



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2015**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM on this date with the following members present:

Bill Jonson, Chairperson
Julie Bujalski, Vice-Chairperson
Janet Long, Secretary/Treasurer
Joseph Barkley
Doug Bevis
Mark Deighton
Ben Diamond
Dave Eggers
Samantha Fenger
Pat Gerard
Wengay "Newt" Newton
Darden Rice
Kenneth Welch

Absent

Patricia Johnson
Brian Scott

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Jonson called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vivian Peters, Largo resident, commented on a recent major traffic jam on Ulmerton Road that the Bus Operator had to detour around. She explained that the Bus Operator did not communicate with the riders to let them know what was happening.

[Ms. Long and Mr. Newton entered the meeting at 9:08 AM.]

[Ms. Gerard entered the meeting at 9:09 AM.]

NON-BOARD COMMITTEES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) – Elaine Mann, Committee Chair, reported on the November 17th TRAC meeting. She also reviewed the 2014-2015 TRAC accomplishments.

[Mr. Barkley entered the meeting at 9:13 AM.]

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Outgoing Board Member – Wengay Newton – Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Newton for his service on the PSTA Board and various Committees and presented him with a plaque and a lifetime bus pass.

NON-BOARD COMMITTEES, continued

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Ms. Rice reported on the MPO/Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) Board meeting that took place on November 18th.

MPO's Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Chairperson Jonson spoke about highlights from the LCB's November 17th meeting.

Year-End PSTA Progress – Mr. Miller reflected on PSTA's progress over the past year indicating that in 2015, PSTA had record ridership, the Board approved the purchase of more environmentally clean buses, staff submitted an application for funds for electric buses, and announced that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will invest \$500,000 in the Central Avenue BRT project. Mr. Miller also highlighted some items that PSTA will be focusing on in 2016 including the transportation alternatives pilot program, the new advanced technology fare payment system, and the new agenda management system. He indicated that a Strategic Communications Plan will be presented in January which will include a messaging plan for PSTA using the hashtag #PSTAMOVINGFORWARD.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Jonson pulled consent agenda item 5A and Mr. Welch pulled item 5E. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve the remaining consent agenda items. There were no public comments. The Board unanimously approved the remaining consent agenda items which included the outsourced bus shelter installation, Clever Devices software/support, and the automatic vehicle monitoring.

For item 5A, Chairperson Jonson suggested an amendment to the October 28, 2015 Board meeting minutes and Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bujalski to approve the amended minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

For item 5E, Mr. Welch had a few questions regarding the iLegislate agenda management system which Mr. Miller and Debbie Woodward, Director of Information Technology (IT), responded to. Mr. Welch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newton to approve item 5E. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Officers/Committee Appointments – The Board received a list of recommendations by the Nominating Committee for officers and committee appointments. Chairperson Jonson noted that on October 28th, Ms. Rice was nominated for Chairperson. He asked Board members if there were any nominations and Mr. Eggers nominated Ms. Bujalski. Mr. Newton, Committee Chair, said that at the meeting, a motion was made for the Vice-Chairperson to move to the Chairperson's seat; however, that motion was not seconded. He indicated that a motion was then made for Ms. Rice for Chairperson which was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Zimmet added that PSTA's Rules & Regulations do not establish any specific succession requirements. Mr. Welch mentioned that since Ms. Long wants to remain as Secretary/Treasurer, he suggested moving Ms. Bujalski to Chairperson and Ms. Rice to Vice-Chairperson. After discussion, Chairperson Jonson called for a vote by show of hands. Ms. Rice received seven votes (Ms. Fenger, Ms. Gerard, Mr. Deighton, Ms. Long, Mr. Newton, Ms. Rice, Mr. Diamond) and Ms. Bujalski received six votes (Mr. Bevis, Mr. Barkley, Mr. Welch, Chairperson Jonson, Ms. Bujalski, Mr. Eggers). There were no public comments. Ms. Rice was elected the 2016 Chairperson.

For the remaining nominations, Mr. Welch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis for Ms. Bujalski to remain Vice-Chairperson. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Newton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard for Ms. Long to remain Secretary/Treasurer. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eggers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to appoint Mr. Barkley to the Executive Committee. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eggers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice to approve the recommended slate for the Planning Committee. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newton to approve the recommended slate for the Finance Committee. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley to approve the recommended slate for the Legislative Committee. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eggers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newton to approve the recommended slate for the Personnel Committee. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Jonson indicated that he would like to serve on the Nominating Committee. Ms. Bujalski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve the recommended slate with the addition of Chairperson Jonson. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bujalski stated that she would like to continue to be PSTA's MPO representative. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley to re-appoint Ms. Bujalski as PSTA's MPO representative. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Welch to re-appoint Ms. Johnson as PSTA's MPO's LCB representative. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Diamond to approve the recommended slate for the 2016-2017 Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC). There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Federal Application – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented a history on the Central Avenue BRT along with the current status of the project. She indicated that FDOT recently awarded PSTA with a \$500,000 grant to use for this project. Ms. Borchers also outlined a proposed five-year schedule for the BRT project. The Board had questions relating to the public

engagement, the possible creation of an advisory committee, and the regional messaging for this project which Ms. Borchers responded to. Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newton to approve the creation and submittal of an application to the FTA to enter into the PD phase. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Alternatives Pilot Program – Mr. Miller presented information on a six-month pilot program for transportation alternatives which will be offered in the East Lake and Pinellas Park areas utilizing options such as taxicabs and Transportation Network Company (TNC) services.

There was much discussion among the Board members relating to the pilot program regarding the cost and background checks and Mr. Eggers stressed the importance of a strong commitment to the marketing effort for this program in the East Lake area. In response to Chairperson Jonson's call for public comment, Ms. Peters questioned how this service will work for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) riders and Mr. Miller responded that ADA obligations have been considered in the pilot program. Mr. Welch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newton to approve the transportation alternatives pilot program.

Robin Shaw, Pinellas resident, commented that she rides Route 58 and she is concerned that this pilot program may be moved into her area as well. She said she is very concerned about the cost of Uber and indicated that she had collected almost 100 signatures and comments from other people as well.

There were no further comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Service Redesign Phase 2: Williams Park and Budgeted Service Enhancements – Ms. Borchers discussed the service redesign that will affect Williams Park and the budgeted service enhancements to Routes 5, 7, and 22. PSTA is looking at a new system for Williams Park which will incorporate a county-wide grid system. Ms. Borchers explained that the proposed service redesign removes most bus service from Williams Park and redistributes it along the downtown grid network. She mentioned public outreach efforts as well as agencies that have endorsed the redesign plan. This change is expected to begin on February 14, 2016. Mr. Newton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice to approve the service redesign and service enhancements.

In response to Chairperson Jonson's call for public comments, Mitchel McNeally, Pinellas resident, spoke about the routes serving the south side and the timing of those routes. He also mentioned the need for restroom facilities for the Bus Operators on the south side. Mr. McNeally stated his opinion that the new grid system is not serving the whole downtown area. Ms. Borchers followed-up and addressed his concerns.

Mr. Diamond commended staff for the public outreach and several Board members thanked staff for all the hard work. Motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Long left the meeting at 11:16 and did not return.]

[Mr. Bevis left the meeting at 11:20 and did not return.]

[Ms. Gerard left the meeting at 11:21 and did not return.]

INFORMATION ITEMS

PSTA Reserves Analysis – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation, per Commissioner Eggers’ request, about how bus purchase decisions affect PSTA’s grants and reserve balances. She presented four different scenarios for bus purchases and summarized the outcome of each using reserves. Mr. Eggers thanked Ms. Leous for the presentation and said that he would like to ensure that all environmental issues are considered when making bus purchases. Mr. Barkley asked if this analysis takes into account not only the initial cost of the electric buses but also the tremendous savings from no fuel consumption. Ms. Leous responded that key assumptions would be updated depending on the decisions of the Board. Mr. Barkley stated that he would like an “apples to apples” analysis. There were questions about the 5307 grant money and the Lo-No grant. Mr. Diamond asked that at the next Legislative Committee meeting, PSTA’s federal lobbyists speak about what the Agency should do to secure some of the newly passed Transportation funds.

Regional Fare Collection Partnership Agreements – Ms. Borchers noted that PSTA has been working with Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) and the Regional Working Group (RWG) for regional fare collection systems for a smart card and mobile app for the eight county Tampa Bay region. Ms. Borchers said this item will be presented to the Committees and the Board in February.

Revised CEO Performance Evaluation – Chairperson Jonson presented a revised draft evaluation that was discussed at the Personnel Committee on November 17th. He indicated that the Committee is recommending the Board approve the form at the January meeting.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Federal Lo-No Grant – Mr. Miller explained that the Legislative Committee received a presentation on the Lo-No electric bus grant application, which was submitted on November 24th. He stated that Congress doubled the funding in the transportation bill for the next go around with additional money for the Lo-No electric bus program.

PSTA Performance Report/Updates – The report was supplied in the Board packet.

Capital Projects Update – The report was supplied in the Board packet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

Mr. Miller announced that on December 11th there will be a Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) meeting to discuss the CSX rail proposal.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Newton said that it has been a blast to serve on the Board and a childhood dream come true because he grew up using public transportation. He thanked PSTA for its involvement in the St. Petersburg summer intern program. Mr. Newton read the commendations for the Bus Operators and Customer Service Representatives and thanked them for their hard work. He ended by saying thank you for the memories and all the fun and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ms. Bujalski commented that it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Newton and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Ms. Rice remarked that when she first started on the PSTA Board, Mr. Newton was a huge help to her, adding that he is a very compassionate leader and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Eggers wished Mr. Newton the best of luck and said to keep his same spirit and passion. He also thanked Chairperson Jonson for all his work. He spoke about the importance of the marketing effort for the transportation alternatives pilot program in East Lake. He congratulated Ms. Rice on her election to Chairperson and requested a verbatim of the Nominating Committee meeting. He said Merry Christmas and a safe, happy, and fun New Year.

Mr. Diamond thanked Mr. Newton, stating that he is a leader with a tremendous heart and a lot of genuineness. He also congratulated the new leaders for the coming year and thanked Chairperson Jonson for a great year. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

[Mr. Eggers and Ms. Rice left the meeting at 12:03 and did not return.]

Ms. Fenger thanked Mr. Newton for his great smile and cheer. She said he is an advocate for the community and stands up for the needs of what is right, adding that she appreciates his leadership. She thanked him for continuing to be a leader, with or without the title.

Mr. Barkley said thank you to Mr. Newton for a great job. He believes that the East Lake and Pinellas Park transportation alternatives are an excellent opportunity and he thanked Ms. Leous for the excellent budgetary analysis. He thanked the Board for giving him the vote of confidence to serve on the Executive Committee. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mr. Deighton echoed everyone's sentiments to Mr. Newton, saying that his viewpoint will be missed. He also thanked Chairperson Jonson for a very successful year and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Mr. Welch thanked Mr. Jonson for his leadership this past year and thanked Mr. Newton for all he has done.

Chairperson Jonson relayed a story about a trip to Tallahassee with Mr. Newton regarding the Central Avenue BRT. He said it has been a pleasure being the Chairperson this post-Greenlight year and said he believes that the Board governance process has been fixed. He mentioned that he is thrilled with the full engagement of all the current Board members and the development of the Path Forward under the CEO. He stated his belief that it is critical that PSTA focus on the strategic community outreach and the communication effort, as well as strengthening the existing bus system. Chairperson Jonson also spoke of a presentation by David Downing, CEO of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater. He said he believes public transit is an important component to the future of the region.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Jonson adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2016 at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson