



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 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; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Marcy Reyes; and Peter Alviti.

Absent Members: Heather Schey

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 1:32 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Regular Meeting Minutes of the November 16, 2022, Meeting.**

Mr. Alviti makes a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022, meeting. Ms. Wilcox seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells; Ms. Reyes; Mr. Leach; Mr. Crowley; and Mr. Benoit.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

1.) Patricia Raub:

- a. Expressed several concerns and updates regarding the climate change report.
- b. Several concerns over funding as the Authority moves forward.
- c. Kenned Plaza: terminal service window is still closed. Cannot get low-fare cards or half-fare cards on-site. Feels people are being deprived of the ability to obtain such cards at the most convenient location. Expressed that we are no longer in a pandemic situation and would like to see the service desk re-opened.

- d. The signage at Kennedy Plaza is still having issues with 3 panels. The lefthand panel is totally blank, the middle panel that shows bus schedules is incorrect and the righthand panel appears to be working at the moment.
- e. The bathroom at Kennedy Plaza continues to be intermittently closed and that causes issues.
- f. The Rosa Parks Bus Shelter would like to see the project get going.
- g. Dorrance Street Project: concerned about the cost of the project. The price continues to rise. It looks like it will cost \$20 million a year in a cost to RIPTA. Would rather see the bus system expand rather than a new building.

Agenda Item 3: CEO Report

Scott Avedisian, RIPTA’s 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: Request for Approval: RFP 22-25 Document Management System

Gary Jarvis, RIPTA’s Chief Technology Officer, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval: RFP 23-03 Cleaning Chemicals

John Chadwick, RIPTA’s Executive Director of Procurement, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 6: Update/Discussion: Driver Recruitment

Kathy Nadeau, RIPTA’s Chief of Human Resources, gives a summary of recruitment and hiring efforts.

Reviewed recruitment efforts, adjustments in pay increases, reviewed application and training procedures.

RIPTA has hired (5) CDL holders; (3) currently in CDL training; 102 van operators (117 is max number); first class of operators will be moved over to fixed route in January 2023.

Reviewed recruitment efforts: hiring and retention bonuses; perfect attendance award system; tried to recruit recent retirees back into service. Online and in-person campaigns to recruit.

18 job fairs were held in 2022. Virtual, in-person and in conjunction with other agencies and organizations.

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)(5) pertaining to any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public; R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5 (a)(7) pertaining to any matters related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest; and 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 Ms. Wilcox, which was seconded by Ms. Reyes, the following vote was adopted and passed with favorable votes by Mr. Benoit; Mr. Kells; Mr. Alviti; Mr. Crowley; 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 executive session at 3:14p.m.

The Board, staff, and counsel exited public session at 4:15p.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. Crowley seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Benoit; Mr. Leach; Ms. Reyes; Mr. Alviti and Mr. Kells.

Agenda Item 13: **Adjournment – 4:15 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary