



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES MAY 24, 2017

Chairperson Rice called the May 24, 2017 Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Members present: Darden Rice, Chairperson; Janet Long, Vice-Chairperson; Joseph Barkley, Secretary/Treasurer; Richard Bennett, Doug Bevis, Dave Eggers, Pat Gerard, Patricia Johnson, Bill Jonson, Charlie Justice, Brian Scott, Josh Shulman, John Tornga, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Samantha Fenger. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Rask, Unincorporated Pinellas County resident, stated that ridership continues to plunge as well as revenue producing trips. He commented on cutting Routes, the new PSTA website, and the Jolley Trolley Sunshine Law violation.

Vivian Peters, Largo resident, expressed her concern that the system map is no longer available. She pointed out that not everyone has a computer or smart phone and believes that this discriminates against people who do not have these devices. Mr. Miller responded that the system map is still being produced, but in limited quantities.

PRESENTATION

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Late Shift Update - Aaron Bergland, Multimedia Coordinator, provided information on the TD Late Shift program and showed a video highlighting TD riders who benefit from this program. He noted that this video was shown to the Commission for TD, which awarded PSTA a \$505,000 grant for the TD Late Shift program for the second year.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) Update – Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair, provided an update from the April 18th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Mr. Jonson reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on May 10th.

Forward Pinellas Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Ms. Johnson said that the Forward Pinellas LCB met on May 16th and provided some highlights.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the April 26, 2017 Board meeting minutes, the appointments to Committees, the banking and related financial services contract, and the claim settlement.

ACTION ITEMS

FY 2017 Program of Projects (POP) – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, indicated that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant applications are due by the end of June. She said these funds would be available for the FY 2018 budget. She noted that a public hearing was held on May 17th on the POP and there was no public in attendance. Ms. Leous reported that the Authority receives approximately \$14 million in discretionary grants every year. A list of the projects was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #17-03 by title. Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to approve the FY 2017 POP and adopt Resolution #17-03. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Vision/Mission Statements – Mr. Miller talked about PSTA's current and proposed Vision and Mission statements. He noted that the current versions were adopted in 2009. He said that PSTA is in the middle of developing scorecards with quantitative metrics for the organization. He said these metrics need to be tied to the overall goals of PSTA as an organization, and the principal statements that identify with the goals are the Mission and Vision statements. Mr. Miller indicated that the Executive Committee met on May 1st and made some adjustments to the statements coming out of the workshop in January. He presented the revised statements as recommended by the Executive Committee. Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson to approve the recommended Mission and Vision statements. Mr. Eggers requested that each statement be voted on separately. Ms. Long and Mr. Jonson agreed to amend the motion.

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment on the Mission Statement, Mr. Rask commented that the word "safe" was taken out of the recommended Mission Statement and suggested it be added back in. Mr. Tornga would like the word "We" changed to "To." Ms. Long amended her motion and the seconder, Mr. Jonson, agreed, to approve the Mission Statement as amended: "To safely connect people to places." There were no further public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment on the Vision Statement, Mr. Rask stated his belief that the Vision statement should be shorter and suggested removing the words social strength. Mr. Tornga would also prefer a shorter Vision Statement, as well as Mr. Eggers.

After a few more comments, Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to approve the recommended Vision statement: "To be the people's first choice for transportation and a driving force for social, environmental, and economic vitality in the community through innovation and partnership." There were no further public comments. Motion passed (10:4) with Mr. Scott, Mr. Eggers, Mr. Shulman, and Mr. Tornga dissenting.

Small Bus Purchase – Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, talked about the small bus purchase and how a "cutaway" vehicle is built. He said that these smaller buses will be utilized on the North County Connector route. He noted that the previous fleet of cutaways experienced chronic maintenance issues; therefore, were taken off the road in April 2016 and 29 foot buses were used in their place. Mr. Lukasik also reviewed the procurement process, vehicle costs, and the fiscal impact.

Mr. Barkley reported that the Finance Committee had a lengthy discussion and unanimously voted to recommend approval. There were comments and questions made regarding routes these buses could serve and fuel economy. Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the purchase of eight small buses. In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment, Mr. Rask said Route 444 has been scheduled for termination since the '90s and it is by far PSTA's lowest performing route. There were no further comments. Motion passed (13:1) with Mr. Bennett dissenting.

Federal Sandbox Grant – Chris Cochran, Senior Planner, said that this item is to authorize the PSTA CEO to approve all key partner contracts to successfully implement the awarded FTA Mobility on Demand (MOD) Sandbox grant at a total cost not to exceed \$625,000 (\$500,000 federal funding/\$125,000 local match). He reported that the Planning Committee unanimously recommended approval and the key partners include Lyft, LyftWAV (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle), United Taxi, CareRide, Center

for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), Goin' Software, and FTA. Mr. Cochran indicated that the project will run from February 2017 through March 2019.

Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson, to authorize PSTA CEO to sign partner contracts for the Sandbox program. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Public Engagement Outreach – The information was included in the packet.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Performance/Updates – The information was included in the packet. Mr. Miller spoke briefly about the Direct Connect partnership with Uber and the miles between road calls. He also mentioned three promotional offers in the month of June: Summer Haul Pass, Haul Pass/Breakspot, and half-price 31-day unlimited GO cards during the month of June. He said on June 24th, PSTA will be participating in the St. Petersburg PRIDE parade and invited everyone to attend.

Capital Projects Update – The list of capital projects was included in the packet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects. Mr. Miller said that the draft FY 2018 draft budget will be presented in June, the Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice in July, and the budget hearings will be in September.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Eggers asked about the homestead exemption situation and asked if that will be part of the budget process. Mr. Miller replied yes.

Mr. Jonson attended a meeting on the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan and the current plan is to have a technical model developed by the end of this year and public vetting in 2018. He said he attended the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Advisory Council (MPOAC) weekend institute and suggested that PSTA receive a mini-briefing on the event.

Mr. Barkley thanked everyone for the vote on the small bus purchase. He encouraged Board members to promote PSTA around the County.

Chairperson Rice highlighted the \$505,000 grant for the TD Late Shift. She again welcomed Mr. Bennett from Redington Beach who replaced former Board member Mark Deighton. His term will be until September 30, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Rice adjourned the meeting at 10:46 AM.

PSTA 101 SESSION

At the conclusion of the regular Board meeting, the following Board members attended this informational session: Bill Jonson, Joe Barkley, Josh Shulman, Darden Rice, Charlie Justice, Brian Scott, Dave Eggers, Doug Bevis, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, and John Tornga. Also present was: Brad Miller, CEO, and PSTA Staff Members.

Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, and Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, provided information on the Maintenance, Operations, Finance, and Planning Departments.

Questions were raised regarding seating capacity on buses, cost per mile, operating expenses, homestead exemptions, dropout/failure rate for new Bus Operators, recruiting new Bus Operators, and the Federal Sandbox grant.

No action took place.

PSTA 101 concluded at 12:10 PM.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 28th at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson