



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Normand Benoit, Board Chair; Robert Kells, Board Vice Chair; Michelle Wilcox, Board Treasurer; James Leach; Heather Schey and Peter Alviti.

Absent Members: Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; and Marcy Reyes.

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; Steven Colantuono, Chief Legal Counsel; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Benoit called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Regular Meeting Minutes of the October 19, 2022 Meeting.**

Mr. Kells makes a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting. Mr. Leach seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Alviti; Ms. Schey; Ms. Wilcox; and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

1.) Patricia Raub:

- a. Missed Greg's last meeting, but thanked him for his hard work and dedication to RIPTA. Felt that he always listened and worked in the best interest of all passengers.
- b. Asked when reduced schedule would be ending. Expressed concerns about the timing and schedule changes.
- c. Suggested the Board review the Lawrence, Massachusetts experiment where the agency decided to use all APRA funding to finance the agency. Thinks it might be worth RIPTA looking into.

- d. Excited to see the new Free Bus Pass Pilot Program launch, although does have concerns that passes are making their way into the hands of those who are truly homeless.

2.) Taylor Ellis:

- a. Filed an APRA request, but has yet to receive any information regarding the request.
- b. Regarding the Free Bus Pass Plot Program: feels that the passes should be handed out immediately. Doesn't think other organizations are focused on the unhoused. Expressed that there are more than 500 people living outdoors right now in Rhode Island. Asked that RIPTA consider handing out more passes. He expressed it would make the pilot move forward if more people could have a free pass.

Agenda Item 3: CEO Report

Scott Avedisian, CEO, presents the CEO report. Topics included in his update were:

- 1. RIPTA At a Glance
- 2. RIPTA In The News
- 3. Commendations

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Chief Financial Officer, reviews monthly financials for the Authority.

Agenda Item 4: Change Order, Paratransit Fueling Station

James Canty, RIPTA's Project Manager, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval: 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

No vote necessary.

Agenda Item 6: Update: Rider Survey Results

Sarah Ingle, RIPTA's Executive Director of Long-Range Planning, presents the update.

Agenda Item 7: 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) and to consider claims.

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

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 2:26 p.m.

The Board, staff, and counsel exited public session at 3:35p.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, except for the vote to adjourn 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. Alviti seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Benoit; Mr. Leach; Ms. Schey; and Mr. Kells.

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment – 3:40 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary