



**Board of Directors
Minutes of Wednesday, September 28, 2022 Meeting
1:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Normand Benoit, Board Chair; Robert Kells, Board Vice Chair; Michelle Wilcox, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; and James Leach

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes; Peter Alviti, and Heather Schey.

Also Present: Scott Avedisian, CEO; Edward Pare III, Esq. (for 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 1:30 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Regular Meeting Minutes of the August 17, 2022.**

Mr. Benoit requests one edit be made: to add that Ms. Wilcox is Board Treasurer and that Mr. Crowley is Board Secretary to the official minutes.

Mr. Leach makes a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting, as amended. Ms. Wilcox seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, Mr. Crowley and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

1.) Joe Cole: Vice President, 618 & 618a:

- a. Agenda Item #7: Bus shelter cleaning. Requests that the agenda item be held. Feels that the work should be done in-house.
- b. Transportation/ Ridership Issues: Fall Choose Up: RIPTA knew it had 389 operators, but was posting 424 jobs. Expresses that the Choose Up in June was always impossible to fill all the jobs. Expressed frustration with leaving riders behind. Discussed lost service currently and what RIPTA should be planning for in October. Discussed lost service, passengers left behind.

2.) Kevin Simon: Mathewson Street Church

- a. Thanked Mr. Avedisian for scheduling a meeting with the Mathewson Street Church. Mr. Simon requested bus passes or transportation be provided for the homeless in the community to Sunday breakfast at Mathewson Street Church.

3.) Randall Rose: Rhode Island Transit Riders

- a. Addressed Kennedy Plaza bus hub at Dorrance Street. Feels this is an unpopular and unwanted move for riders.
- b. Addressed service issues: buses not showing up and service runs being cut.
- c. Screens in Kennedy Plaza are incorrect. IT on the scrolling data boards aren't up-to-date. Clocks are wrong; bus timing is off, etc. Someone needs to take a look.
- d. Service issues is making bus riders suffer. Feels that there's room for improvement and that the focus should be refocused back to the riders and not the people in the corner offices.

4.) Pam Poniatowski: Mathewson Street Church

- a. Thanked Mr. Avedisian for scheduling a meeting with the Mathewson Street Church. Asked the Board to consider helping provide busing for the homeless in the community to Sunday breakfast at Mathewson Street Church.

5.) Ruth Diamond: Mathewson Street Church

- a. Thanked Mr. Avedisian for scheduling a meeting with the Mathewson Street Church. Asked the Board to consider helping provide busing for the homeless in the community to Sunday breakfast at Mathewson Street Church. Discussed the problems facing the homeless community in the state.

6.) Adam Northup: Mathewson Street Church

- a. Discussed how difficult it is to get disabled bus passes. Feels like there's always additional information that's needed to get passes. Expressed frustration about how long it takes to get passes.
- b. Thanked Mr. Avedisian for scheduling a meeting with the Mathewson Street Church. Asked the Board to consider helping provide busing for the homeless in the community to Sunday breakfast at Mathewson Street Church.

7.) Reverend Duane Clinker: Mathewson Street Church

- a. Thanked Mr. Avedisian for scheduling a meeting with the Mathewson Street Church. Asked the Board to consider helping provide busing for the homeless in the community to Sunday breakfast at Mathewson Street Church.

Agenda Item 3: CEO Report

- Mr. Pereira (filling in for Mr. Avedisian) provides the 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 FY22 Financial Statements

Erica Olobri gives an update and reviews RIPTA's FY22 Financial Statements and Audit. Mr. Benoit suggested an edit to correct a statement on page 7 of the Financial Statements to reflect the addition of Mr. Crowley and Mr. Leach to the Board of Directors.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to approve, as amended to reflect the addition of Mr. Crowley and Mr. Leach to the Board of Directors. Mr. Crowley seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval of FY23 Financial Plan

Christopher Durand, Chief Financial Officer, gives an update and review of RIPTA's FY23 Financial Plan.

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

Agenda Item 6: Request for Approval of The Purchase of New Ride-On Floor Scrubber for Maintenance

John Chadwick, Executive Director of Procurement and Inventory Control, presents the request

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

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval of Bus Shelter Cleaning Contract

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to table this agenda item. Mr. Leach seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Wilcox, Mr. Kells, and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion: Providence School Bus Status & Workforce Shortage Update

The Board of Directors discussed Providence School bus status and workforce shortage update.

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) pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

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

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

The Board, staff, and counsel entered into executive session at 3:20 p.m.

The Board, staff, and counsel exited public session at 3:50 p.m.

Attorney Pare reports that pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2), the Board of Directors convened in executive session to discuss and act upon matters relating to litigation and that in executive session, the only vote that was taken was to reconvene into public session.

Ms. Wilcox makes a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session, pursuant to R.I. Gen. laws § 42-46-4(b), so as to not jeopardize any strategy or negotiation. Mr. Leach seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Benoit, Mr. Crowley, and Mr. Kells.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment – 3:53 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary