



**Board of Directors
Cisco WebEx Video Conference
Minutes of Wednesday, March 16, 2022 Meeting
1:30 p.m.**

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

Absent Members: Jose Rosario.

Also Present: Scott Avedisian, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Courtney Marciano, Senior Executive Officer; Chris Durand, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Pereira, Chief of Security; Kathy Nadeau, Chief of Human Resources; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Benoit called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Regular Meeting Minutes of the February 16, 2021**

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting. Director Alviti seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, and Mr. Benoit.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Reyes abstain from voting.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

- 1.) Randal Rose: RIPTA having virtual meetings is only vaguely related to COVID because there have been other instances where RIPTA has held a meeting in person. Governor said that we're no longer treating COVID as a pandemic and as such certainly policies have been relaxed...
 - a. Except for RIPTA's unwillingness to change its policy as it relates to keeping the KP terminal closed. The terminal is open 8am-5pm only for bathroom use. No paper schedules, no customer service window. It's a useless terminal except for the bathroom. Wants to see the terminal open all the time and restored services there.

- b. Views RIPTA as not being proactive with opening the terminal and feels the burden of that choice falls on RIPTA's passengers.
- c. Meetings: recent meetings about the removal of the hub in KP included several virtual and one in person meeting—but Board Meetings haven't been as accessible. Many BOD meetings are held solely online making it difficult for RIPTA riders to participate and join via WebEx. Feels that either RIPTA needs to restore in-person access or make it a hybrid with both a virtual and in-person option available to the public. In the future Randal would like to see a hybrid approach permanently implemented where people can join remotely or in person for all public meetings. Claims RIPTA has the capacity to develop a hybrid approach.
- d. He suggests looking into the possibility of publishing videos or live recordings of public meetings. Suggested YouTube, Capitol TV. He thinks that should be explored as a way for all those who want to view and/or participate to have easy access.

2.) Patricia Raub: Really appreciate that RIPTA allows for public comment at their meetings. Thinks it is important for the public to speak and be heard by the agency. Agrees with Randal that it would be good to have both a virtual and in-person option for the public. Hopes RIPTA will look into that. Also supports Randal's request to re-open the building downtown for as many hours as the buses run. Feels it's also good that they are open at least for bathroom use. Very pleased that RIPTA is moving forward with the Transit Master Plan, especially service growth. Really feels that it's important to the state the Plan is implemented.

Agenda Item 3: CEO Report

- Mr. Avedisian reviews the new format and layout of the updated CEO report. Topics included in his update were:
 1. RIPTA At a Glance
 2. RIPTA In The News
 3. Commendations

Agenda Item 4: Request for Approval of Insurance Policies Up for Renewal

James O'Brien, RIPTA's Claims Director, presents two insurance policies that are up for annual renewal.

1. **Commercial Property Insurance:** up for renewal on May 1, 2022.
2. **General Liability:** up for renewal on May 1, 2022.

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

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval for Awarding of Contract: Action Plan for Electrification and Service Growth.

Zachary Agush, RIPTA's Principal Planner, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment - 2:56 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Martin, Secretary