



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

1:30 p.m.

269 Melrose Street, Providence

Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; 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: Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Director Alviti calls the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: Public Comment

1. Daria Brashear: Comments on the resignation of CEO Avedisian and makes suggestions regarding a new CEO, including but not limited to the new CEO should utilize RIPTA to arrive to and from work.
2. Randall Rose: Comments that public comment should be available at all meetings. Suggests that the new CEO needs to have experience in the transit field. Reads a statement provided by the RI Transit Riders which includes: the Board should select a nationally respected transit professional, the next CEO needs to maintain service and continue to make progress, the new CEO should be free of political interference. The statement also asks the Board to include a transit advocate as a public member on the CEO search committee and recommends Christopher Durand as an interim CEO. The statement also urges elected officials to support the legislation that would increase RIPTA's funding.

Agenda Item 2: **Action regarding resignation of Chief Executive Officer, Scott Avedisian, including but not limited to, acceptance of resignation, approval of separation terms, and transition planning.**

Director Alviti announces that the Board was forwarded a signed copy of Scott Avedisian's Resignation Agreement and opens the floor up to questions / comments from the Board members and discussion ensues.

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

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve Mr. Avedisian's Resignation Agreement and to allow Director Alviti to sign on behalf of RIPTA. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; and Mr. Masino.

Further discussion ensues and Director Alviti recommends RIPTA's Chief Financial Officer to serve as Interim CEO.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to appoint CFO Durand to serve as Interim CEO. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; and Mr. Masino.

Mr. Benoit makes a statement regarding Mr. Avedisian's resignation and highlights the many accomplishments of Mr. Avedisian during his tenure and wishes him well. He further thanks Mr. Durand for his willingness to serve as Interim CEO. Mr. Kells also makes a statement regarding the service of Mr. Avedisian, including his service during covid. He further mentions Mr. Avedisian's accomplishments despite a shortage of funds and states that Mr. Avedisian did a great job.

Agenda Item 3: **Adjournment – 1:53 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. Leach; Mr. Benoit; and Mr. Masino.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary