will be submitted to the ABO. In previous years the Committee/Board has reviewed the Agency's results separately. To streamline the process, the Agency's results are presented using this form.

The Agency had 16 project wins in 2017, with a total pledged capital investment of \$240 million and 288 pledged jobs. These projects resulted in a combined \$915 million economic impact.

**P. Zeliff made a motion to approve the Authority Self-Evaluation of Prior Year Performance as presented; the motion was seconded by P. Battaglia. Roll call resulted as follows:**

P. Zeliff -	Yes
J. Rizzo -	Yes
C. Yunker -	Absent
P. Battaglia -	Yes

**The item was approved as presented.**

**3d. Mission Statement & Measurement Report** – M. Masse shared that the Authority's Board must annually review the authority's mission statement and performance goals to ensure that its mission has not changed and that the authority's performance goals continue to support its mission. This report will be submitted to the ABO.

M. Masse added that the capital investment and job creation goals are based on an average of the last four years of actual pledged capital investment and job creation. Mega projects and one-time larger projects were removed from this average as shown in a spreadsheet provided to the Committee. The other suggested goals are somewhat over-arching goals that the entire staff can work towards achieving.

J. Rizzo thought that it made the most sense to remove big projects that aren't normal. It is a superior way to present the information and the spreadsheet is a good tool for the Board to work from.

**P. Zeliff made a motion to approve the Mission Statement & Measurement Report as presented; the motion was seconded by P. Battaglia. Roll call resulted as follows:**

P. Zeliff -	Yes
J. Rizzo -	Yes
C. Yunker -	Absent
P. Battaglia -	Yes

**The item was approved as presented.**

**3e. Solar Discussion** – R. Tabelaški shared that as a measure to promote the instillation of clean energy sources, the New York State legislature adopted a section of the RPTL § 487 that exempts the value of solar panel systems from local property taxes. Under the law, any increase in the property value attributable to the addition of the solar panel system is exempt from property taxes. RPTL § 487 is the cornerstone to the State's strategy to meet its clean energy goals.

The law does, however, allow any taxing jurisdictions (town, school, etc.) to “opt-out” of the tax exemption by adopting a local law or resolution making the added value of the solar panel system fully taxable.

Currently only the Town of Batavia has amended their zoning to allow for solar. Two projects have been completed/ under construction with all the taxing jurisdictions opting in for full 15-year exemption on incremental increase in assessed value under RPTL § 487, and not asking the projects to enter into a PILOT agreement. One new project is moving forward now (Cypress) and has asked for a PILOT from the taxing jurisdictions.

The staff will continue to provide support to the County in navigating through the decision criteria and options that the County has related to solar exemptions.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business, P. Zeliff made a motion to adjourn at 3:35 p.m., seconded by P. Battaglia, and passed unanimously.