



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 28, 2024
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; Sen. Robert Kells, Board Vice Chair; James Leach, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Normand Benoit; James Lombardi; and Vincent Masino.

Absent Members: Heather Schey and Marcy Reyes.

Also Present: Scott Avedisian, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Mr. Kells calls the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 22, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit and Mr. Lombardi. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 22, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024, executive session. Mr. Leach seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Masino; and Mr. Lombardi. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

Director Alviti enters the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 3: **Election of Board Treasurer**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to elect Mr. Leach as Board Treasurer. Director Alviti seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Lombardi; and Mr. Masino.

Agenda Item 4: **Public Comment**

1. Thomas Cute, Bus Operator:
 - Comments on the public hearings regarding service changes and states that he was impressed by Edward Brown, Director of Service Planning. States that Mr. Brown and his conduct at the meeting was appreciated.
 - Thanks Board for delaying any cuts and asks Board to impress upon General Assembly to have courage and take action to provide support.

2. Daria Phoebe Brashear:
 - Speaks on the budget issue.
 - Offers suggestion regarding East Bay bus service and the possibility of special bus lanes on the Washington Bridge.

3. Patricia Raub:
 - Compliments Board and RIPTA on public access to meetings.
 - Comments on recent article regarding riding only buses for one week.
 - Mentions issues in Kennedy Plaza, including broken shelters, broken central board and requests solutions on what can be done to improve Kennedy Plaza.

4. Pam Jennings, Staff Member Mathewson Street Church:
 - Mentions Low Income Pilot and Phase 2 of the same and states it is a very smooth process due to RIPTA Staff. Expresses gratitude to the Board for the initiation and continuance of the pilot.
 - States that they receive twenty requests a week for support for riding the bus and that the bus is a lifeline for people.

5. Lorraine Savard:
 - Makes three points, 1. How much money is being spent on the study to move the hub. 2. Title VI numbers are fuzzy. 3. Rather than cut routes, RIPTA should do an in-depth analysis of ridership and send appropriate size buses.

6. Randall Rose:
 - Comments that the packet was received less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.
 - Expresses an issue regarding the election of the Board Treasurer without the Finance Sub-Committee.
 - Expresses issues with the Title VI Plan, including: it is designed so most routes do not count as minority routes, problems with determining what a low-income route is, problem regarding routes not able to be counted as both a low income and minority route, and fuzzy math. Urges Board to not approve the document.

7. Grant Dulgarian:
 - Commends Board Chair for recognizing that the Washington Bridge can handle three lanes of traffic each way.
 - Mentions school vacation week to encourage RIPTA usage and that Economy Action RI will cover one day of ridership on bus routes that go over the Washington and Henderson bridges.

- Presents a check to RIPTA for the Monday of April vacation and mentions that Spectrum India will cover the Tuesday of April vacation.
- Encourages the direct mailing of bus schedules.
- Expresses issues with East Side Tunnel and bus access for riders. Offers solutions regarding the same.

Agenda Item 5: CEO Report

Scott Avedisian, RIPTA's CEO, points out the items included in the CEO report: Rhode to RIPTA, a commendation, a Tweet, an employee spotlight, a report on lost trips, the budget, monthly ridership, and an update on the low-income pilot program.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 6: Request for Approval: Legal Contract-Savage Law Partners

Steven Colantuono, Chief Legal Counsel, presents the request. Christopher Fragomeni, Board Counsel discusses the merits of the request.

Mr. Leach makes a motion to approve the legal contract. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Lombardi; and Mr. Masino.

Further discussion ensues and Mr. Benoit makes a motion to have all legal bills submitted by Savage Law Partners approved by the Board Treasurer prior to payment. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Lombardi; and Mr. Masino.

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval: Updated Title VI Program

Jenny Cordeiro Williford, Executive Director of Federal Programs and Compliance and Sarah Ingle, Executive Director of Planning, presents the Updated Title VI Program and requests that the Board approves the same.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the Updated Title VI Plan. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Masino; and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 8: Request for Approval: Award of Contract for Trench Drain Replacement

Jack Plouffe, Project Manager, presents the request.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 9: Request for Approval: Signet Contract Renewal

John Chadwick, Executive Director of Procurement, presents the request.

Mr. Kells makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Crowley; Mr. Leach; Mr. Masino; and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 10: Request for Approval: Hastus Upgrade

John Chadwick, Executive Director of Procurement and Edward Brow, Director of Scheduling and Service Planning presents the request.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 11: Board Questions and Answers

No questions were asked.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment - 2:51 p.m.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Leach; and Mr. Masino.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary