



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JULY 6, 2015

The Executive Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 11:00 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the June 1, 2015 meeting minutes and discuss information items. The following members were present:

Bill Jonson, Chairperson
Janet Long, Secretary/Treasurer
Darden Rice
Ken Welch

Absent:

Julie Bujalski, Vice-Chairperson

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jonson opened the meeting at 11:05 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 1, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Welch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve the June 1, 2015 meeting minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CEO's Evaluation – Mr. Miller explained that it was agreed at the Personnel Committee meeting to not send out the evaluation form to the full Board until the Executive Committee reviewed the document.

The Committee suggested and agreed that the third bullet on the **2016 Major Challenges – Opportunities** page should read, “PSTA is putting together a new, stronger legislative team of federal and state lobbyists, increasing coordination with HART, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and others to present a common message of our transportation priorities, including regional initiatives.” They also agreed that the last sentence in the fourth bullet should read, “It will be important to demonstrate how these regional partnerships can be successful at improving PSTA services to our customers, reduce congestion/gridlock, and improve mobility to major activity centers such as Clearwater Beach and Tampa International Airport (TIA).” The Committee suggested moving the **2016 Major Challenges – Opportunities** page right before the **Suggested Draft Goals for July 2015 – June 2016** page.

Chairperson Jonson shared his comments on the **Suggested DRAFT Goals for July 2015 – June 2016** page. He suggested II.A read, “PSTA Board to participate in MPO multi-modal priority setting by July 1, 2016.” Add II.D, “PSTA will partner with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on their strategic planning and design of transportation facilities for transit corridors and users.” Ms. Long suggested taking out the word “adequate” in III., that the date in VI.B be changed to August 26, 2015, and the date in VII.A be changed to July 1, 2016. Chairperson Jonson suggested adding, “Jointly work with the Pinellas County Commission and the MPO to address the long-term transit needs of Pinellas.” Ms. Long suggested having a symposium with all the different agencies involved in transit to identify long-term transit needs. Mr. Welch suggested a joint meeting with the agencies to ask for their support of PSTA moving forward with the Community Bus Plan. Ms. Rice suggested replacing VII. A and B with a different goal for Mr. Miller: “Suggest high profile, strategic, collaborative joint meetings to engage stakeholders and the public on long-term future transit needs.”

Chairperson Jonson stated that his assistant will distribute the evaluation form to the Board with a return date at the end of July. The Personnel Committee will make a recommendation at their next meeting with final Board approval at the August Board meeting.

July Board Meeting Agenda – Chairperson Jonson suggested the title of Information Item 7A be changed to, Phase 1 Service (or Route) Redesign and Public Engagement.

Mission Statement – Chairperson Jonson presented his revisions to the Mission Statement and indicated that he is not proposing any changes to the current Vision Statement. He reviewed his suggested re-ordering and modifications of the existing Guiding Principles and indicated that the Mission Statement could flow from the Guiding Principles. The Committee reviewed Chairperson Jonson’s recommended Mission Statement, made some suggestions, and came up with the following to present to the Board: **PSTA provides safe, convenient, accessible and affordable public transportation services for Pinellas County residents and visitors, and supports economic vitality, thriving communities, and enhanced quality of life.** Mr. Welch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to recommend to the Board the revised Mission Statement. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

2016 Legislative Timeline – Previously, Ms. Long suggested that PSTA stay focused on an accelerated State Legislative calendar. Mr. Miller presented a Legislative timeline for PSTA’s development of the Legislative agenda so that it could be approved at the August Board meeting. He indicated that this may be complicated due to the fact that the agency would also like to coordinate with HART and other agencies’ Legislative agendas. Mr. Miller indicated that Gray Robinson’s contract is ending on August 1st, and PSTA is scheduled to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in advance of that date. Concerns were raised about no representation in Tallahassee during the RFP process. Ms. Long remarked that it is not wise to issue an RFP now because of the accelerated timeframe, and recommended extending the current contract to include the deliverables that PSTA wants. Mr. Miller indicated that PSTA does have the option in the current contract to extend by one year.

Mr. Welch stated his belief that PSTA should step up its advocacy for the extension of the express bus lanes into downtown St. Petersburg. Ms. Rice suggested that PSTA create a new message and approach to present the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project to Legislature this year.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

Mr. Miller said the Central Avenue BRT Project will be discussed in August after the lobbyists provide their input. He said as part of the Path Forward, it was agreed to do a survey of Board members to get their input on the Committee structure, which would then return to the Executive Committee for refinement. Mr. Miller stated that the adjustments would be made to the Mission Statement and be added to the July Board meeting agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Miller indicated that a request had been received from a reporter asking PSTA to live stream the Executive Committee meetings. The Committee had no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM. The next meeting is August 3, 2015 at 11:00 AM.