

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cisco WebEx Video Conference
Minutes of Wednesday, March 17, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Board Members

Present: Normand Benoit, Board Chair; Michelle Wilcox, Board Treasurer; Maureen Martin, Board Secretary; Marcy Reyes; and Robert Kells.

Absent: Joshua Brumberger, Board Vice Chair; Peter Alviti; and Jose Rosario.

Also Present: Scott Avedisian, Chief Executive Officer; Christopher Fragomeni, Board Counsel; Elizabeth Silvestre, Executive Assistant; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to order: Mr. Benoit called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m., indicating that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Public Session Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2021.**

Ms. Martin makes a motion to approve the draft public session meeting minutes of January 20, 2021. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Wilcox and Mr. Benoit.

Ms. Reyes abstains.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment.**

1. Patricia Raub: Concerns with COVID rate among drivers.
2. Barry Schiller: Discussion on electric buses; Concerns with ridership and sustainability.
3. Randall Rose: Concerns with Multi-Hub, difficulties with Wave program.

Agenda Item 3: **CEO Report.**

Mr. Avedisian provides an update on the monthly financials, Block Island service, and the Newport Summer Pilot program.

Agenda Item 4: **Request for Approval of Financial Update.**

Mr. Avedisian presents a financial update.

Ms. Martin makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, and Mr. Benoit.

Ms. Wilcox abstains.

Agenda Item 5: **Request for Approval of Second Federal Relief Package.**

Mr. Durand presents an update on the Second Federal Relief Package.

Agenda Item 6: **Request for Approval of Title VI Update.**

Sarah Ingle, Director of Long Range Planning of RIPTA presents a request for the approval to submit the Title VI update to the Federal Transit Administration.

Ms. Martin makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes

with favorable votes by Ms. Wilcox, Ms. Reyes, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval of Insurance Update.

James O'Brien, Claims Director of RIPTA, presents a request for the purchase of Comprehensive General Liability Insurance Policy.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to approve the request. Ms. Martin seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, Mr. Kells, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 8: Request for Approval of Insurance Update.

Mr. O'Brien presents a request for the purchase of Commercial Property Insurance Policy.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, Ms. Martin, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 9: Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) regarding litigation and collective bargaining.*

Upon motion by Mr. Kells, which was seconded by Ms. Wilcox, the following vote was adopted and passed with favorable votes by Ms. Martin, Ms. Reyes, and Mr. Benoit.

Voted: To enter into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws section §42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss litigation and collective bargaining.

The Board, staff, and counsel entered into executive session at 02:23 p.m.

The Board, staff, and counsel entered public session at 02:47 p.m.

Attorney Fragomeni reports out that pursuant to R.I. Gen. laws § 42-46-4(b), the Board unanimously voted to keep all votes taken in Executive Session sealed so as to not jeopardize any strategy or negotiation.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session. Ms. Martin seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, Mr. Kells, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment 2:49 p.m.

Ms. Wilcox moves to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Martin seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, Mr. Kells, and Mr. Benoit.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Martin, Secretary