

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cisco WebEx Video Conference
Minutes of Wednesday, April 21, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Board Members

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

Absent: Joshua Brumberger, Board Vice Chair; Maureen Martin, Board Secretary; 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 1:35 p.m., indicating that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: Commendation: Ellie Giblin, RIPTA Bus Operator.

Mr. Benoit, Mr. Avedisian, and Speaker Shekarchi present Ms. Ellie Giblin with a commendation for her efforts, aiding a man from jumping over the Henderson Bridge.

Agenda Item 2: To Consider for Approval the Draft Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021 and Draft Executive Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to approve the draft public session meeting minutes of March 17, 2021. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, and Mr. Benoit.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to approve the draft executive session meeting minutes of March 17, 2021. Ms. Reyes seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment.

1. Patricia Raub: Thanks Ms. Giblin, and free trips to vaccination sites, concerns with Multi-Hub plans.
2. Randall Rose: Concerns with Multi-Hub plans despite opposition from local organizations.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report.

Mr. Avedisian provides an update on the monthly financials, Meals on Wheels milestone visit with Governor McKee, Union 618 and 618A discussion with Management and Governor McKee, No/Low Emissions Grant Application, Care of Creation Grant Application, and the Transportation to Vaccination program.

Agenda Item 5: Election of Officers.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to maintain current Officer Appointments. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 6: Request for Approval of New Flyer Bus Award.

John Chadwick, Director of Procurement and Inventory, Gregory Nordin, Chief of Strategic Advancement, and Christopher Durand, Executive Director of Finance of RIPTA, present a request to purchase New Flyer Buses.

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

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval of New Pension Advisor.

Mr. Durand presents a request for a new Pension Advisor, with quarterly reporting.

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

Agenda Item 8: Update: Upcoming Printing Contract.

Daniel Bannister, Marketing and Outreach Manager of RIPTA, and Mr. Nordin, present an update on the printing contract and upcoming request.

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 Ms. Wilcox, which was seconded by Ms. Reyes, the following vote was adopted and passed with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, 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 02:37 p.m.

The Board, staff, and counsel entered public session at 03:29 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. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Reyes, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment 3:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Martin, Secretary